

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	Beihai Citizen Volunteer Association (BHCVA)
<b>Project Title</b>	Supporting the growth of college environmental societies in Beihai, Guangxi
<b>CEPF GEM No.</b>	CEPF-039-2015
<b>Date of Report</b>	18th Oct 2016

**CEPF Hotspot:** Indo-Burma Hotspot. Beihai, Guangxi Province, China  
**Strategic Direction:** SD8: Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels  
**Grant Amount:** \$19,872  
**Project Dates:** 1st June 2015 - 31st July.2016

### 1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association (GXBRC) has collaborated with BHCVA for 3 years on coastal conservation projects. Its project manager Lin Wuying served as the mentor for the Horseshoe Crab Conservation Association, providing guidance and technical support.

Guangxi Mangroves Research Center (GMRC) has collaborated with BHCVA for many years, providing consultation and guidance regarding bird and mangrove conservation. Mr. Sun Renjie of GMRC was the mentor for the Bird Conservation Association.

### Conservation Impacts

### 2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

Prior to this project there were no green groups in higher education institutions in Beihai. This project has successfully built the capacity of 4 environmental protection associations in 4 colleges, involving at least 190 college students, therefore contributing to Strategic Direction 8. We provided training, financial support, and guidance for running the associations, and organizing the conservation activities that the students designed. We also provided opportunities for the associations to share experience and provide support among themselves.

### 3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

We trained and provide financial support for college students to promote environmental protection in over 7 primary schools, involving over 500 young students. Through our project activities these children have learnt about birds, horseshoe crabs, water resources, and nature conservation. In addition, from September 2015 to June 2016, the 4 associations organized outreach activities including an art exhibition, games, a charity sale, and bike rides, to promote

environmental protection among the public, directly involving over 600 people. The aim was to increase public awareness about the importance of biodiversity and environmental issues in and around Beihai. Moreover, each association has set up their own public account on Wechat to convey their messages to the wider public. All associations committed to continue promoting environmental awareness after the project ends. A Green Camp was held in July 2016 at a coastal wetland, with participation from 26 students and teenagers. These teenagers have then set up a Wechat group to facilitate information sharing and discussion about environment-related issues, and organizing activities. In total, the readership through online media has reached over 3000 people.

#### **Planned Goal (as stated in the approved proposal)**

Student-run environmental protection associations are active in the protection of Beihai's biodiversity

#### **4. Actual progress toward Goal at completion**

This project has successfully helped the establishment and growth of 4 environmental protection associations by providing training, and technical and mental guidance to more than 190 college students. Each of the associations have organized and engaged in environmental outreach activities, including educational activities in 7 primary schools. The project goal has been largely achieved.

#### **Planned Objectives (as stated in the approved proposal)**

- 1) Environmental protection associations in 4 colleges have improved organizational and technical capacity.
- 2) The members of the environmental protection associations have the capacity to teach environmental protection courses to school children.

#### **5. Actual progress toward Objectives at completion**

All of the objectives set out in the project proposal have been achieved, and the number of people in the public directly engaged in the project activities is substantially greater than that initially planned.

#### **6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its goal and objectives**

##### Challenges:

We found that the training event on environmental protection was not adequate for these students, in terms of their level of scientific knowledge. We had suggested that they buy some books to enhance their knowledge. These 4 associations had already bought some, but only a small number of the members had read them. Most members find information through the Internet. Due to their lack of experience in judging the reliability of information, some students disseminated some incorrect information. We have limited capacity, time and manpower to make sure that everything the students do is correct.

As only WeChat and QQ were used for communications, the size of the public affected was smaller than if other types of media had also been used.

The project proposals that students prepared sometimes lacked innovation, and we have limited capacity to motivate their interest and innovation.

Although these 4 associations had their own WeChat public number, only the water resources protection WeChat public number published some environment-related articles and held activities to increase their number of fans. Other associations rarely published information related to environmental protection articles, and their number of fans was small.

Some members of the associations left after graduation, for other school activities, or when they became busy with their studies. By the end of the project, the size of the associations has reduced by more than 50%, leaving fewer than 25 members in each association. The challenge is the rapid turnover rate and the loss of members. It needs at least 3-4 years to guide and train the students, so that the groups become stable and self-sustainable.

Because this is the first time that BHCVA has implemented an environmental protection capacity-building project with college students, our project staff lacked some management skills. For example, some activity records and data were misplaced, and some student activities have not been fully supervised by the project coordinators, due to their tight work schedule and the resignation of one of the project coordinators.

## **7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

### Positive:

After the training on teamwork skills, the students gained knowledge about teamwork and leadership. As the organizational structures improved, they arranged team members in appropriate positions. This made the project work better.

Flags and T-shirts provided a sense of ownership among team members.

The monthly gathering of the 4 associations was good for promoting friendship, and students learned about effective methods from the other associations.

In the middle of the project, 3 of the 4 associations began to let the successional members (new students) take over the work gradually. At the same time of learning the basic environmental protection knowledge, the new members learned how to do the project planning, which allowed them to do better performance in this project during the next year.

During June 2016, 4 associations carried out a charity sale which focused on their own environmental protection theme. During the charity sale, they propagated environmental protection concepts and sold products to the public. Through the activity, students not only improved their communication skills, but also their fundraising skills.

Through the Coastal Wetland Camp (Green Camp) and the follow-up activities, many local Beihai young people became familiar with the threats facing the coastal wetlands in Beihai, and they promised to continue to pay attention to these threats.

For BHCVA, this project has established a new mechanism for volunteer training and management. The project manager and the five coordinators were volunteers themselves, not staff. None of them have a strong background in environmental protection. They have all gained environmental knowledge and valuable experience through this project.

All school activities of the associations were organized by the students themselves, including the initial contacts. All rural schools were very supportive to our program, which is considered to be valuable as an extra-curricular activity, and are looking forward to our next visit.

### **Project Activities and Deliverables**

#### **Objective 1: Environmental protection associations in 4 colleges have improved organizational and technical capacity.**

##### **Activity 1.1:**

Organize a 2-day training event, on teamwork skills, project design and management, and leadership. This will include the development of improved organizational structures.

*Deliverable : Training event held, for about 30 selected members of 4 associations. Results (including improved organizational structures) captured in training report, and included in technical reporting.*

##### Progress:

From the 17th to 23rd September 2015 a training event was held. A total of 47 selected members of the 4 associations participated .

##### Results:

- A. Bird protection group: Organizational team – training, frame the active schedule, logistics; Propaganda team – photography, video, poster making; Public Relations team – contact with other associations, teachers and sponsors. Secretariat – data collection, plan making.
- B. Horseshoe crab protection group: Finance department, Picture collection & Propaganda department, Logistic department – training, material management, Planning unit
- C. Water resources protection group: Propaganda team – WeChat management, propaganda; Copy writing team; Plotting team; Finance team; Mobile team – coordination.
- D. Natural education group: Propaganda team – publicity and promotion association; Ministry team – logistics; Finance department; Public Relations team; Planning team; Performing team -- coordination

##### **Activity 1.2:**

Organize a training event on environmental protection topics, including protection of birds, water resources, horseshoe crabs and facilitation of outdoor environment protection activities.

*Deliverable : Training event held, for about 200members of 4 associations*

Training events on bird protection were held on the 26th September and 16th October 2015, at Beihai Vocational College. 32 students attended the first training event, and 41 students attended the second event.

A training event on horseshoe crab protection was held on the 26th September 2015 at the Vocational School, Guilin University of Electronic Technology. 58 students attended.

A training event on water resources protection was held on the 17th October 2015 at the School of Marine Information Engineering, Guilin University of Electronic Technology. 52 students attended.

A training event on natural education (outdoor environment protection) was held on the 18th October 2015 at the Beihai College of Art and Design. 61 students attended.

**Activity 1.3:**

Help associations to develop project proposals to fund future work.

*Deliverable : 4 project proposals developed.*

All 4 associations developed their own organizational structures before 31 October 2015.

An "Autumn Bird Protection Workshop" was held on 16th October 2015 by the bird protection group at Beihai Vocational College.

Project proposals:

- 1) To let more colleges know more about birds and like birds, a garden party should be held at least 2 times between October and December;
- 2) Weekly Bird Watching , to know more about birds in Beihai;
- 3) To get more experience in protecting birds, should join more bird protection activities held by other NGO, such as Fauna & Flora International, BRC, HK Bird watching Society, Beihai Citizen Volunteer Association etc;
- 4) Design a bird watching training plan for children before May 2016.

A "Love the Horseshoe Crab And The Wetland Workshop" was held on 30th September 2015 by the Horseshoe Crab Protection Group at Beihai National Wetland Park.

Project proposals:

- 1) For saving horseshoe crab baby, go to Beihai National Wetland Park and check if they were box in fishing net every month;
- 2) To let people know more about horseshoe crab, and like them, plan to hold exhibition of horseshoe crab(once in college, once in downtown);
- 3) Monthly internal training(horseshoe crab origami, more knowledge about horseshoe crab, etc.)
- 4) Design a horseshoe crab story training course for schoolchildren before May 2016.

A "Water Spirit Workshop" was held on 7th November by the water resources protection group at the School of Marine Information Engineering, Guilin University of Electronic Technology

Project proposals:

- 1) Saving water in daily life;
- 2) Post article about intelligent use of water on WeChat;

- 3) Hold water saving game in school;
- 4) Design a water recourse course for schoolchildren before May 2016.

A "Natural Education Workshop" was held on 31st October 2015 by the Natural education group.

Project proposals:

- 1) Monthly internal training on natural education (plant, birds, etc);
- 2) To let more colleges be interested at natural environment protection, design twice funny game in college school;
- 3) Design a natural education course for schoolchildren before May 2016.

**Activity 1.4:**

Organize a 1-day workshop to present the achievements of each association, and introduce their project proposals

*Deliverable : Workshop held. Results documented in workshop minutes, and included in technical reporting.*

We organized the workshop as monthly gatherings.

1<sup>st</sup> Monthly Gathering – 14 November 2015 at the School of Marine Information Engineering, Guilin University of Electronic Technology. 25 students from 4 associations participated. Each association introduced their project proposals and their achievements, other associations could ask the speaker some questions about their proposals or means to do them.

In our plan, we should held workshop before 30th September' 2015. Because the freshmen knew little about our project, no activities were held in September 2015, so we postponed the workshop until the training event on environmental protection topics was completed.

**Activity 1.5:**

Organize a 4-day "Green Camp" for members of the associations and other students, including training in team building, personal development, basic field survey skills, and general environmental protection, and field surveys in Bai Hai Mangrove Protection Zone, and Fang Cheng Gang.

*Deliverable : Coastal Wetland Camp held, for about 26 young people from Y18-Y28. Through guided tour, birdwatching, movie watching, making sketches, group discussion etc, enhanced the students' ecological knowledge and awareness, and encouraged them to promote environmental protection in their community.*

21st June to 10th July 2016. Recruitment notice of Coastal Wetland Camp was published on the Internet.

10-15 Jul. 2016 22 students were selected through their curriculum vitae and telephone interview.

18-23 Jul. 2016 These students participated in 6 days (5 nights) Coastal Wetland Camp. Besides, this camp had 3 camp guides and 3 captains. This camp offered students a chance to build their own team, learn about nature appreciation, observe mangroves and benthic organisms, watch birds, watch environmental protection movie (Racing Extinction), draw in the home of fisherman, cook by themselves, camp on the beach, ride bicycles, visit the Guangxi Institute of

Oceanography and Zhulin salt seawater breeding base and practice nature education. Through the whole camp, these students realized the current situation and the coming threat of the ecological environment of Beihai. Besides, these students build up a WeChat group chat, and often discussed environmental protection related issues.

**Objective 2: The members of the environmental protection associations have the capacity to teach environmental protection courses to school children.**

**Activity 2.1:**

Each association will conduct outdoor activities at least 5 times, including activities focusing on protection of birds, water resources, and horseshoe crabs.

*Deliverable :Outdoor activities conducted by each association. Short reports produced, including minutes, photographs, and participants.*

Activities organized by horseshoe crab protection group:

1st - 27th Sept 2015, 46 students went to Beihai National Coastal Wetland Park, mission: 1) To find horseshoe crab baby and their neighbors, 2) Who will eat them. 3) Why we should help them.

2nd - 8th Nov 2015, 42 group members walked 8.5 km from the Guilin University of Electronic Technology to Beihai National Coastal Wetland Park, They said 'hello' to horseshoe crab, collected rubbish in the mangrove forest.

3rd --13th Nov 2015, internal training on horseshoe crab origami, horseshoe crab drawing.

4th - 20th Dec 2015 32 team members went to downtown, to find out people's views about horseshoe crab by questionnaire survey. Meanwhile they showed drawings and introduction of horseshoe crab to public members in Beibuwai Square.

5th 14 May 2016 "A life story about horseshoe crab" play was performed by 5 team members in Beihai International School. Group members and other Horse crab protection volunteers in Beihai shared their experience with each other

6th - 30 May 2016 Horseshoe crab class in Quwan Elementary School, 52 school children learned the growth progress of horseshoe crab, and learned how to paper horseshoe crab.

7th - 5 Jun. 2016 A charity sale was organized for environmental protection on World Environment Day, 11 members introduced knowledge of horseshoe crab to people, and sold handmade product. And had a turnover of RMB 571.

Activities organized by bird protection group:

1st -21 Oct 2015, "Funny Bird Around You" garden party was held at Beihai Vocational College after class. Games including birds picture identify, "Can you saving birds", birds Q&A, and bird watching. About 400 students participated.

2nd --25 Oct 2015, 34 group members joined 2015 Migratory bird Protection which organized by Fauna & Flora International as volunteers.

3rd - 12 Dec.2015 “Campus Bird Protection Cross Country Race” was held. 35 students and 27 volunteers participated.

4th - 26 Mar.2016 “Riding and Watching Birds” was held during Beihai Bird Week. 43 students from 4 universities participated this activity, They ride to Beihai College of Beihang University, and then began to watch birds and playing funning games. 12 species of birds were found.

5th - 16 Apr.2016 “Bird Knowledge Salon” was held on campus. 35 students participated this salon and shared their own experience of bird watching.

6th - 4 Jun.2016 “Little Birds are my friends” class at Qiaogang Children's Center. 22 children took part in it. 7 members told stories and knowledge about birds, and taught children using telescopes and drawing birds.

7th - 5 Jun. 2016 A charity sale was organized for environmental protection on World Environment Day, 13 members introduced birds to people, and sold handmade product. And had a turnover of RMB 632.

Activity organized by natural education group:

1st –1 Nov. 2015 the 1st activity on natural education was 42 students whom from Beihai College of Art & Design, went to Guantouling Park, Group activities: Copy an animal as a team; Taking photos with a plant, Collect 15 natural things to make a puzzle.

2nd - 6 Dec. 2015 “Games of Campus Natural Experience” was held. The games including various activities, such as leaf collages in limited time and knowledge quiz. 32 students participated in these games.

3rd - 7 May 2016 A natural experience activity was held in Changqing Park. This activity was made up by natural notes and nature observation. 30 students participated.

4th - 14 May 2016 “Campus Nature Observation Game” was held. 27 students participated.

5th 16 Jun 2016 8students came to Caimu Primary School in Hepu County to teach primary students natural knowledge. About 87 primary students participated. They learned how to observe the nature and to draw leaves and insects.

6th - 5 Jun. 2016 A charity sale was organized for environmental protection on World Environment Day, 26 members joined and sold handmade product. And had a turnover of RMB 826.

Activity organized by water resources protection group:

1<sup>ST</sup> - 8th Nov 2015, Water Party at Guilin University of Electronic Technology. More than 300 colleges saw this outdoor party, about 50 joined.

2nd - 28 Oct.~12.Nov. 2015 Students conducted questionnaires about colleges water use habits. 124 questionnaires were collected. Our finding was published in the school dormitory billboards, along with water conservation knowledge.



3rd - 22 Apr. During the World Water Day and Water Week, we conduct water saving and environmental protection advocacy and collected 27 water saving creative Posters.

4th Mar.-Jun. 2016 During 4 months, Taught schoolchildren about water saving and protection knowledge in 6 school and 1 children center, included Quwan Primary School, Caimu primary school, Yintanqu Second Primary School, Hexing Primary School, Hainan Road Primary School, and Boya Primary School. Qiaogang Children's Center. Total 267 schoolchildren participated in. Each time 4-6 members in the teachers' group.

5th - Ocean Trash Clean Up was held on Beihai Silver Beach. About 22 people joined in this activity. Collected 37kg trash from the beach.

6<sup>th</sup> - 5 Jun. 2016 A charity sale was organized for environmental protection on World Environment Day, 26 members introduced water saving knowledge to people and sold handmade product. And had a turnover of RMB 626.

### **Activity 2.2:**

Conduct a questionnaire survey of all association members at the start and end of the project. Inception survey conducted, on the participants' needs regarding training on environmental protection.

*Deliverable : Final survey conducted, on what the participants have learned through the project.*

An inception survey was conducted online from the 1st to 31st July 2015. We designed a questionnaire, including some basic questions of environment protection, the frequency of training, which way of training students prefer, etc. Total 200 students submitted questionnaire via internet. We designed the training course and arranged the schedule after data analysis. Reports of this survey please see attachment.

Final survey conducted, on what the participants have learned through the project. Total 148 questionnaire were submitted. Reports of this survey please see attachment.

### **Activity 2.3:**

Hold semi-structured interviews with 10 association members, on their opinions towards environmental protection before and after the project, and their perspectives on association development and possible further work.

*Deliverable : Baseline interviews conducted. Final interviews conducted.*

Baseline interviews were conducted on Sept 2015. A total 10 students joined this phone interview. All of them satisfied with previous training, half of them want more training.

Final interviews were conducted from on July 2016. A total 10 students joined this phone interview. 50% of them satisfied with their individual performance in this year, and others thought they should be better. Besides, 70% of them approved that environmental protection need to pay action. Report of this survey please sees attachment.

**8. If you did not complete any activity or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?**

A) This project started in June. However, at that time students were preparing for final exams. They were away on summer holidays in July and August, and busy with the start of the new term in September. Therefore, we postponed the training events to the end of September.

B) This project was supposed to be finished before 30 June, while taking into account of the need to choose summer vocation to hold Green Camp, we applied to IUCN for No Cost Extension (extension without additional expenditures) and postponed to August 31.

C) The Green Camp was supposed to conduct field investigation in Fangchenggang, taking into account of the limited knowledge level of students in Beihai, we changed the original plan. The camp was mainly based on natural observation and experience, and aimed to inspired the awareness of environmental protection and behavior change. All activities have been completed as set out in the proposal.

**9. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results**

See attachment

**Benefits to Communities**

**10. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support**

*Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.*

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									

\*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

## Lessons Learned

### **11. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.**

We have learned that students require more professional training (in scientific knowledge) in order to organize educational activities for older students and the general public. And continuous training is required to sustain students' interests. The students also require more training in scientific communication, including the use of different media channels.

Although BHCVA now has more than 1100 registered members, it has been losing its members rapidly. Other people perceived us as providing free services, without understanding of the operation costs involved with our work. We now have one full-time accountant, one administrative staff, several Directors. The management is now exploring new ways in managing projects. This project has successfully built the capacity of the project leader, together with the rest of the team, as a demonstration for using part-time staff in project management.

### **12. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

None

### **13. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)**

We have learned that student activities require more supervision and guidance to ensure good management and activity results. More exposure is also required to motivate students' creativity.

### **14. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community**

None

## Sustainability / Replication

### **15. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated**

The associations must develop a sharing and self-learning mechanism to enable knowledge and skill transfer from one generation of member to the next, and to ensure the organization develop their culture and accumulate their experience effectively.

The student associations have learnt about other environmental NGOs and student associations through this project, and started to learn from them, such as Nanjing Qinghuan Voluntary Services Center, Green Future, Shanghai Rendu Marine Conservation Center etc. This also facilitates the growth and provides funding opportunities to the associations.

Through this project, some volunteers have been selected and trained, and become involved in other programs of BHCVA. So this project is also building the capacity of BHCVA as a whole.

**16. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability**

None

**Safeguards**

**17. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered**

N/A

**Additional Funding**

**18. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
None			

*\* Categorize the type of funding as:*

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

**Additional Comments/Recommendations**

**19. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF**

The activity continues after this project ends to facilitate association development and activities with the beginning of the new academic year. This includes training in leadership, project design and management, and scientific knowledge relating to environmental protection.

We are seeking funding from other sources such as Shenzhen Mangrove Conservation Fund, and we also encourage the associations to fundraise themselves and to collaborate with other organizations.

Continue to carry out workshop among the associations to keep up the momentum and allow the exchange of information and experience.

**Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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