

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Conservation International-China Regional Program

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Small Grants in Supporting Integration of Science and Culture: Tibetan Sacred Land Protection and Conservation Effectiveness Measurement*

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Peking University

Green Khampa Association

Snowland Great River Association

Kawagebo Cultural Society

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): December 1, 2005-January 31, 2008

Date of Report (month/year): March, 2008

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The Tibetan people live in an area covering 250 million hectares (ha) in five provinces of China: Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan, and Gansu. The landscape in this area consists of forests and rangeland on the plateau, including the Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot. The rich cultural traditions and the Buddhist faith of the Tibetan people emphasize reverence toward life and nature. Traditionally, each Tibetan village and monastery designated its own sacred sites near mountains, forests, lakes and rivers where wildlife and habitats were protected. This system has always encouraged a harmonious relationship between humans and their surrounding environments, and serves as a particularly helpful cultural feature in support of biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development in this biodiversity hotspot. However, in recent decades, this harmony has been eroded by rapid economic development and external influences. Most communities lack the capacity and opportunities to make prudent development and conservation decisions. Furthermore, the Chinese government and outside experts usually make such decisions, which perpetuates the situation of local communities being excluded from important decisions that directly affect them and their natural resources.

Since 2002, Conservation International (CI) has worked with local partners and stakeholders in the Tibetan lands to promote community-based conservation and livelihood development in the Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot. CI aims to revitalize the Tibetan cultural values for sacred lands as an effective measure for creating and expanding the number of community-based protected areas for conservation as well as a value basis for local sustainable development. In 2004, the Blue Moon Fund provided a one-year grant that allowed CI to implement Phase I of this project, which included: 1) assessing the sacred lands system in Ganzi, Sichuan, and Yushu, Qinghai so conservationists and stakeholders could first gain an understanding

of the location of the sacred sites and how they function in local communities; and 2) building the awareness and conservation capacity of local NGOs and governments.

At the same time, CEPF has funded local NGOs and communities to work on similar activities in Yunnan and Qinghai. Through this work we have gained a broad understanding of the role of sacred lands in conservation. However, conservation outcomes of sacred lands at species, areas, and corridor/landscape levels need to be better defined, its relationship with official protected areas also need to be explored so that sacred land protection can be a mainstream approach to conservation.

Between 2004 and 2005, CEPF sponsored CI to conduct a project on Conservation Outcomes Definition and Monitoring for SW China Hotspot. Through this project, a database on existing biodiversity information has been established and indicators on conservation outcomes defined and an Eco-Partners network has been established to share information and conduct collective monitoring and conservation actions in future. However, significant gaps are also identified in information, monitoring, and well organized and managed conservation actions, especially in the western part of the hotspot that overlaps with the Tibetan area.

The goal of this project is to sustain the achievement gained in the previous work and combine the efforts of using cultural tradition to protect sacred land and the initiative of conservation outcome definition and monitoring. With the effort of this project, Community Conservation Fund, an innovative method to support community conservation initiatives, has been set up. 27 grants were made to pilot communities wide-spread in Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan, covering 80% the area of the SW China biodiversity hotspot. A community conservation model and network is preliminarily established. The network does not only include the communities' elites who are playing fundamental roles in front line conservation but also the conservationists from NGOs, research institutions or even government agencies, who are providing technical, scientific, and legal back up for the community protection activities. The tremendous grassroots knowledge of indigenous approaches, folk tales, or even traditional customs of conservation have been collected and preserved through the project.

The Community Conservation Fund got the funding from the EU-China Biodiversity Project, which aims to scale up the outcomes of the small grant project. Over 80 community small grants with clear biodiversity conservation outputs will be made in the ECBP project covering over 10 KBAs in Sichuan and Qinghai. Policy, legislation, and government recognition of community conservation will be better promoted under the ECBP project as an objective of CCF in the next 2-3 project period.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Enlarge and enhance conservation effectiveness of protected areas in Tibetan sacred-land landscape by mobilizing local people's active participation in conservaton, bringing civil society support from outside the region, and recognizing conservation efforts and empowering of local and regional governments.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>Standards and manuals on conservation outcomes monitoring developed and disseminated through training programs; monitoring programs launched.</i>	Manuals of different Taxons species developed, including mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians, insects, and plants, and water and soil as well. Manual of community-based monitoring developed.
<i>Monitoring data collected and database established for measuring the conservation success in sacred land, nature reserves and key biodiversity areas.</i>	Data collected in 2 reserves: Wanglang (data of mammals, amphibians, insects, vegetation and soil); Wolong (mammal data) Monitoring data collected in at least 5 Tibetan communities.
<i>The Eco-partner network and conservation society in Southwest China maintained and enlarged.</i>	Partners from scientic institutions, nature reserves, local communities and government agencies are working on this project. At least 2 new academic partners took part in the period of this project, and several local communities as well.
<i>Leadership of Tibetan communities developed to manage and protect their land and resources based on traditional sacred lands conservation mechanism</i>	Over 40 leaders from 27 granted communities and developed their capacity in implementing conservation projects by participating in the project trainings, exchange activities, and managing the project.
<i>Sustainable small grant mechanism in Khampa Tibetan region set up to encourage local NGOs and communities to participate in sacred land conservation</i>	Community Conservation Fund mechanism set up seperately in Ganzi, Yushu, and Diqing Prefecture. Altogether 27 community conservation projects awarded through CCF under the current program phase
<i>Long-term financing mechanism set up with investments from domestic entrepreneurs, governments, and individual investors.</i>	Small grant mechanism Community Conservation Action Fund sustained through ECBP project which provides continous support to make over 80 grants in the next three years in Sichuan and Qinghai province

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The success of the project can be mainly demonstrated on setting up the first small grant mechanism to communities in SW China hotspot to encourage the grassroots participation of conservation. The funding strategy and operation protocol are refined during the project practice which can apply to various local situations with a solid and clear funding direction while keeping its flexibility. The community as a first line conservation force is recognized by different conservation stakeholders especially in a traditional Sacred Land Preservation culture context of SW China. However, no resource from government or civil societies before CCF exist available to provide financial, technical or moral support to community conservation. The acknowledgement is critical not only because the biodiversity resource in mountains of Southwest China is now confronting an urgent challenge from economic development, but also because the valuable traditional culture and knowledge is in threat of being undermined by the mainstream economic-development-oriented perspective. The indigenous people who keep an intact conservation value are changing their traditional ways of living and losing many valuable conservation customs and knowledge. The loss of the traditional conservation values can be as fast as the loss of biodiversity here, which will eventually speed up the biodiversity loss in these regions. In the previous research by Peking University, 1/3 territory of Ganzi prefecture, over 5 million ha, is preserved by Tibetan traditional Sacred Land Worship mechanism and local communities. To encourage the local communities' conservation initiatives, to build up mainstream recognition of the traditional conservation values, and to provide pride-based incentives to communities are the major achievements of CCF. The experience of the 27 communities has been accumulated and shared among the grantees, local NGOs, and relevant government agencies. A community conservation network covering Sichuan, Qinghai, and Yunnan's three provinces in addition to

different stakeholders including communities, NGOs, research institutions, Nature Reserves and government departments have been preliminarily formed to support conservation at the grassroots level.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

With the solid work and experience gained in making community small grants and supporting grassroots level conservation actions, the Community Conservation Fund gained successive funding from EU-China Biodiversity Program for another three years from 2008 to 2010. This support will help the CCF to develop a better alliance with government agencies in Qinghai and Sichuan to make another 80 community conservation small grants. The achievements and effectiveness of community conservation can be demonstrated to governments and other mainstream audiences. 80 communities will continue to be formed as a conservation alliance and share the positive and negative experiences of conservation and economic development among this network.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: 1 small grant made to cover a portion of facilitating expense of the Outcomes Monitoring Program for maintaining the Eco-partner network, coordinating monitoring programs, and integrating outcome monitoring with other conservation projects.	
<i>One suitable institution found and retained to run the Outcomes Monitoring Program in Mountains of Southwest China hotspot</i>	Center for nature and society, Peking University took the responsibility of retaining the OM project, with the support of ecopartners.
<i>Eco-partner network maintained: advisory committee of Eco-partners founded; new partners involved; website of Eco-partner network maintained and updated regularly; newsletter sent to eco-partners monthly</i>	Eco-partner network maintained: new partners involved, such as Sichuan Agriculture University; website of Eco-partner network maintained .
<i>Metadata database of the Mountains of Southwest China hotspot established and updated regularly for sharing amongst partners: Standards of meta-data developed, new meta-data added into database at regular intervals</i>	Database maintained and updated, monitoring data standard established.
<i>Training provide to sacred land project staffs on integrating outcome monitoring into their conservation programs; general project information and outputs digitized into Outcomes Monitoring database</i>	Training provided to 7 sacred land communities on monitoring during the project period.
<i>Projects for monitoring conservation outcomes selected, granted, and coordinated according to OM requirements; data from monitoring projects integrated into OM database</i>	7 projects for monitoring conservation outcomes selected and granted, some of the data from monitoring projects integrated into OM database
<i>Analyzed outcomes monitoring results presented to sacred-land and monitoring</i>	Data from 3 communities and 1 nature reserve analyzed outcomes monitoring results and

<i>projects to improve efficiency of future actions.</i>	presented to improve efficiency of future actions.
Output 2: 6-8 small grants made to monitor outcomes of projects based on sacred lands conservation mechanism.	
<i>Projects granted for developing handbook on monitoring of conservation outcomes</i>	5 projects granted for developing handbook on monitoring of conservation outcomes
<i>Projects granted for developing evaluation standards for biodiversity impact assessment (BIA) of major infrastructure development projects that are priority threats to biodiversity conservation.</i>	1 project granted for developing evaluation standards for biodiversity impact assessment (BIA) of major infrastructure development projects that are priority threats to biodiversity conservation.
<i>Projects granted for monitoring biodiversity, ecosystem or social-economic status changes, according to priority species, priority areas and major threats previously defined by Outcomes Monitoring project</i>	2 projects granted for monitoring biodiversity, ecosystem and social-economic status changes,.
Output 3: Establish small grants management mechanism at prefecture level in Ganzi (Sichuan), Yushu (Qinghai) and Diqing (Yunnan). Initiated by successful local NGOs with intensive support of CI China, create funding guidelines and grant management operation manuals in the three Tibetan prefectures of Sichuan, Qinghai, and Yunnan.	Small grants mechanism has been established separately in Sichuan Qinghai and Yunnan with well defined conservation objectives, investment strategies and operation manuals.
<i>Small grant funding guidelines and management operation manual created and disseminated through training programs.</i>	Small grant funding guidelines and management operation manual created
<i>Local grant proposal review committees organized in three Tibetan prefectures with coordination mechanism run by a designated local NGO partners.</i>	Local grant review committee organized in three Tibetan prefectures with the coordination of a local NGO partner in three project provinces, namely Green Kham Association, Snowland Great Rivers Association and Kawagebo Cultural Society
<i>Project concept development, project design, and proposal writing supported by the local NGO partners. Monitoring and evaluation implemented according to the developed operations manual.</i>	Small grant project M&E implemented by local NGO partners as well as other support provided in community proposal development, reporting and financial management
Output 4: Following the established funding guidelines in Output 3, award 15 or more grants to local communities and NGOs in three Tibetan prefectures of Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan.	Following the established funding guidelines and investment strategies, altogether 24 small grants have been made to local communities and NGOs in Ganzi, Yushu and Diqing.
<i>More than 15 grants made to Tibetan local NGOs and communities in Ganzi, Zhongdian and Yushu prefectures following the established funding guidelines.</i>	altogether 24 grants made to Tibetan local NGOs and communities in Ganzi , Diqing and Yushu prefectures following the funding guidelines with the open review of grant making committees
<i>Small grants project newsletter created and distributed to build networking platform, provide updates, and show lessons learned.</i>	Small grants project newsletter, brochure, and community conservation stories produced to promote the achievement of community conservation and share the lessons learned
Output 5: Carry out trainings on ecology knowledge, communication techniques, project and organization management to community leaders, monasteries and local NGOs to build leadership capacity at the grassroots level.	Trainings to community leaders and local NGOs designed and organized under CCF framework
<i>At least 6 Training courses, on-the-spot coaching, grantee and project sharing workshop provided to more than 100 participants from communities,</i>	Over 10 training courses, on-the-spot coaching, and grantee sharing workshop have been organized with over 100 community and NGO participants attending

<i>monasteries, and local NGOs.</i>	
<i>Training materials produced.</i>	Training materials collected
<i>Local trainers identified to provide trainings on biodiversity knowledge, project management, and communication techniques.</i>	Local trainers identified and NGO staff got trained to provide trainings on biodiversity knowledge, project management, and communication skills
Output 6: Establish the "Kham Ecology Conservation Fund" in Ganzi prefecture to ensure the long term sustainability of this project's grassroots grant making mechanism.	Sustainable community conservation financing mechanism developed separately in Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan as Kham Ecology Award, Sanjiangyuan Community Fund, Kawagebo Community Conservation Fund
<i>\$100,000 USD equivalent in funds or in-kind contributions raised from diverse donor base including domestic entrepreneurs, government, individuals, and international sources.</i>	Over USD 300,000 raised from CI, ECBP and business companies to support community conservation fund in Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan
<i>Funding guidelines and small grants operations manual adapted for "Kham Ecology Conservation Fund"</i>	Funding guidelines and small grants operation manuals developed for kham Ecology Award, Sanjiangyuan Community Fund, Kawagebo Community Conservation Fund

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

NGO partners and partner capacity building. As an NGO based in cities, we encountered the challenges to keep sufficient communication with local community grantees in the remote areas. To overcome this disadvantage, at the beginning of this project, we developed a tight partnership with local NGOs separately in Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan, namely, Green Kham Association, Snowland Great Rivers Association, and Kawagebo Cultural Society. The NGO partners shared the responsibility to manage the grants in each region and own the rights to grant decision making. Capacity building was also provided to these NGOs to promote their ability on project management. This approach has been proved to be a win-win model for both CI and the NGOs. What's more, the three local NGOs all developed their own community small grant program after the project ends.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

None

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The project didn't support any actions that disagree with the environmental and social safeguard policies.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

Community sharing and Networking. Small grant making is one of the approaches to promote community conservation capacity and conservation effectiveness at grassroots level. It is also important to promote community experience sharing and networking among the granted 24 communities. There are similarities among different region and lessons learned both on conservation and development. The community exchange and sharing has been proved to be a good approach to enhance capacity and increase conservation knowledge.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

Government involvement. In the context of China, communities are regarded as a threat to conservation for the past decades. It is not until recently, the NGOs realized the communities can also play a positive role in conservation, especially in the Tibetan region. It is important to amplify this message to governments and gain the decision makers' support to community conservation especially at the county and prefectural level. CCF involved government participation in different phases and activities of the project, including recommending the community applications, review the proposals, and participation in project sharing, exchange and M&E processes.

VII. 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	Date Received	Notes
CI-ITPI	C	\$50,000	2007.2	
ECBP	C	\$298,000	2007.12	
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		

***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 community conservation fund will continue after CEPF project ends. The EU-China Biodiversity Program has approved over 1.5 million US dollar grant to CI-China. This funding will scale up the achievement of this project to make over 80 community grants in the next 3 years in Sichuan and Qinghai, which ensures the sustainability of this project.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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