

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: WWF International / China Program Office

WWF China

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):

Managing CEPF's Small Grant Fund to Safeguard Endangered Species and Habitats in Southwest China

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Song Zhaobin, Sichuan University

Geng Dong, Image Studio of SW China

Li Cheng, Division of Herpetology, Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Peng Jitai, Kham Biodiversity Conservancy

Wang Yu, Neijiang Teachers College

Zhong Hongzhang, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Mao Tianxue, Yading Conservation Association

Li Xiaohong, Gansu Forestry Technological College

Chengdu Bird Watching Society

Du Ke, Shi Hongyan, Mianyang Normal University

Nyima County Forestry Bureau, Nagchu Prefecture, Tibet

Mu Suo, Luobulin Institute of Buddhism

Liu Zhigao, Mao County Friends of Wildlife Association in Jiudingshan

Han Lianxian, Southwest Forestry College

Gu Xiaodong, Sichuan Wild Animal Resources Investigation and Protection Management Station

Zhang Zejun, China West Normal University

Ma Mingdong, Sichuan Agricultural University Dujiangyan Campus

Zhao Lianjun, Wanglang Nature Reserve

Zheng Xiong, Sichuan Deyang Wild Animals and Plants Protection Association

Liu Shaoying, Institute of Forestry Science, Sichuan

Fang Zhendong, Shangri-La Alpine Botanical Garden

Lichun, East China Normal University

Zhaxi, Baiyu Monastery; and Dong Jiangtian, Shenzhen Bird Watching Society

Zhang Qiong, Northwest Normal University

Wu Hongchao, Northwest Normal University

Dai Qiang, Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Zeng Xiaomao, Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Wang Lingzhen, Chengdu Urban Rivers Association

Wang Hongjian, Baishuijiang National Nature Reserve
Zhang Yujun, Eco-tourism Research Centre, Beijing Forestry University

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):
November 1, 2004-June 30, 2007

Date of Report (month/year):
Feb. 25, 2008

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

China is one of the richest biodiversity countries in the world. With the economic development and population increase, the current status of wildlife is becoming worse and worse and more and more species turn into endangered species or are on the edge of extinction. However, in China few people are really aware of the country's rich biological diversity and the threats it faces. Furthermore, the limited resources available from government agencies for research and public awareness are currently almost all focused on a few very high-profile species, while lesser-known but threatened species and their habitats have received hardly any effective protection at all. To ameliorate this situation, WWF China set up Wildlife Conservation Small Grant Fund (SGF) in 2001. The Fund received continuous financial support from Novozymes since its start and strengthened the conservation efforts in the Mountains of Southwest China with an additional contribution from CEPF in 2004. The fund awards small grants to field-based initiatives in places where urgent action or innovative responses are needed. The SGF is designed to support research on species/habitat conservation, collection of essential data of species/habitats, promotion to the development of innovative conservation strategies and species/habitat improvement of public awareness.

Up to now, a total of 73 projects concerning 49 species have been sponsored in 22 provinces in China during the past 7 years. From 2004 to 2007, 30 projects were sponsored in Southwest China Mountains and have had remarkable success considering the modest investment involved. Support from the Fund led to the establishment and strengthening of more than 6 local environmental conservation NGOs. Four projects have gained funding through the leverage of SGF. Four publications useful for the task of wildlife conservation were published by the support of SGF. Four conservation strategies proposed by the Fund have been adopted by local government agencies and private sectors, in which 2 Nature Reserves were established. And some projects were reported by media, such as Habitat Restoration and Community Participated Conservation of the Chinese Three-tailed Swallowtail in Baishuijiang Nature Reserve, Gansu; Impacts of Roads on Amphibians in Zoige Alpine Wetland and Conservation Suggestions; Conservation of the Tibetan Bunting Surrounding the Baiyu Monastery, Qinghai Province; Collective Monitoring of the Rare Birds in Sichuan and so on.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *By June 30, 2007, the conservation status of at least 20 endangered species or spaces will be improved through civil society action in Southwest China.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>Rates of extinction declined.</i>	30 projects were implemented in SW China and more than 20 species/habitat were covered to reduce their extinction rate.
<i>Key habitat under official protection</i>	Some key habitat and region were covered by official conservation strategies. And some NR were established there.
<i>Positive change in fragmentation statistics.</i>	Better understanding in habitat fragmentation focusing species in SW China. Some projects conducted to restore and/or maintain habitat integration.

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

Thirty projects were implemented in SW China and more than 20 species/habitat were covered to reduce the rate of population extinction and habitat deterioration and loss. Projects list is in Annex.II.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

New issues, both in scientific and in conservation management, that were brought forth to us along with the fruitful and successful implementation of the SGF projects, particularly the knowledge and understanding on the “rarity” of those previously poorly-known species or known as of very limited range and low population, have at least revealed that, though mostly out of our sight, they had been surviving in the wild in their way we are not certain, such as in the cases of the projects on Wenxian Knobby Newt, Hot-spring Keel-back, Tibetan Bunting, and *Protohynobius puxiongensis*, and the achievements could hardly be conceived, virtually or even expectedly, from any other oriented or allocated project.

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: Projects supported for conservation of at least 20 endangered species or spaces in Southwest China.	30 projects were implemented in SW China and more than 20 species/habitat were covered.
<i>Ads for proposal publicized, project selection committee functioned and selection result publicized through media.</i>	Ads for proposal publicized, project selection committee functioned and selection result publicized through WWF Website and SGF newsletter four times.
<i>40 selected projects which covered at least 20 key lesser-known endangered species be granted, contracted out and implemented by partners by June 30, 2007.</i>	30 projects were implemented; among which 17 lesser-known endangered species were directly focused on by the grant projects and 6 groups with dozens of lesser-known endangered species were protected by the grant projects.
Output 2: Projects supported for Increased capacity of 10 local NGOs and institutions in conservation efforts.	Amongst those CEPF sponsored 30 WWF SGF projects in SW China, 10 projects were undertaken by NGOs or of local institutions to Increase the capacity of local NGOs and institutions in conservation efforts.
<i>x number of local NGOs/ local institutions competed for the grant.</i>	75 local NGOs/ local institutions competed for the grant
<i>x number of local NGOs/ local institutions participated in the training/ project lessons sharing workshop organized by WWF</i>	10 local NGOs/ local institutions participated in the training/ project lessons sharing workshop organized by WWF
<i>New conservation approaches proposed by the local NGOs/ local institutions were publicized and replicated elsewhere.</i>	Mianyang Bird Watching Society was established through the mode of Chengdu Bird Watching Society.
<i>x number of local NGOs/ local institutions participated in exchange visits</i>	At least 4 local NGOs/ local institutions participated in exchange visits
<i>Fund newsletter sent to X organizations/times.</i>	Fund newsletter sent to 75 organizations 107 times.
Output 3: At least 75% of the projects funded are reported in local or regional media and communicated among partner organizations, relevant government agencies and donors.	Most of the projects funded are reported in local or regional media and communicated among partner organizations, relevant government agencies and donors.
<i>X number of print, web, TV, magazine, radio stories produced about projects by</i>	Print, web, TV, magazine, radio stories

<i>regional reporters.</i>	produced by regional reporters of 21 projects.
<i>Highlighted projects reported to CEPF e-newsletter</i>	All the project reports were submitted to CEPF as newsletter's material
Output 4: Project monitoring and evaluation mechanism is built to ensure smooth implementation.	Project monitoring and evaluation mechanism has been built to ensure smooth implementation.
<i># of timely updates with key project information received.</i>	Key project information received were updated biannual through SGF newsletter.
<i># of projects that receive expert visits/training for technical assistance</i>	At least 16 projects received expert visit or training of technical assistance.
<i># of key project site visits conducted by WWF field program officers</i>	At least 5 project sites visits conducted by WWF field program officers
Output 5: Additional, long-term funding is leveraged to insure sustainability of the Fund beyond the project completion date.	Additional, long-term funding is under negotiation with donors to ensure sustainability of the Fund beyond the project completion date. Some of them secured.
<i>X number of donors approached with goal of securing additional funds</i>	5 donors including CEPF were approached with goal of securing additional funds
<i>At least 30% is secured as additional funds to the Fund.</i>	Till now, 2 donors have committed the fund with total around 80,000 Euro for 2008.

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

1). Results of at least 7 projects, each specifically focused on one species, which are all endemic to SW China and being amongst those foreseeable key species, lead to sustained conservation or leverage additional funding in support of conservation in SW China, and 2 of them did get further funding, from the provincial and national level, for the continuation; in addition, results of the survey for monitoring rare birds in Sichuan also brought some remarkable data on the population dynamics of the Sichuan partridge *Arborophola rufipectus* around the type locality of the bird, which might lead to further field studies and conservation management on that globally endangered small gamebird. Besides, project of "Community-initiated Patrolling in Jiudingshan Mountain, Maoxian County of Sichuan" has successfully raised some more funds for continuing their further activities in cruising and against poaching.

2) Almost all the projects, either of the study on species, on the impact of change of the environment, or on the impact of human activities, the executants, sooner or later during the implementation of their project, had prepared their suggestions on the conservation management of the species and their habitats concerned in their project and delivered their suggestions to the local wildlife conservation authorities; and, besides that 7 species mentioned in 1), the suggestions might cover other 20 rare and lesser known threatened species in SW China, and,

along with the suggestions approved by the concerned authorities and putting into practice, status of some species and their habitats were improved.

3) Amongst those 30 CEPF-sponsored WWF SGF projects in SW China, 10 projects were undertaken by people of NGOs or of local institutions, they, in most cases, showed a high enthusiastic devotion to their career, using the SGF, they published two field guides, which are very useful in practice and highly evaluated by the readers and keen local conservationists. In addition, Chengdu Bird Watching Society has greatly promoted the establishment of a new NGO in Sichuan – the Mianyang Bird Watching Society.

4) Besides the above-mentioned field guides published for the public, other projects were well publicized locally using posters by the executants. For publicizing the knowledge and idea of conservation, executants made a documentary on the hot-spring snake and played the film at the local TV station; for minimizing the negative impact of dams to aquaculture, executants gave training courses to those owners of aquaculture farms; and, based upon the results of their studies in “Conservation of Wintering Birds in Napahai Nature Reserve, Yunnan”, management authority of the Napahai NNR in NW Yunnan, which is also a Ramsar Site, is planning to scheme a new action plan to improve their conservation management on the site, and so on.

5) Some of the conservation recommendations, yielded from the implementation of the SGF projects, were adopted by the governmental authorities at different levels. The most prominent one should be due to warning boards erected along the sections of the highroad where amphibians are relatively high in density, bars erected for those birds of prey to roost, and channels rebuilt for the amphibians to across the road. Additionally, two applications for the establishment of new NRs were delivered to the concerned authorities for consideration and for final approval.

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

Output 1,

40 selected projects, which cover at least 20 key lesser-known endangered species, be granted, contracted out, and implemented by partners by June 30, 2007.

In fact, 30 selected projects which covered at least 20 key lesser-known endangered species were granted, contracted out, and implemented. Per the budget agreement, there is a total 140,000 USD for sub-grants. With the development of the economy in China, commodity prices were increasing. To ensure the quality of the grant projects, from 2004 to 2007, only 30 projects could be supported with the average amount of 36,000 RMB per project, on the basis of 10,000-5,000 every project in agreement, thus the total amount of all the projects was 1,090,000 RMB, equal to around 140,000 USD. Although the number of projects selected is lesser than expected, the overall impact of the project was not affected seriously, 17 lesser-known endangered species

were directly focused on by the grant projects and 6 groups with dozens of lesser-known endangered species were protected by the grant projects.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

Part of conservation recommendations, yielded from the implementation of the SGF projects, are adopted by the governmental authorities at different levels. The most prominent one should be due to warning boards erected along the sections of the highroad where the amphibians in relatively high density, bars erected for those birds of prey to roost, and channels rebuilt for the amphibians to across the road. Besides, two applications for establish new NRs were delivered to the concerned authorities for consideration and for final approval.

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.

Results of quite a bit SGF projects have also revealed such a problem that, in SW China and along the development of the regional economy, status of the environment is going from bad to worse, which is a problem could not be resolved by NGOs or by one or two governmental authorities who might be concerned, and it is hence of a necessity for making effort to reach to a well-accepted understanding on why our species might try to keep biological diversity well conserved, to which, frankly to say, lack and weakness are obviously existing in the government of different level.

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

All the SGF applications are not pre- oriented or allocated but somewhat in the random wish and interest of those applicants, and the contents of those applications are obviously to reflect a great deal of variety and initiatives, with much wider fields to be covered, lots of different people to be involved and engaged for a common goal, and therefore making it a concern of the whole society to greatly promote and improve nature conservation.

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

The total sum of the investment of all 30 SGF projects could only be to support a key project to be carried out at one site and with so much better a result that all the oriented targets could be getting achieved, whereas, unexpectedly fruitful are the results of a big portion of those SGF

projects especially those ones on a specific species, and this collaboration between WWF-China and CEPF, as a whole, will be doubtlessly of invaluable significance and impact on assessing the current status of those threatened species occurring in the whole SW China, for instance, results of the studies on the salamander and the hot-spring snake might lead the category of threat of the species to be properly re-assessed.

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
Novozymes	A	\$ 750,000 DDK	2004-	
Cannon	C	\$ 500,000 RMB	2008-01-01	Focus on Oriental Stork and Red Panda for three years
Novozyman	C	\$ 250,000 DDK	2008-01-01	For one year

****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.

This project will surely be continued in the future.

Till now we've secured funding of 350,000 DDK from Novozymes for 2008 and 500,000 RMB from Cannon, focusing on species of Oriental Stork and Red Panda for next three years.

And we are negotiating with current donor-Novozymes to continue and extend to triple amount. Besides, we cooperate with Education Team of CPO to develop Conservation & Biodiversity Education Programme to integrate existing resources and dig new resources, and it's under negotiation with a donor now. We are also working with Marketing Team of CPO to funding from

other potential donors and trying to get sustainable funding from WWF-Network. You know, all these fundraising process need time, so it could be highly appreciative if you'd like to give us a hand to keep SGF normal running at this emergent year.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All the projects are relatively of a short term for undertaking, whilst, some projects did bring with them some obviously remarkable results either of the totally new knowledge and understanding on species or for the current and potential conservation efforts, and hence are much worthy to be re-granted for a better and wider follow-up in the future, if and when possible.

And, considering that some executants, either of NGOs, of nature reserves, or of colleges, universities, and institutions, yet not very much realize or understand the data that they collected of the due rare species, it is also highly recommended that some senior scientists might be invited to be somewhat involved in the projects that NGOs are the chief executants, and, seminars might hence be held, if and when necessary, before the interim report of the project is going to be delivered;

Furthermore, since most of the species concerned in the WWF SGF projects are either being listed on Chinese and/or international *Red Data Book* or *RedList*, or the national protected ones in China, whilst, when looking at those project reports, it seems or sounds that at least some project executants are not very much familiar with the idea and practice of the *Criteria* that IUCN/SSC highly recommended for threatened species assessment, it is therefore recommended that those due files and relevant documents might be distributed to the new project executants and training courses might be held specifically on the issue, if and when possible and necessary.

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.

Please include your full contact details below:

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CEPF and WWF China Wildlife Conservation Small Grant Fund Evaluation Report

By He Fenqi & Deng Weijie

Brief project description and context

Whereas, to raise awareness of the full range of biodiversity that exists in China, WWF-China set up the Wildlife Conservation Small Grant Fund (SGF) in 2001 in aim of to support field-based conservation projects on lesser and poorly known threatened species and their habitats in China.

CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) sponsored WWF-China SGF, from 2004 to 2007, for strengthening the conservation efforts particularly in the Mountains of Southwest China, with up to 30 projects granted and undertaken in the due region.

In December 2007, He Fen-qi (HFQ), of the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, and Deng Wei-jie (WDJ), of the Sichuan Agriculture University (Dujiangyan campus) in Chengdu, were invited by WWF-China to be the evaluators to give an assessment to the implementation and performance of those CEPF sponsored projects undertaken in SW China.

With all the help and assistance of the WWF-China Beijing office, He Fen-qi and Deng Wei-jie gave a thorough evaluation to the implementation of all the CEPF sponsored SGF projects and herewith presented is the due evaluation.

Purpose and expected use of the evaluation

This reviewing activity is in aim to give an objective assessment on the implementation and performance of those CEPF sponsored SGF projects undertaken in the due period of 2004~2007, based on the agreement between WWF-China and CEPF.

The therefore created evaluation report will be a file for both WWF-China and CEPF to at least get a general idea, from the viewpoint of a third party, of how much achievement and significance of the due collaboration between WWF-China and CEPF it has far been made.

The evaluation report will doubtlessly be useful and helpful for WWF-China and CEPF developing their further collaboration on their conservation co-effort in SW China.

The evaluation report also can be widely distributed to all the executants of the SGF projects, giving to them much wider and deeper sight on how their separate effort, via such a small grant, can be integrated into much bigger a contribution to the regional conservation.

Objectives of the evaluation

To give a thorough assessment on the implementation of those CEPF sponsored SGF projects; and, based open that,

To give an overall evaluation on the due collaboration.

Summary of the evaluation methodology

A survey was undertaken, on 18th-30th December 2007, to WWF-China offices in Chengdu and Kunming, of Sichuan and Yunnan respectively, for a further and detailed investigation on the issue and in total of 15 chief executants on behalf of 14 CEPF projects, 13 in Chengdu and its surroundings and 1 in Kunming, were gathered in the office giving presentation and illustration on the implementation of their projects.

After interviewing to those executants, the evaluators looked very carefully at the project proposals as well as the far received medium and final reports that all the granted applicants had delivered to WWF China, and hence the report is created.

Principle findings and conclusions, especially relating to project goals/targets

Amongst those chief executants of the 30 CEPF sponsored projects, briefly, 15 are from universities and institutions, 7 from the wildlife conservation authorities and nature reserves, and 8 from the NGOs.

And, after interviewing to those project executants and looking very carefully at the project reports, the evaluators conceived such an impression that, under a remarkably well organizing and optimum choosing work together with field efforts by those project executants, all the due Five Targets schemed and bilaterally agreed by WWF-China and CEPF are sufficiently achieved in a general viewpoint.

For details –

1). Results of at least 7 projects (Project No. 5, 6, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28), each specifically focused on one species, namely, the mammal the Sichuan Blue Sheep *Pseudois Schaeferi*, the birds the Rusty-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis przewalskii* and the Tibetan Bunting *Emberiza koslowi*, the serpent the Hot-spring Keel-Back Snake *Thermophis baileyi*, the amphibian the Puxiong Salamander *Protohynobius puxiongensis*, the fish the Chinese Sucker *Myxocyprinus asiaticus*, as well as the insect the David's Amphibian Beetle *Amphizoa davidi*, they all endemic to SW China and being amongst those foreseeable key species, might lead to sustained conservation or leverage additional funding in support of conservation in SW China, and, the project No. 5 & 6 did get further funded, from the provincial and national level, for the continuation; in addition, results of the survey for monitoring rare birds in Sichuan (Project No. 9) also brought some remarkable data on the population dynamics of the Sichuan partridge *Arborophola rufipectus* around the type locality of the bird, which might lead to further field studies and conservation management on that globally endangered small gamebird, besides, .Project No. 13 has successfully raised some more funds for continuing their further activities in cruising and against poaching.

2). It is well noticed that, for almost all the projects, either of the study on species, on the impact of change of the environment, or on the impact of human activities, the executants, sooner or later during the implementation of their project, had prepared their suggestions on the conservation management of the species and their habitats concerned in their project and delivered their suggestions to the local wildlife conservation authorities; and, besides that 7 or 8 species mentioned above, the suggestions might cover other 20 rare and lesser known threatened species in SW China, and, along with the suggestions approved by the concerned authorities and putting in practice, status of some species and their habitats did get improved, such as in cases of project No. 8, 10, 13, 14, 19, 25, 29, 30.

3). Amongst those CEPF sponsored 30 WWF SGF projects in SW China, 10 projects were truly undertaken by people of NGOs or of local institutions, they, in most cases, showed a high enthusiastic devotion to their career, using the SGF, they published two field guides, on Sichuan common birds (Project No. 2) and with 3 separate volumes on mammals, bird, and on reptiles, amphibians and fishes (Project No. 4) respectively, which are very useful in practice and highly evaluated by the readers and keen local conservationists, together with one more NGO, the SW China Mountain wildlife photographers' Saloon, established (Project No. 2); they also have achieved to some very positive results in their activities against illegal poaching and logging (such as in Project No. 7, 13, 28); whilst, Project No. 9 greatly promoted the establishment of a new NGO in Sichuan – the Mianyang Bird Watching Society; and, the highlighted ones should be offered to the two (Project No. 11 & 23) in which some Tibetan religious people and societies were significantly involved, and they, using their prestige and influence among the local people and the community, have contributed, in various ways, so much to the local conservation effort than any other NGOs can do.

4). Besides the above-mentioned field guides published for publics, the Project No. 10 was locally well publicized as the executants using posters, media means, and acting as tourism guides in cave parks publicizing to the tourists the information and conservation of bats; for publicizing the knowledge and idea of conservation, executants made a documentary on the hot-spring snake and played the film at the local TV station (Project No. 20); for minimizing the negative impact of dams to the aquaculture, executants gave training courses to those owners of aquaculture farms (Project No. 1); and, based upon the results of their studies in Project No. 14, management authority of the Napahai NNR in NW Yunnan, which is also a Ramsar Site, is planning to scheme a new action plan to improve their conservation management on the site.

5). Regarding to the issue that the conservation recommendations, yielded from the implementation of the SGF project, are to be adopted by the governmental authorities at different levels, the most prominent one should be due to Project No. 26, warning boards erected along the sections of the highroad where the amphibians in relatively high density, bars erected for those birds of prey to roost, and channels rebuilt for the amphibians to across the road; an application for establish a new provincial nature reserve was delivered to the concerned provincial authority for consideration and for final approval (Project No. 19); and another proposal on the same issue is in preparing for the Puxiong Salamander (Project No. 27).

Key recommendations

In assessing the implementation and the results of those SGF projects, the evaluators noticed one fact that all the projects are relatively of a short term for undertaking, whilst, some projects did bring with them some obviously remarkable results either of the totally new knowledge and understanding on species or for the current and potential conservation efforts, and hence are much worthy to be re-granted for a better and wider follow-up in the future, if and when possible;

And, considering that some executants, either of NGOs, of nature reserves, or of colleges, universities, and institutions, yet not very much realize or understand the data that they collected of the due rare species, it is also highly recommended that some senior scientists might be invited to be somewhat involved in the projects that NGOs are the chief executants, and, seminars might hence be held, if and when necessary, before the interim report of the project is going to be delivered;

Furthermore, since most of the species concerned in the WWF SGF projects are either being listed on Chinese and/or international Red Data Book or RedList, or the national protected ones in China, whilst, when looking at those project reports, it seems or sounds that at least some project executants are not very much familiar with the idea and practice of the Criteria that IUCN/SSC highly recommended for threatened species assessment, it is therefore recommended that those due files and relevant documents might be distributed to the new project executants and training courses might be held specifically on the issue, if and when possible and necessary.

In addition, the evaluators are highly convincing WWF China and CEPF to issue a formal publication on the results of those projects in SW China and distribute it to the concerned governmental authorities, nature reserves, as well as NGOs and conservationists, for widening the influence and effectiveness of the SGF projects and also for better undertaking of new projects in the future.

Summary of lessons learned

When giving an overall reviewing to the results of all those 30 CEPF sponsored SGF projects, it is emerged such kind of a true fact that the real and active effectiveness and influence, apparently brought out with the implementation of the projects, would be highly considered being as much beyond and far above the targets and goals that WWF-China and CEPF could have originally proposed and schemed, and, in accordance with the evaluators' viewpoint, this is because that ---

Firstly, all the SGF applications are not pre- oriented or allocated but somewhat in the random wish and interest of those applicants, and the contents of those applications are obviously to reflect a great deal of variety and initiatives, with much wider the fields to be covered, lots of different people to be involved and engaged for a common goal, and therefore making the concern of the whole society on the effort of nature conservation greatly promoted and improved;

It also might be well noticed that, currently and in most cases, the total sum of the investment of all the 30 SGF projects could only be to support a key project to be carried out at one site and with so much the better of a result that all the oriented targets could be getting achieved, whereas, unexpectedly fruitful are the results of a big portion of those SGF projects especially those ones on a specific species, and this collaboration between WWF-China and CEPF, as a whole, will be doubtlessly of invaluable significance and impact on assessing the current status of those threatened species occurring in the whole SW China, for instance, results of the studies on the salamander (Project No. 8) and the hot-spring snake (Project No. 20) might lead the category of threat of the species to be properly re-assessed;

Furthermore, those new issues, both on scientific and on conservation management, that brought forth toward us along with the fruitful and successful implementation of the SGF projects, particularly the knowledge and understanding on the “rarity” of those previously poorly-known species or known as of very limited range and low population, have at least revealed that, though mostly out of our sight, they did have been surviving in the wild in their way we are not certain, such as in the cases of the project No. 8, 20, 23, 23, 25, 27, and this achievement could hardly be conceived, virtually or even expectedly, from any other oriented or allocated project.

Results of quite a bit SGF projects have also revealed such a problem that, in SW China and along the development of the regional economy, status of the environment is going from bad to worse, which is a problem could not be resolved by NGOs or by one or two governmental authorities who might be concerned, and it is hence of a necessity for making effort to reach to a well-accepted understanding on why our species might try to keep biological diversity well conserved, to which, frankly to say, lack and weakness are obviously existing in the government of different level.

The evaluators hope that WWF-China and CEPF could develop further collaboration in the field again and to work together for bringing a brighter future to the conservation in SW China.

CEPF and WWF China Wildlife Conservation Small Grant Fund Projects Description

No. 1 Impact of hydro-power stations to the fish diversity in montane areas and the strategy – a case in Baoxing

SONG Zhao-bin Sichuan University 2005.04-2006.03 ¥ 40,000

A project on the impact of the construction of hydro power stations on fishes. The Baoxing River, location of the project, is head of the Qingyi River with 13 fish species/subspecies recorded and some of them endemic to the upper branch of Yangtze. Along two upper branches of the Baoxing River, though a NR of city level for those rare fishes delimited and established, in total of 37 power stations built or in construction. Results of the surveys include collecting the relevant data of the river and the stations, occurrence and status of fishes, which lead to such a conclusion that those power stations have greatly affected on the fish diversity, distribution, and abundance of the resources. Stations make rivers in separate sections, with reservoirs above the dam and much lesser below the dam, which might lead to the feeds, the living and laying space for fishes much reduced, channels interrupted, and population isolated, and the occurrence of some species such as barbels and catfishes dramatically reduced. Suggestions for conservation were offered to the local fishery administrative as well as to those stations managers, and training courses were held for the local farmers introducing them some alternative fish species for their aquaculture.

No. 2 Guide for bird watching along the route of Chengdu-Jiuzhaigou

GENG Dong 2005.04-2006.06 ¥40,000

A project carried out by a volunteer conservationist. There is a cycle route for from Chengdu to Jiuzhaigou, one of the main routes for tourism in Sichuan, and, along the route, quite a few SW China endemic birds could be observed. Geng Dong, curator of the project, visited 12 nature reserves, 7 of them are NNR, along or nearby the route, and took good photos of some 120 birds such as the Temminck's Tragopan, Blue Eared Pheasant, Blood Pheasant, Black-necked Crane, Eurasian Griffon, *etc.*, and taught people in reserves, which greatly promotes bird photographing in the region and a new NGO, called SW China Photo Work got established. And the due book, *Guide for bird watching along the route of Chengdu-Jiuzhaigou*, is now in printing.

No. 3 Impact of those small hydro power stations to the amphibians at Caopo valley, the upper of Min River

Chengdu Institute of Biology, CAS LI Cheng 2005.04-2006.03 ¥ 40,000

A project studying on the impact of small hydro power stations to the amphibians. The Caopo (river) valley is in Wuchuan County, and used to be recorded with quite a bit amphibians endemic to the Hengduan Range. Three sections of the valley were chosen as the locations for monitoring those amphibians in breeding season as well as in hibernation period, with a result of a remarkable negative impact of those stations to the amphibians concluded. In December 2005, one more station in construction and the group took the case making detailed analysis in quantities on the impact of the power station construction in early, medium, and late phase to the amphibians. Besides, training course was held to the staffs of a nature reserve nearby for improving their knowledge on amphibian classification and on how to continue the monitoring work.

No. 4 Series of guides to the identification of vertebrates in Ganzi Autonomous Region

Kangba Bio-diversity Conservation Society PENG Ji-tai 2005.05-2005.12 ¥ 30,000

The Ganzi Autonomous Prefecture of W Sichuan is the connection area of the Tibetan Plateau and the Sichuan Basin and hence holding high bio-diversity, and, Mr. Peng Ji-tai, a senior wildlife researcher and manager who has been working in the prefecture for 40 years and carried out lots surveys on the wildlife resources of the region. While enjoying his

retirement, Peng also edited a series guides, in three volumes, to the identification of the vertebrates of the region, one on mammals (with 125 spp.), one on birds (436 spp.), and one on reptiles (31 spp.), amphibians (30 spp.), and fishes (30 spp.), both in English and in Chinese and with the relevant Tibetan name of each species, and with descriptions photos, and paintings. The guides are widely distributed to universities, institutions, conservation NGOs, nature reserves, and local wildlife management authorities. This series of guides was awarded by the prefecture government the 1st class award on sciences and technology, and also won the 1st class award of publications of W China.

No. 5 Studies on the Sichuan Blue Sheep *Pseudois schaeferi* – its population, habitats, and conservation IUCN RL: EN; CN RL: CR; Natl: 2nd

Neijiang Formal College WANG Yu 2005.07-2006.10 ¥40,000

This is so far almost the only survey on the Sichuan Blue Sheep, a very endemic and poorly known hoofed animal of far W Sichuan, and the fieldwork was undertaken in Zhoubalong nature reserve of Batang County. Results of field studies have revealed that the Blue Sheep in Batang is mainly to inhabit in grasses on steeps of both sides along the valley from Zhubalong to Su'along, with some 230 animals in total, which might be the first estimate on the population size of this hoofed animal. Executants of the project also made an assessment on the status of habitats and factors affecting the animal's habitat selection, and also gave training to the staffs of the nature reserve and presented demonstrations to the students in the local middle school on the conservation of the animal.

No. 6 The David's Amphibian Beetle *Amphizoa davidi* – its habitats and conservation

Institute of Zoology, CAS ZHOU Hong-zhang 2005.08-2006.10 ¥40,000

The David's Amphibian Beetle *Amphizoa davidi* was collected in 1870 at Baoxing by Pere David, the discoverer of the Giant Panda, and, the rediscovery of that special beetle some 130 years later since David showed its continuous occurrence at the locality and its specific habitat selection to the sub-alpine streams. Whereas, the new finding of the beetle in Mt Taibai of Shaanxi province has brought with it further studies on its way of spreading, whilst, studies in Baoxing revealed such a true fact that the power stations construction together with the local marble processing would seriously threaten to the habitats of the beetle. This study has got further funds from the China National Science Foundation for more detailed research work in the next years to come.

No. 7 Conservation activities on alpine fishes

Conservation Society of Yading community MAO Tian-xue 2005.09-2006.08 ¥40,000

Conservation activities initiated and promoted by a very basic organization of the local people in Daocheng County, S Ganzi Autonomous Prefecture, W Sichuan. When noticing that 14 alpine fish species are far recorded in the area, 5 of them are the endemic to the upper branch of Yangtze River and all them growing very slowly for 10 to 12 years to get fully matured, while, tourism led to more and more fish restaurants emerged along the main road with higher and higher the demand of the wild fishes to supply, making the fish resources dramatically decreased, project executants invited fish experts in Sichuan Agriculture University helping the survey, with a result of two more Catfishes, the David Sisorid Catfish *Euchiloglanis davidi* and the Kishinouei Sisorid Catfish *Euchiloglanis kishinouei* which are listed as **CR** and **EN** on Chinese RedList respectively, newly found in the area. Executants discussed with traveling agencies in Chengdu on the issue of how to restrict the consume of alpine fishes, and made posters and sheets widely distributed in hotels, restaurants, bus stops, and Lamaseries, and, via the activities, more people engaged.

No. 8 Wenxian Knobby Newt *Tylostotriton wenxianensis* – its habitats and conservation

CN RL: VU; Natl: 2nd

Gansu Forestry College LI Xiao-hong 2005.09-2006.09 ¥40,000

Surveys on the Wenxian Knobby Newt and its habitats at Wenxian of S Gansu, Qingchuan and Pingwu of N Sichuan were undertaken, with over a thousand newts and 9 breeding sites found, and hence confirmed that Wenxian and Qingchuan would be the largest occupation area of the newt. According to the results of the surveys, knobby newts are living usually at 1000~1400 m above the sea level, inhabiting in wet and muddy small ponds with good vegetations, and, the expansion of tea farms becomes the major threat to their habitats. Further investigation reveals that the annual income of those tea farmers would be up to ¥ 3000 per capita while the average annual income of other farmers in the area is at ¥ 1000~2000, so, lots of woods logged and cleaned for tea plantation. Education efforts were made amongst the local people, suggestion for act delivered to the local upper house and conservation action plan on the newt was schemed with the Baishuijiang NNR.

No. 9 Collaboration on monitoring rare birds in Sichuan

Chengdu Bird Watching Society DU Ke 2005.09-2006.12 ¥ 40,000

Under WWF SGF support, the Chengdu Bird Watching Societh gathered all the relevant data and opened its own webpage (www.scbirds.org) for sharing the info of those rare birds in Sichuan, and helped other bird-watching societies and individuals in Luzhou, Deyang, Chongqing organizing their birding activities and champions, and promoted in establishing a new society, the Mianyang bird watching society. And, they chose the Sichuan Hill-partridge *Arborophila rufipectus* as their key rare bird under monitoring, carried out surveys to Jinkouhe area, Heizhugou of E'bian, and Daqiao of Ganluo, confirmed the current occurrence of the bird at all the above mentioned sites and somewhat revealed indirectly that a small and stable population of the bird might be in the area around Daqiao, which might be quite meaningful and helpful for further studies on the bird and its conservation.

No. 10 Investigation on threats of tourism to bats in caves in Mianyang region and conservation strategy and activities

Mianyang Formal College SHI Hong-yan 2005.09-2007.03 ¥ 40,000

There are lots of caves along the SE hill foot of Minshan range in Mianyang region providing good habitats for bats to live, while, cave expedition for tourism raised in the last few years have threatened those bats. From this viewpoint, investigations were made on the species diversity of those bats in caves with 14 species recorded, under 4 families and 5 genera found and being of 11.7% of bats in all China, and 8 caves found being well explored or under exploration. Executants of the project discussed with those cave runners, informed them the situation of those bats, prepared posters and multimedia for demonstration to the visitors, and played as volunteer guides to publicizing bat conservation. And, during the implementation of the project, more college students have been involved into the project and become very active in the activities. The evaluators thought that this is a project with some quite interesting characteristics.

No.11 Using traditional Tibetan Lamaism philosophy on ecology promoting communities more engaged in conservation effort in Hongla Snow Mountain NNR

Kangluolin Lamaism College in Mangkang of Tibet Musuo 2005.10-2007.11 ¥ 40,000

The Kangluolin Lamaism College is a private theological school, located in Hongla Snow Mountain NNR and dedicated to publicizing traditional Tibetan Lamaism and culture. It is the WWF SGF which provides a good opportunity to the school widely introducing the basic idea and philosophy of no killing no logging in Tibetan Lamaism theory to the populace and hence to reduce illegal logging and poaching in the NNR while raising public awareness of conservation on the wild fauna and flora. To this end, the college made regular sermon activities preaching ecological idea and philosophy in Tibetan religion to people in the communities surrounded, encouraged all Lamas in the 6 lamaseries engaged, and set up 4 sermon sites. Besides, the college founded its own SGF for encouraging the local Tibetan people participating in patrolling activities against illegal logging and poaching.

No. 12 Investigation on the conflict between the Brown Bear and human being in Nima, Tibet 在西藏尼玛县开展棕熊危害冲突的调查活动 *Ursus arctos*

IUCN RL: VU; CN RDB: EN; CN RL: VU; Natl: 2nd

Forestry Bureau of Nima County, Naqu, Tibet LI Tan-lin 2005.10-2006.09 ¥ 40,000

Nima County is located in the core area of the Qiangtang NNR, and, since the establishment of the reserve in 1993, the brown bear is under good protection with its population increased notably. While, along with the local people's husbandry range extended, cases of brown bear killing people and domestic animals happened. An investigation was carried out in the whole range of the county showing that, during 1998~2005, 11 cases happened with 4 people killed and another 4 people injured by bears, together with other 3 people attacked by wild yak, 1 injured and 2 died. Such kind of the conflict between people and the wildlife would be not only cause lots of damages to the community but would make conservation effort greatly affected, also. The result of the investigation will be highly considered when giving the due repayment and scheming strategy for the conflict alleviation.

No. 13 Patrolling activities of the Jiudingshan Fauna & Flora Friends Society in Maoxian County

Jiudingshan Fauna & Flora Friends Society LIU Zhi-gao 2005.10-2007.01 ¥ 20,000

A project to support the local villagers' initiatives in local conservation. Since 1995, two villagers in a village at the hill foot of Mt. Jiuding in Maoxian County, A'ba Autonomous prefecture of NW Sichuan, have been actively much engaged in local conservation effort, and, in 2004, with the help of the County's Village Development Association, the Jiudingshan Fauna & Flora Friends Society got formally established and registered. Then, by the support of WWF SGF and the assistance of WWF Chengdu office, the society had received necessary equipments and got trained for field patrol. From October 2005 to September 2006, they, with people from the local wildlife management authority, made 8 times of patrols to the surrounding hills, with a result of over 1000 animal traps destroyed or confiscated and 4 poachers caught into the jail. Furthermore, the local governmental authorities will continue to support the society and their activities.

No.14 Studies on habitat improvement, wintering waterfowl monitoring, and effective management in Napahai NNR

SW China Forestry College HAN Lian-xian 2005.10-2007.01 ¥ 40,000

Napahai NNR is in Shangri-la County of NW Yunnan, a Chinese Ramsar Site, and also a local and provincial resort. Plenty of waterbirds would get there for wintering and so far with the recorded national protected species 6 under the 1st category and 17 the 2nd. Executants made three census work, in Oct-Nov 2005, then in January and in March 2006, on the number of the wintering waterbirds, their movement behavior, and their habitat preference, with 219, 196, 150 Black-necked Cranes counted. Studies were also made on the local husbandry development, the way of garbage processing, the pollution problems, as well as the facilities for tourism. A report on the issues, such as how to improve the reserve management, to plan rational tourism routes, etc., was delivered to the local government, the administrative of the reserve, and the tourism agencies, and, more dialogues were taken with the communities surrounded, focusing on the issues including grazing control for reducing the impact to the wintering waterbirds, the pollution control, the water level maintenance in the winter season. And, all the data and photos obtained during the implementation of the project were used for education.

No. 15 Guide for identification of common mammals in Giant Panda nature reserves

Sichuan Wildlife Administrative GU Xiao-dong 2005.10-2007.02 Y40,000

To improve NR staffs' skill in identifying traces of animals in the wild, executants of the project collected different traces of foot and feeding, feces, hairs, nests, etc. of common

mammals occurring in Giant Panda NRs in Sichuan, took photos on mammal specimens in the collection of the W China Formal University and photos on foot, claw, hoof, etc., and edited a field guide particularly for NR staffs and fieldworkers. The guide has been distributed to 36 Giant Panda NRs and local forestry bureaus in the hope of to help people of the NRs to make more accurate and reliable records when they are undertaking their field studies.

No. 16 Survey on distribution, abundance, and threat of small-sized mammals in Baoxing
W China Formal University ZHANG Ze-jun 2006.04-2007.03 ¥40,000

Baoxing County, its old name is Mupin, located at the western edge of the Sichuan basin and a well known type locality for quite a bit species, both of fauna and flora, including 16 species/subspecies of small-sized mammals. More than 20 transect lines were set in Fengtongzhai NNR and in some forestry farms, and in total of 27 species, under 4 orders 9 families and 18 genera, were caught with the dominants of Confucian Rat (*Niviventer confucianus*), Mole-Shrew (*Anourosorex squamipes*), South China Field Mouse (*Apodemus draco*). And, within that 16 species whose type locality is Baoxing, only 8 species obtained, it might somewhat show the habitat degradation whilst might be due to relatively short the time of the fieldwork. Anyway, the evaluators thought that the analysis appeared in the reports, medium and final, on threats to those small-sized mammals in Baoxing sounds a bit too general and too simple, whereas, in fact, the impact of habitat degradation would be in different way to function or to affect to different species, and, from this point of view, if the project proposal could only be to focus on those species originally collected from Baoxing, may a better result be obtained.

No. 17 Conservation on *Parakmeria omeiensis* CN RL: CR; Natl: 1st

Sichuan Agriculture University MA Ming-dong 2006.04-2007.03 ¥30,000

Surveys were undertaken on the distribution and the characters of the community of *Parakmeria omeiensis* and the action plan for the recovery was worked out. Because of the plant being of a very low seeding ability, experiments on non-sexual breeding were undertaken but so far without success, but, the success came from the tissue-culturing with a ratio of over 80% inoculated ones survived and 100 seedlings were moved and planted in Mt. E'mei and Mt. Lingyan in Dujiangyan respectively. The evaluators thought that though some success has been achieved from the project, in considering the long term of the development of some plants, it would be a wiser choice for WWF SGF not to support such kind of project in the future.

No. 18 Study on distribution, population structure, and habitat protection of the Chinese Dormouse (*Chaetocauda sichuanensis*) IUCN RL: EN; CN RL: EN

Wanglang NNR ZHAO Lian-jun 2006.05-2007.04 ¥40,000

A project via the study on a case of a threatened species for improving the capacity of the staffs in a NNR. Lines and sample areas were chosen and set in the NRs of Wanglong, Jiuzhaogou, Honglong, and Wujiao for data collecting data on the Chinese Dormouse and on other small-sized mammals, skins obtained and 3 used dormouse nests were found at Dawodang area of Wanglang during the fieldwork. Training course was held on field identification of small mammals as well as the methodology of survey, and Wanglang NNR is now planning to make those small mammals to be included in their dynamic monitoring system.

No. 19 The wintering waterbirds and predators and their conservation at Yazihe, Guanghan

Wild Fauna & Flora Conser. Soc. of Deyang City ZHENG Xiong 2006.05-2007.04 ¥30,000

In Guanghan, those wintering waterbirds are usually found concentrated along the Yazihe river from Nanxing town to the highway bridge, some 10 km long. From October 2006 to

May 2007, field observation was taken 2 times a week, with 67 bird species recorded in total and over 5000 birds at one time of the highest record, and record of the Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and the Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) are the rather particular ones to China. Based on results of the census work and studies on the quality of habitats as well as the human disturbance, a very formal paper of comments was prepared and delivered to the local government which led activities of sand-collecting, fishing, and duck grazing much reduced in the river, and the paper also encouraged the local authority delivering an application to the provincial authority for setting up a new wetland reserve at city and provincial level, and a rather positive feedback has been received on the issue. Moreover, wetland education activities were also undertaken in the central square of the city and thousands sheets distributed to populace. This might be considered a very good sample of WWF SGF.

No. 20 Survey on the resource and conservation of the Hot-spring Keel-back (*Thermophis baileyi*)

IUCN RL: VU; CN RDB: CR; CN RL: CR

Sichuan Provincial Forestry Institution LIU Shao-ying 2006.08-2007.03 ¥ 40,000

It used to be considered that the Hot-spring Keel-back is mainly distributed in a range around Yangbajing, Jiangzi, Mozhugongka, and Gongbujiangda of Tibet. While, executants found the snake occurring in Haizishan NR at Litang County of W Sichuan in a somewhat reasonable number, and noticed that holiday inns, hotels, and restaurants emerged rapidly around hot springs causing lots of threats to the habitats of the snake. Surveys were undertaken in Litang and Daocheng County, more attention paid on the distribution, the quality of habitats, the human disturbance, as well as comparison with the snakes in Tibet. A documentary TV film was made on the snake and played on local TV for conservation awareness. The evaluators thought that the finding of the new range of the snake is quite significant to the knowledge and understanding of the snake.

No. 21 Field guide to the flowers in NW Yunnan

Shangri-la Alpine Botanic Garden FANG Zhen-dong 2007.04-2007.09 Y40,000

Because of the great variety of geomorphologic, climatic, hydrological conditions and characters, the SW part of Yunnan has the highest flora diversity including plenty of ornamental flowers such as roses, lilies, rhododendrons, and snow lotus, and, most of the area is also in the world heritage site called "trinity of three rivers". Along with more and more visitors go see the area, a unique tourism on seeing flowers becomes more popular. Staffs of the Shangri-la Alpine Botanic Garden hence have edited that field guide, of more than 500 horticultural plants and flowers with photos and due info of each species together with a simplified system for identification included, and 8 routes and 10 sited recommended. The guide is in printing.

No. 22 Investigation on illegal poaching and trading of the Red Panda *Ailurus fulgens*

IUCN RL: EN; CN RDB: VU; CN RL: VU Natl: 2nd

Eastern China Formal University LI Chun 2007.04-2007.12 ¥ 40,000

Investigations, openly and in secret, were made in Nanping, Songpan, and Beichuan of central N Sichuan, Tengchong, Lijiang, and Shangri-la of W and NW Yunnan, and Lhasa and Linzhi of Tibet, and those nature reserves the Red Panda occurring and the nearby towns, shops of tourism sites, and the local wildlife management authorities were interviewed for the data collecting on if the Red Panda is under illegal poaching and trading, over 500 local families were visited, with a few cases found, such as in Shuhe Town of Lijiang and the area near the Meili Snow Mountain in Shangri-la. Some minority people have a long tradition using Red Panda fur for dicer. Some conservation education activities were held in colleges and universities in Lhasa and Chengdu. Anyhow, compared with results of the projects that WWF SGF had supported before, the evaluators would like to offer such a comment that better to choose local people to be the chief curator of the project.

No. 23 Survey on distribution and breeding of Koslow's Bunting (*Emberiza koslowi*) within Baiyu Lamasery demesne in Guoluo Autonomous Region, Qinghai IUCN: NT; CN RL: NT

Ju ZHAXISAN'E of Baiyu Lamasery and DONG Jiang-tian of Shenzhen Bird Watching Society 2007.04-2007.12 ¥ 20,000

A project carried out by bird watchers – J Zhaxisan'e is a lama at higher rank in Baiyu Lamasery and has a Gesi (doctoral) degree in Lamaism, and, due to his love to the nature and birds, he has been watching and painting birds for years and delimited a small protected area for birds on the hill behind the lamasery. In undertaking the project, Zhaxisan'e with his collaborator Dong Jiang-tian have carried out a quite professional survey to rather a large area, about 8800 km², for learning status of distribution of the Koslow's Bunting in Jiuzhi County where the lamasery located, revealed a dramatically low density of the bird, and found grazing in high density would be to threaten the breeding of the birds since they are nesting on the ground. It is almost certain that more funds from other channels will be granted onto this effort, for more detailed survey to be undertaken, a observatory to be built, and one more protected area to be delimited for the protection of some breeding sites of the bird. The evaluators would like to say that this is a very good sample of WWF SGF carried out by volunteer civilians, with a fruitful survey on the species and specific threats and solution allocated, and more funds and public attentions to be paid.

No. 24 Survey on habitats of the Grey-crowned Crowtit (*Paradoxornis przewalskii*) in Baishuijiang NNR of Gansu IUCN: VU; CN RL: VU

NW China Formal University ZHANG Qiong 2007.04-2007.12 ¥ 25,000

The Grey-crowned Crowtit was recognized in 1892 and no more field record nor collection until 2005-2006 when the bird finally got rediscovered twice in Baishuijiang NNR. In May-September 2007, field work was undertaken around Qiujiaba in the NNR, about 18.38 km² of the area and at 2470~3420 m above the sea level, with the results of two birds found on May 27 at 2475 m high in the connection of grassland and shrubs, two birds found on July 25 at 3218 m in the connection of grassland and bushes, and one bird found in shrubs on August 14 at 2770 m, 5 birds seen in the wild in total. The evaluators thought that, after more than a century of disappearance, the rediscovery of the bird would be rather grateful.

No. 25 Survey on the occurrence of Spiny-belled Frog (*Paa boulengeri*) population in Kangxian County of Gansu IUCN: EN; CN RL: VU; RDB: VU

NW China Formal University WU Hong-chao 2007.04-2007.12 ¥ 25,000

Survey was undertaken on the current occurrence of population of the Spiny-bellied Frog at Kangxian County of SE Gansu, and the investigator thought that habitats of the frog at the locality might be under destroying or in degradation at different levels, and the use of fertilizer and pesticides might pollute the environment and water and might lead plenty of larva to die, and people catching and eating them would also be the main reason making the local frog population much reduced. Project curator and the local authority hence delimited and separated a few typical breeding sites of the frog as the sites in an experiment for comparison in which human disturbance got totally forbidden. Education activities, by posters and sheets, were undertaken to the local communities calling the local people stop catching and eating the frog.

No. 26 Impact of roads to amphibians in Ruo'ergai upland wetland and conservation comments

Chengdu Biological Institute, CAS DAI Qiang 2007.04-2007.12 ¥ 40,000

Accordingly, number of the wildlife killed on roads worldwide is even higher than those ones killed by poaching, and lots of attentions have been drawn on the impact of roads to biodiversity. Those wetlands in Ruo'ergai are also the eastern edge of Tibetan Plateau, the largest turf swamp wetlands in the world and the most important water-keeping site on the

upper branch of both the Yangtze and the Yellow River. The Ruo'ergai wetland NNR was surrounded by three roads while three amphibians living in the NNR, they are Plateau Brown Frog (*Rana kukunoris*), Plateau Frog (*Narorana pleskei*), and Minshan Toad (*Bufo minshanica*), all of them are endemic to the plateau. Detailed surveys on the impact of the roads on the amphibians were undertaken, with those most dangerous sections of the roads determined, warning boards erected and tubes as passes for the amphibians built or re-built. While, NNE staffs and road keepers have learned a lot about how to plan and undertake long term monitoring work themselves. Curator's enthusiasm in implementing the task might be appreciated.

No. 27 Seeking for the Puxiong Hynobiid (*Protohynobius puxiongensis*)

Chengdu Institute of Biology, CAS ZEMG Xiao-mao 2007.04-2007.12 ¥30,000

The Puxiong Hynobiid is recognized by a solo type collected in 1965 with a new and mono genus *Protohynobius* and subfamily Protohynobiinae offered, while, no any kind of other record could have been found since so far and leave it an uncertainty of real existence of the species. By the WWF SFG support, researchers carried out a rather comprehensive survey at its type locality and finally obtained four larva specimens of the animal, and, considering grazing would bring lots of damages to the habitats, researcher made the habitats fenced and grazing banned temporarily. Preach on conservation was lectured to the local people and the community with leaflets widely distributed. This project might be a good case of WWF SGF to support scientific exploration with fruitful results.

No. 28 Education and community conservation involvement along the upper branch of Min River for Chinese Sucker (*Myxocyprinus asiaticus*) CN RL: VU; RDB: VU; Natl: 2nd

Chengdu City River Institution WANG Ling-zhen 2007.04-2007.12 ¥40,000

A project for public education and community conservation involvement undertaken by a civilian organization, Chengdu City River Institution, at their base for the village sustainable development. Series of conservation education activities were launched around Anlong village in Pixian County, by the catchment of Zuoma River, a branch river to the upper branch of Min River. Calendars with photos on Chinese Sucker conservation distributed, river-guard team by villagers organized, preach to school students undertaken, warning boards erected, all the efforts made were in aim to promote the conservation of the Chinese Sucker and its habitats and the recovery of the river ecosystem. The Institution also got developed during the implementation of the project.

No. 29 Save that endemic butterfly *Bhutanitis thaidina* with communities CN RL: VU; Natl: 2nd

Baishuijiang NNR WANG Hong-jian 2007.04-2007.12 ¥40,000

Investigations were launched by staffs of the NNR and more attentions paid on the current status of that butterfly, the biological and sociological factors which might threaten the butterfly and the plants the butterfly depends on, and the economic value of the plants that butterflies living on and the portion of the income by selling those plants to the whole income of the local people and families. It is now well noticed that the expansion of tea farms is the main reason making those plants vanishing at an increasing ratio and consequently making the butterfly's population in decreasing, and the key problem is to find a reasonable and acceptable balance between the conservation and development and also between the NNR and the local communities. Now it is planning to replant some plantations of *Aristolochia debilis* .et *Zucc* and *Asarum sieboldii*.Miq for making the butterfly's population to get recovered.

No. 30 Tourism impact to Big Cypress (*Cupressus gigantean*) community and conservation strategy

IUCN RL: VU; CN RL: VU Natl: 2nd

Beijing Forestry University ZHANG Yu-jun 2007.05-2007.12 ¥40,000

The Big Cypress NR, which is the unique one to China, is located in Bajie, Linzhi County of Tibet, and also a well known resort. A very careful study was carried out on the range and status of the Big Cypress community with every single plant numbered and marked, the range and pattern of tourists in the NR and impacts of their activities to the soil and undercover of the cypress community investigated, and the happening of injuries, mainly cuts by tourists and pilgrims, on cypress trunks analyzed. Accordingly, a new tourism route was planned and explication re-newed. This project is a good sample showing how to make the NR management to be improved rationally and logistically.