

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: IUCN-The World Conservation Union Asia Program

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Development of the China World Heritage Biodiversity Program

Implementation Partners for This Project: IUCN – The World Conservation Union (Asia Program), UNESCO, United Nations Foundation (UNF), Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Ministry of Construction (MOC), Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the China Landscape and Historic Sites Association (CLHSA).

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): May 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): May 2005

II. OPENING REMARKS

The China World Heritage Biodiversity Program (CWHBP) aims to develop and strengthen biodiversity conservation at existing and proposed natural World Heritage sites in China, by supporting the enabling institutional and policy environments at the national and local levels, and developing replicable planning and management models that enhance ecosystem integrity and connectivity, trans-boundary collaboration, NGO and public participation, and equitable benefits to local communities.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The objective of the project was to develop a comprehensive countrywide China World Heritage Biodiversity Program (CWHBP) for building national capacity in identifying, nominating and effectively managing World Natural Heritage sites for biodiversity conservation, including through creative partnerships with public and private sector agencies and organizations. This CEPF proposal was developed for seeking a planning grant to support the achievement of the above objective and the following outputs: (1) A multi-stakeholder consultation organized within China for developing the CWHBP; (2) Agreement reached among the key stakeholders on the principal elements and priorities of the CWHBP, and on their respective institutional roles and responsibilities; and (3) A detailed project proposal developed for seeking donor assistance to implement the CWHBP.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

No.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

The International Workshop on the CWHBP was held in Kunming, China from 20-22 September 2004, and was the first of the activities under the planning phase of the program. It aimed at reaching a consensus among the major stakeholders on the principal elements and priorities of the CWHBP, as well as the institutional roles and responsibilities of all the partners involved in the design and development of the project. The International Workshop was attended by 162 participants, including representatives of all natural and mixed World Heritage sites and 23 provinces in China, the Ministry of Construction (MOC), the China Landscape and Historic Sites Association, IUCN, UNESCO, UNFIP, CEPF, CI, TNC, WWF, UNDP China, Embassy of USA, Chinese Academy of Sciences, several Chinese universities and NGOs, as well as international resource persons from New Zealand, Australia, Austria, Germany and USA.

One of the notable outcomes of the workshop was the signing of an Expression of Commitment by the core partners of the CWHBP, including IUCN, TNC, CI, CEPF, WWF, FFI, UNESCO and UNFIP expressing interest and commitment to work together to develop, fund-raise and implement the CWHBP. After securing government approval, MOC also signed the Expression of Commitment.

As a follow-up to the workshop, a detailed proposal representing a ten year program of work was drafted for further consultation with core partners and review with the government, partners and donors. The draft proposal was discussed in detail at a CWHBP partners' meeting held in Beijing on 12 April 2005. At the meeting, one of the key recommendations was to focus efforts initially on a short Phase 1 (three years) with relatively limited scope but well defined and achievable objectives.

The international workshop, program proposal and Beijing partners meeting have been successful in forging a coalition of partners for the CWHBP, and in reaching consensus on the principal elements and priorities of the program. More work is still needed in determining the institutional roles and responsibilities of the different partners on a detailed level, and in fundraising for the program.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

The International Workshop was originally scheduled for June 2004, but was delayed until September 2004 for a number of logistical reasons. However, the rescheduled date proved to be efficacious and produced a successful meeting. Naturally, delays in the International Workshop also engendered a delay in the preparation of the project proposal.

While the programmatic process has been successful on the whole thus far, it has been difficult to coordinate a program of this size, with a relatively large number of partners. Another difficulty has been the gap in perceptions and priorities between the NGO and government partners. These problems have been addressed through partner consultations organized by IUCN. Frequent consultations will be needed throughout the life of the program to try to balance the interests and perceptions of the different partners.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

One lesson that has come out of this program is that it is extremely difficult to forge a functioning coalition of Chinese government agencies, as there tends to be little communication and often tension between different agencies. In any given project, one agency must always be in the lead. However, this situation is not always appreciated by donors and international participants who would like to see a number of different government agencies involved from the start. In fact, the problem is most pronounced at the central level, and is less severe at the local level where representatives of different government units do work together on a regular basis. Thus one way to assuage the concerns of donors is to show how government participation broadens as one descends the administrative ladder down to the provinces, counties and local governments.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

As mentioned above in number 3, a partners meeting was held in Beijing in April 2005 to get feedback on the proposal and to solicit the suggestions of partners on how to take the program forward. Based on this feedback, we are now finalizing a Phase I document for the first three years of the program. Once this is completed, the next step will be to secure financing for the program and begin the implementation phase.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
UNF	A	USD 30,000	
TNC	A	USD 10,000	

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

The CWHBP is currently in its planning and development phase. With the project proposal nearly finalized, the next step is to secure financing for the program and move forward to the implementation stage. UNF has already committed funds to the program, part of which are tied to a global partnership between CI and UNF on World Heritage. Other donors are currently being sought to broaden the funding base for the program.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The funds provided by CEPF for the CWHBP have been indispensable in bringing the program forward to date. These funds allowed us to hold the International Workshop in September 2004, to produce a detailed project document and to hold a partners meeting in Beijing in April 2005. IUCN and its partners in the CWHBP are extremely grateful to the CEPF for its generous support.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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