

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: KUNMING INSTITUTE OF BOTANY, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Inventory and Assessment of Non-Timber Forest Product Resources by Tibetans in Meilixueshan

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Ms Ying Xuezhen: DEQIN OFFICE OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY;

Mr. Sina Doujie: ADONG ADMINISTRATION VILLAGE, DEQIN COUNTY;

Mr. Anaxi: YONGZHI ADMINISTRATION VILLAGE, DEQIN COUNTY;

Mr. Lurong, Mr. Yixi: JIUNONG ADMINISTRATION VILLAGE, DEQIN COUNTY

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2004-September 30, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): 29 March 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

What are "useful" plants? In most cases, researchers and local plant users have somehow different perspectives, which is the rationale we designed such as a small project to inventory local useful plants from local perspectives.

The project findings supported our hypothesis that local useful plants are beyond pragmatic, a number of ritual plants, ornamentals and fodders are classified as useful plants, rather than only medicinal or edible plant species considered mostly by outsider researchers.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The project aims at understanding what kinds of NTFPs are available and being harvested by local Tibetans, assessing the present resource situation, explaining the threats resulting in degradation, deterioration and loss in this area, and elucidating the potential measures and actions for alternative use and conservation based on local visual inventory, documentation and participatory research and analyses.

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

Almost all relevant objectives were obtained based on the project planning.

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

Inventory and documentation of local useful plant resources: Four local villagers, Anaxi from Yongzhi, Sina Doujie from Adong, Lurong and Yixi from Jiunong, were selected as local investigators. About 300 useful plants have been recorded and vouched with digital photos, including most locally significant non-timber forest products.

Besides commonly-used medicinal and food plants, a number plant species have been documented as important cultural plants, e. g. for pilgrim, ritual ceremony. Some usages locally recorded are less known by outsiders, which enriched our knowledge about plant uses.

For specific plant species, its availability was recorded carefully. The project findings showed that over-exploitation, especially intensive commercial harvesting is one of most important factor to threaten local useful plants. However, the collection of root, stem, bark, rhizome or whole plant stimulated the vulnerability of plant species.

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

Low quality photo and voucher specimens, specially badly-focused pictures or photo and voucher specimen without identifiable plant characters, flowers or fruits. To address these problems, 2 field trainings of photography and specimen collection were organized accordingly.

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

Positive: local peoples are more knowledgeable than expected, local perspectives are somehow different from outsiders' understandings. The hand-over of camera to local villagers is fully successful.

Negative: Some basic and on-field trainings, such as photography, collection of voucher specimens, are very important.

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

Make a VCD to visually disseminate local knowledge of non-timber forest products to local villages and other relevant organizations.

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

The final project report, including project activities, main findings, and lessons, and a laundry list of useful plants around Melixueshan Mountain.

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**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.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No additional funding has been received.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

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

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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