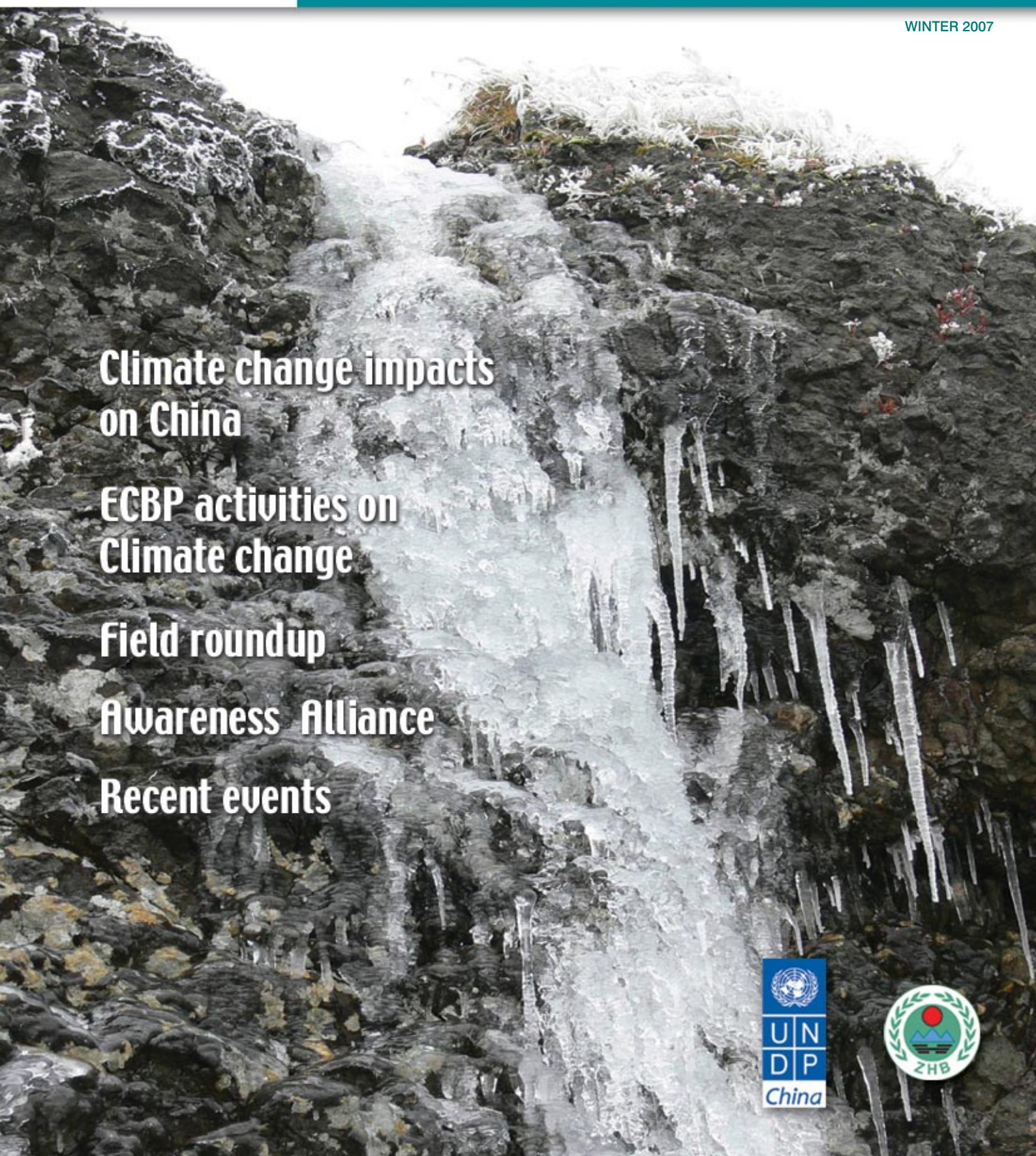
EU-CHINA
EU-China Biodiversity Programme
中国一欧盟生物多样性项目

Biodiversity Matters

2007 ISSUE 3
ECBP NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2007



Climate change impacts on China

ECBP activities on Climate change

Field roundup

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Recent events

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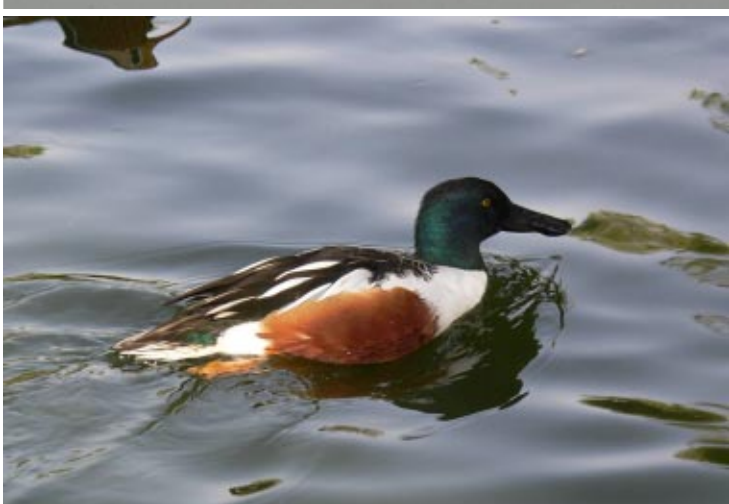
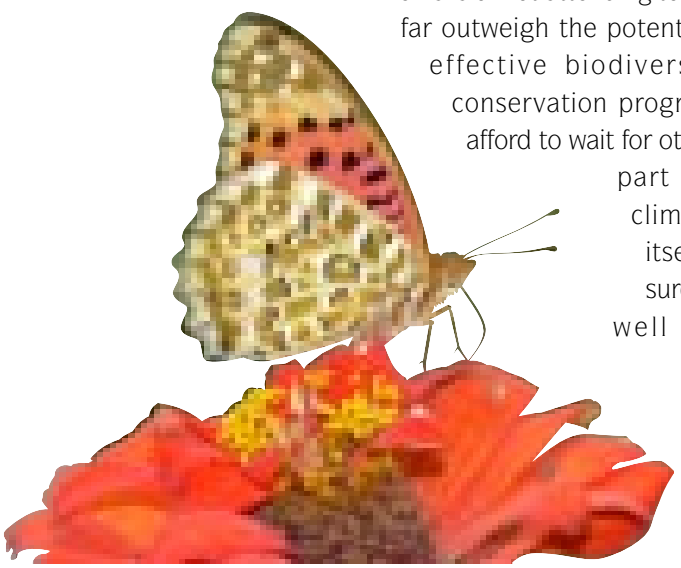


Letter from the editors

We are very pleased to publish this third ECBP newsletter. We have taken this opportunity to introduce a new title 'Biodiversity Matters' for the newsletter, which we intend to be a useful and timely source of biodiversity news and information for China. Each newsletter will have a topical theme and include at least one important keynote paper. As the chills of winter creep upon us we have chosen global warming as the theme for this edition. The timing of the theme is fitting. A major gathering of government leaders has just met on the Indonesian island of Bali with the intention of reaching agreement on how to best address the issue of global climate change in the near future. The Convention on Biological Diversity identified Climate Change and Biodiversity as its theme for 2007 and this year has seen several initiatives by ECBP to facilitate improved understanding and information sharing on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change.

We are happy to share the transcript of a keynote speech delivered recently in Beijing at the annual meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation in Environment and Development (CCICED) by eminent scientist Rajendra K Pachauri, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It was equally fitting that IPCC is the recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, a recognition that climate change is not just an environmental issue but a fundamental development challenge affecting the livelihoods of many of the most impoverished and disadvantaged populations on earth.

While China was widely praised in Bali for bringing a constructive attitude and ideas to combat global climate change, the truth is that China faces many challenges at home and abroad to reduce emissions and to manage the impact of climate change on its development process. Because of the extensive destruction and degradation of its natural cover, China's ecosystems are less able to deal with impacts of climate change. Because of China°Øs large population and concentration of downstream population centres and associated infrastructure, the country is particularly dependent upon the ability of upstream ecosystems to regulate climate-induced events such as droughts and flooding.



The risks of not attending to ecosystem conservation far outweigh the potential costs of developing effective biodiversity and ecosystem conservation programmes. China cannot afford to wait for other countries to do their part in addressing global climate change but must itself act quickly to make sure its own population, as well as those of other countries, is made less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and can contribute to its improvement.

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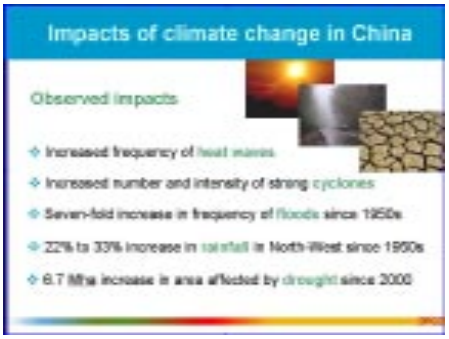
Dr R K Pachauri, Chairman of Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC) presentation to CCICED, Beijing 28.11.2007

"The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to IPCC is recognition of the hard work of thousands of international scientists and those governments that support its work. That includes a large number of Chinese experts who contributed to the success of IPCC and the strong support of the Government of China"

R K Pachauri at CCICED meeting in Beijing



I would like to present some findings from IPCC assessment report - approved in Valencia earlier this month. This will cover: unequivocal evidence of climate change, impacts in China, challenges in China, the costs of mitigation and key technology and policies required.

If we look at when polar regions were last warmer than now, 125,000 years ago, reductions in polar ice led to a 4-6m rise in sea level. The warmth of the last half century is quite unusual during the past 1,300 years. We find that global average temperatures have increased, sea level is rising and there is a marked decline in northern hemisphere snow cover. Temperatures already show 0.74° Celsius average increase over the last century. This figure has had to be raised since our last report of only of 6 years ago. Average sea level rise is 17cm. Impacts of these changes can already be seen-extreme weather events such as floods rising in intensity and frequency, more severe heat waves, droughts and more cyclones. These trends will continue and worsen. We have developed many projections for the future depending on what responses we take to mitigate these effects. The lower, most optimistic ones indicate an increase of 1.8° Celsius by the end of century, some of the more pessimistic ones see as much as a 4° rise during the same period. These changes pose difficult challenges for the world. It is essential we get into a vigorous programme of emission reduction of greenhouse gases. Various scenarios have been modeled as to achieving such reductions, but it is generally agreed we will have to reach a decline in emissions no later than 2015, leaving only a 7 year window, if we want to stabilize climate. But even if we can achieve that, I have to highlight that sea level will still rise by between 0.4 up to 1.4 m. This is bad news for island states and lowland coastal cities including parts of China. Large impacts will occur and we will pass on these problems for future generations.

Poor regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America will be take the brunt. Even when New Orleans was devastated by the cyclone Katrina, it was the poorest districts that showed the most vulnerability. Poverty, low access to funds, ecosystem degradation, political conflicts and failures of governments to respond all add to this vulnerability.

Climate change is affecting biodiversity and disrupting the function of most ecosystems. It has recently been assessed that 20-30% of all species will be at risk of extinction if there is a 1.5°-2.5° Celsius rise in temperature. Some ecosystems are more vulnerable than others, like coral reefs, marine mollusks, tundra and boreal systems. Coastal settlement are at risk like the great deltas of Asia and mega coastal cities like Shanghai and Calcutta. The bulk of coastal cities at risks are in Africa and Asia.

When we look specifically at impacts in China we can observe increased frequency of heat waves, more strong cyclones, a seven-fold increase in floods since the 1950s, 22-33% increase in rainfall in NW China and 6.7 million hectares increase in areas affected by droughts since 2000. These issues concern all of us. We need to set up measures to help adaptation to these changes.

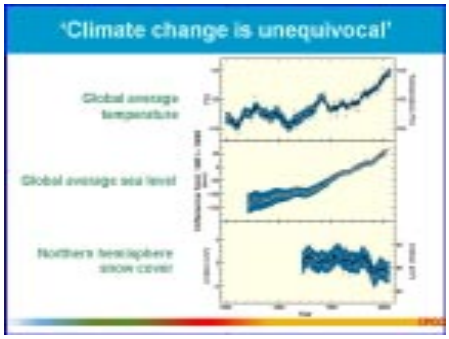
Agricultural productivity is also at risk. Productivity will suffer because of high temperature, drought, floods and soil degradation. It is estimated that a 2° Celsius increase in temperature could reduce rice yields by up to 12% in China. There is already evidence that in India the wheat crop is suffering as a result of climate change. With regard to water availability in China, the melting of glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau and other mountain ranges will affect the supplies of a quarter of a billion people who use that water. There will be problems of greater salinity of groundwater in coastal areas

due to sea level rise and overexploitation. Farmlands will suffer.

More impacts are expected on human health due to heat waves, floods, storms, fires and droughts. Floods lead to diseases such as diarrhea and cholera.

Challenges facing China: Primary energy demand is projected to double by 2030, oil imports rise by 50%-80% and coal remains the dominant fuel for power. Renewable energies are projected to reach 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2050. China is overtaking the US as the world's biggest emitter of CO_2. Such projections leading to further climate change is an unsustainable path of development. China will need to minimize greenhouse gas emissions whilst achieving economic growth at the same time by promoting sustainable use of natural resources. It will need to promote equity by spreading the benefits of economic growth to enhance the ability of poor people to deal with climate change.

The fast economic growth can help China to adapt to climate change. Many people have imagined that the costs of mitigation will be too expensive but according to our calculation mitigation is not an expensive proposition. If we aim to achieve the scenario of limiting global warming to 2.4℃ the cost in terms of GDP is less than 3%. This means postponing the level of development achievement we might have reached by 2030 by only one year. We only need a yearly reduction of 0.12% of the country's GDP to prevent very serious impacts. Such costs are really not that high. If we can bring to play a range of new key technologies, the cost could be even less. We would have to target energy supply, transport and buildings. These are the key areas in China and in India. It is important to see that new buildings are environmentally friendly and energy efficient. China needs regulations and policies in place so that architects and builders do this. Adaptation of older existing buildings is also needed. It will prove cheaper to run some buildings with renewable energy and good design than with fossil fuels. China needs incentives for development of new technologies. The most important factor is to impose an effective carbon price. We need to see appropriate energy infrastructure investments and changes in lifestyle and behaviour.



" If we aim to achieve the scenario of limiting global warming to 2.4℃ the cost in terms of GDP is less than 3%. This means postponing the level of development achievement we might have reached by 2030 by only one year. "

We hope that the Bali negotiations next week will take steps in this direction to set up appropriate systems. Energy investment is long-term investment. It needs a long planning horizon. I stress that lifestyle and behaviour change is key. National policies need to be linked with mitigation policies and those addressing poverty and employment. Climate change has to be mainstreamed with development policies.

Less developed countries will need to adopt a new development path in keeping with natural resource endowment and in line with traditions. Major changes are needed in many areas other than climate change - economic structure, technologies, geographical distribution of activities, consumption patterns, urban design, transport infrastructure, demography, institutional arrangements and trade patterns. As Ma Kai, Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission has recently stated "We must reconcile the need for development with the need for environmental protection" and "China wants to blaze a new path to industrialization."

China is certainly providing leadership in this field and could have the moral high ground if it takes the right path.

China's Melting Glaciers

We do not have to wait to see if predictions about global warming will really occur. It is already happening right before our eyes. China°Øs glaciers are melting fast. Dr. Barry Baker of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) gave a talk to the media salon in Beijing on 21st Nov. and showed measurements and photos documenting the accelerating retreat of glaciers on Meili Xueshan in NW Yunnan. The main glacier has retreated 350m in 10 years. His studies also showed that the treeline was rising on the mountain slopes. By comparing photos taken by early explorers 1923 with the situation in 2004, he could show new forests extending several hundred metres beyond the treeline of 90 years ago.

Another Chinese Academy of Sciences study quoted by Xinhua recently estimates that glacier coverage in Xinjiang has declined by 20% in only 40 years and that snowlines have receded by 60 metres. Glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau are shrinking by 7% per year.

News of glaciers from other parts of the world - Africa, New Guinea, Australia and Europe show similar melting but the effects of global warming are not the same everywhere. Increased moisture in clouds on the west side of the Himalayas is causing glaciers in that region to expand.

The news for China is not good, however. Glacier melt leads to floods, landslides and loss of some important water sources. To the Buddhist Tibetans, many of these glaciers are more than sources of water they are sacred places and their retreat causes spiritual sadness. The movement of vegetation zones up the face of mountains may pose threats so some species such as long-lived trees cannot cope with such fast changes.

ECBP field projects in NW Yunnan, Chang Tang and peatlands of NW China will all be affected by melting glaciers. It will be interesting to monitor these impacts in relation to local biodiversity and human livelihoods.

Integrating Biodiversity and Climate Change in China

Spike Millington, Chief Technical Advisor ECBP

At the recent international climate change conference in Bali, a survey of 1,000 climate senior government officials and scientists, business and civil society leaders from 105 countries revealed that biodiversity conservation is considered of the highest importance for climate action, more so that cost-effectiveness, for example. Yet biodiversity is rarely an explicit consideration in climate negotiations. Why is this? In 2006, the Stern Report provided an economic analysis of the costs of climate change, including the costs of inaction, which it estimates could reduce global GDP by 5% annually. This served as a wake-up call to the global community of the urgency to immediately address climate change issues. Such a report does not yet exist for biodiversity, but at the 2007 G8+5 meeting of Environment Ministers in Potsdam (Germany), the respective governments committed to undertake an independent review to evaluate why action to halt the loss of biodiversity worldwide and the associated decline in ecosystem goods and services would make economic sense. It will consider the costs of failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation and sustainable use.

Biodiversity and climate change are closely linked in many ways. Biodiversity is integral to the continued functioning of healthy ecosystems and their ability to provide a wide array of goods and services, including mitigating the effects of climate change. Biodiversity loss results in weakened ability of ecosystems to respond to changes, including climate change. Deforestation is estimated to account for between 18% and 25% of all carbon emissions. In China, natural grasslands, wetlands and high altitude peatlands all play a critical buffering role in reducing the potential impacts of floods and droughts through their ability to store and regulate water flows. This is especially critical given the recent rapid rate of melting of glaciers and permafrost of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Yet these ecosystems have been degraded through inappropriate land use, including drainage and unsustainable irrigation, overgrazing and poorly planned mining and infrastructure development. The Government of China has recognized these issues and has begun to address the problems through policies to return farmlands to grasslands and forests and reducing grazing pressure through re-location of communities in key areas. Nevertheless, activities such as mass poisoning of pikas, a keystone species of high altitude grasslands, continue. The extensive underground burrow systems of pika colonies are not only important for associated biodiversity (e.g. nesting places for birds) but critical in allowing infiltration from flood and meltwaters. Coastal wetlands are still being reclaimed, despite their important role in regulating tide surges and hence protecting valuable infrastructure.

In addition to the important role of biodiversity in mitigating climate change, biodiversity is at severe risk from the impacts of climate change, which will be felt for many years to come even if emissions are drastically reduced in coming years. For example, 40% of the wetlands of Tibet have disappeared over the last ten years. Plant and animal communities of high altitude zones will literally have nowhere to go as climate change "forces" such communities higher up mountainsides. It is predicted that a 2°„ C temperature rise will encourage the development of weedy and shrubby species in grasslands. These may be alien invasive species that not only threaten the existing ecology but reduce the grazing potential of such areas. Alien invasive species, by their very nature, may be better able to adapt to climate change, to the detriment of very habitat specific species that have more precise ecological requirements. Species extinction predictions from climate change are rather variable, but all agree that extinctions are inevitable given current trends.

China has committed to mitigation strategies to reduce carbon emissions, including the development of its National Climate Change Programme that refers to existing policies and programmes to support forest, grassland and wetland conservation. At the recent East Asia

News from Bali

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali from 3-15 December 2007 attracted over 10,000 participants and representatives from 187 countries. It generated huge coverage, not only of climate change issues, but the political differences between countries on the measures and timing needed to address the topic. Fixed short term targets for emissions reduction were not agreed but rather a process for achieving reductions over a longer time period, by 2050, with a series of further meetings before 2009. What was agreed was a decision of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, through addressing the drivers of deforestation and promoting sustainable management of forests for enhancing forest carbon stocks. This subject was missing from the original Kyoto Protocol. A tradeable credit system for developing countries to protect their forests emerged as a leading issue, following the establishment by the World Bank of a $160 million commitment to a Forest Carbon Partnership Facility to help countries prepare for such a credit system. This principle is not without its critics, in part, because of the risks of forest protection being co-opted by powerful groups at the expense of local people and indigenous groups. Many details remain to be worked out on the new agreements, including whether forests already set aside as reserves and protected areas would qualify for credits, how to value different types of forests (clearly old-growth natural forests have much greater value than recently afforested sites, though not necessarily solely from a carbon point of view) and how to compensate and involve indigenous groups. However, given accelerated rates of deforestation and forest degradation and the importance of deforestation in contributing to global climate change, some immediate action is clearly required. Let°Øs hope that it can really lead to improved biodiversity conservation, ameliorating climate change and promoting more sustainable and equitable development.

Summit, participating nations, including China, agreed to "promote cooperation on afforestation and reforestation, and to reduce deforestation, forest degradation and forest fires, including by promoting sustainable forest management, combating illegal logging, protecting biodiversity, and addressing the underlying economic and social drivers."

However, this mitigation strategy includes some approaches that need to be carefully considered in respect of biodiversity conservation. Increased afforestation and particularly the development of biodiesel through the promotion of Jatropha (an oil-rich shrub) has the potential to increase biodiversity loss by planting on natural forest lands. Because of the policy of maintaining agricultural lands in China, biodiesel and other plantations are intended to use "degraded forestlands and "marginal" areas. However, such marginal lands (such as swamps and marshes) can be of high biodiversity importance and the identification of "degraded" lands is also quite subjective. These areas may be defined simply by not having significant stands of commercially valuable timber species. Yet they can be vitally important for biodiversity, as critical habitats or as corridors between natural forest refuges. In addition, many forest plantation trees are exotic species that can displace native species. It is vital, therefore, that natural habitats, including forests, grasslands and wetlands are identified for the biodiversity values and their role in combating climate change and that sustainable management strategies and plans are put in place (including safeguards such as EIA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for biodiesel and other plantations) that do not result in their degradation and loss.

ECBP has made climate change and biodiversity linkages a high priority. In 2007, it supported two workshops on Climate Change and Biodiversity in Beijing and Hohhot and plans a major study in 2008 to look at the principal issues linking these two areas, bringing in international experience from the EU and elsewhere. The Programme is also supporting SEPA to develop biodiversity assessment guidelines for EIA and SEA and promote their application. ECBP field projects will also incorporate climate change linkages to biodiversity and some projects are directly addressing the issue. These include sustainable management of high-altitude peatlands, developing a landscape-level conservation plan for the vulnerable Chang Tang reserve in Tibet, improving grassland management in Inner Mongolia and integrating biodiversity in SEA for mining and tourism activities.

KEY PROJECT MEETINGS

Biodiversity Knowledge Popularization Activities

From September 2007, ECBP is supporting a series of knowledge popularization activities mainly focused on middle school students. The aim is to improve awareness of biodiversity conservation, and ulimately disseminate lessons learned to a broader audience and give suggestions to relevant educational agencies. So far, ECBP has supported the high school affiliated to Beijing Institute of Technology to carry out a number of awareness raising and environmental education activities on campus, including biodiversity lectures by famous experts, biodiversity displays, biodiversity photo exhibitions and biodiversity knowledge surveys. After undertaking these activities, the students acknowledged that their knowledge about biodiversity and its conservation and sustainable use was much improved, and they promised to share this knowledge with the people around them.

In 2008, ECBP will furthr support such activities, organizing a biodiversity knowledge competition, organizing field trips to national nature reserves and EU-China middle school students' biodiversity forum. These activities will offer opportunities for middle school students to learn and share biodiversity knowledge. After these activities are finished, ECBP will summarize the experiences and lesson learned from the case study, then make suggestions and recommendations for biodiversity popularization to relevant educational agencies at the policy level.

Workshop on Climate Change and Key Ecosystems of China: Impacts and Adaptation

The diverse ecosystems of Inner Mongolia are some of the most vulnerable in China to the impacts of climate change. On October 9-10, 2007, ECBP supported a workshop in Hohhot on "Climate Change and Key Ecosystems of China: Impacts and Adaptation" The workshop brought together over 70 participants from 34 organizations, including governmental departments, institutes, universities and NGOs to share knowledge and experience related to climate change and biodiversity, to identify the impacts of climate change on key ecosystems and biodiversity and discuss corresponding adaptation strategies. Based on the presentations and Inner Mongolia's specific natural, social and economical characteristics, participants engaged in lively discussions and gave some constructive recommendations during work group sessions. The workshop identified vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity in Inner Mongolia, developed concrete proposals on the threats and impact assessment of climate change on biodiversity and adaptation action plan development at national level and local level.

EC sponsored "Colorful Yunnan International Forum on Biodiversity Conservation"

The Colorful Yunnan International Forum on Biodiversity Conservation was held from Oct 17-18 in Kunming, Yunnan Province in SW China. The forum was organized by the State Environmental Protection Administration together with the Yunnan Provincial Government. ECBP, ADB and GTZ sponsored the event to share lessons and experiences in biodiversity conservation from China and neighbouring countries. Mr. Magnus GISLEV, First Secretary, Science, Technology and Environment, Delegation of the European Commission (EC) made a keynote speech in the opening session and shared EU experiences in the field of biodiversity conservation where international laws and directives are applied to ensure each country takes appropriate action.

Staff of ECBP attended the event and exhibited their plans and achievements which attracted a lot of attention from the participants.

The forum included topics ranging from the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, to international cooperation in biodiversity protection. 160 participants from China's governmental agencies, provincial Environmental Protection Bureaus, institutions, and representatives from 15 international agencies, 7 countries, and several NGOs attended the forum.

Beijing Birdrace

A bird race was organized by the China Bird Watch. 19 teams of bird "twitchers" competed over 24 hours to see who could record the most species of birds in the vicinity of Wild Duck Lake Nature Reserve some 40 km NW of the capital. ECBP chief technical advisor Spike Millington and VAC team leader John MacKinnon joined the first day of the race together with famous artist and photographer Li Li. Our mini team had excellent views of two species of harriers, witnessed a feud between a hoopoe and a Chinese grey shrike, had nice views of common cranes and wintering ruddy shelducks, but a half day total of 40 species was lower than the totals of some of the professionally equipped teams. We were amazed that over 107 species were recorded in total including sightings by several teams of the undoubted bird of the event - the rare great bustard. Congratulations to these young and enthusiastic bird-atchers. It's really encouraging to see the numbers and standards of birdwatchers in China grow every year.

Strategic Environmental Assessment in China

ECBP supported a high-level workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) at the Shangri La Hotel in Beijing on 3-4 November 2007. The Programme enabled the participation of senior experts from UNDP, UNEP and EU countries, strengthening linkages between these agencies and countries and the emerging SEA process in China. Under the current Environmental Assessment Law, SEA is applied to plans but not to policies and this meeting provides impetus to broaden SEA in China. ECBP also held a special biodiversity session. ECBP CTA Spike Millington gave a presentation on SEA and biodiversity in China. A panel discussed SEA and biodiversity from an international perspective, with presentations from Linda Ghamine, UNDP Environmental Policy Advisor and Rob Verheem, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment. Lu Zhi, Conservation International and Wang Juan, Southwest Forest University demonstrated models and case studies of SEA in biodiversity-rich areas of southwest China. The session was attended by SEPA Vice-Minister Pan Yue, who offered some suggestions to ECBP for further consideration. They are:

1.To convince local people that biodiversity conservation is necessary, urgent and important

At present, China still is a developing country, with a priority of poverty alleviation over biodiversity conservation. So ECBP should make great efforts to help establish an integrated assessment system of biodiversity functions and values for the entire society. Then it can be demonstrated that the potential long-term value of biodiversity outweighs the short-term benefits from its immediate utilization. In this way society can better understand the importance of biodiversity, and biodiversity conservation can be implemented more smoothly and easily. For instance, if a fish species disappears from a river, there are two kinds of value loss. One is the actual value of this fish species, the other is huge value of the ecological system and food chain of which this fish is a part. So we need to assess these values synthetically. ECBP should try to establish a methodology and system to assess the true economic and social impacts if a species becomes extinct in a region. It is a more practical way to emphasize the importance of biodiversity conservation to the general public.

2.Need for establishment of social and economic indicators

Biodiversity loss is not only an issue of ecosystem degradation, but also of degradation of entire regions, including related social and economic costs. Thus, ECBP should establish a series of social and economic indicators when assessing the biodiversity degradation and its impacts.

3.Need for establishment of comprehensive policy systems

ECBP should support to establish a policy and law framework related to biodiversity. This is fundamental to achieve effective biodiversity conservation in China, and could include eco-compensation policies, for example.

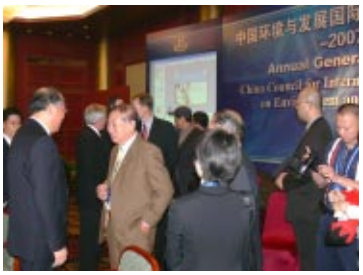
ECBP is already addressing or planning to address these issues in the near future.

6000 University Students Debate on Biodiversity Protection

ECBP successfully held a University Student Debate from November to December 2007. The campaign lasted 1 month, and involved more than 6000 students from 16 universities in Beijing. Up to the closing date of the campaign, almost 4000 news items have been generated as a result of the debate at Google.com, and 60,573 hits at the Debate Page opened at Sohu.com, one of the most influential website in China.

The campaign aims at raising the awareness of biodiversity among the young students. The debate serves as a public dissemination through such forum and the power of literacy. Various perspectives of biodiversity were presented visually and vividly, provoking public reflection. Through the elegance and wit of the heated debate, the contradictions of creating an "ecological civilization" have been revealed, and the concept of "biodiversity' is better understood and appreciated by university students.

CCICED Meetings



The China Council for International Cooperation in Environment and Development (CCICED) is a unique, high-level international body providing advice on environmental issues to the Chinese Government. The CCICED 2007 Annual General Meeting took place in the Sheraton Great Wall Hotel, Beijing from 28th-30th November. Hosted by SEPA under the chairmanship of Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan and Executive vise-chairmanship of Minister Zhou Shengxian, the meeting was the first of the 4th five-year phase of this well-established advisory council. This year's meeting focused on the need for technological innovation to meet China's growing needs in the environmental sector but two key presentations were of high relevance to China's biodiversity - the report on climate change delivered by R.K. Pechauri and transcribed in this issue with his kind permission, and secondly an interim report on China's Ecological Footprint prepared by a special team sponsored by WWF and presented by the new DG of WWF James Leape. The latter document pointed out that although China's per capita footprint was not so high, the country's total ecological footprint was second only to that of the United States and that in total China consumes 15% of the world's total biological capacity which is 50% more than China's own potential capacity. This overshoot means China is depleting the biological capital on which it depends and allowing waste products to accumulate in its place.

The Council has a new line up with 70% new faces on board, including past and present directors general of UNEP, IUCN and WWF. John MacKinnon of ECBP together with Stefan Agne and Magnus Gislev of the EU delegation in China attended the meeting as observers and held discussions with council organizers and with International Chief Advisor to CCICED Art Hanson about ways to get biodiversity issues onto the council agenda and specifically how to involve ECBP in this process. It is hoped that ECBP will be able to offer studies on the values of ecological services for the Council's further consideration.

Reports from Programme

During this quarter, the programme has continued to produce a number of technical reports and products.

The **CBD Implementation Assessment Report** has been completed in English, translated into Chinese, and comments from SEPA are now received for final editing. The report recommends are series of measures to improve CBD implementation in China, based on international experience and focusing on institutional issues.

A **Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP)** survey was completed by VAC consultants involving qualitative and quantitative questionnaires to a wide range of public and government sectors. The results indicate a generally poor understanding of biodiversity issues and gives directions as to where awareness raising is most needed. An abbreviated report is available in two languages.

Building on the results of the KAP survey, the Visibility and Awareness Component of **ECBP have completed an ECBP Communications Strategy**. This has been reviewed and discussed at several meetings between stakeholders and finally approved at the Project Steering Committee in December. The strategy identifies the targets, messages and media to be used to spread biodiversity awareness in general and visibility of ECBP activities in particular.

The **ECBP 2006 Annual Report** has been printed and is available as a two-languages document

The following powerpoint presentations were developed for presentation at the Xiamen World Oceans Week, presentation to the Beijing BirdWatch society and to presentation to the Beijing journalists media salon respectively. These ppt files are available from ECBP: **- 'Land v Sea v Land', 'Getting to know Birds'** and **'Biodiversity Matters - Why the media should pay more attention'**.

Training for Field Projects Staff

Field Projects Putting Policies and Regulations into Practice

Seventy staff from ECBP's field projects, including Project Managers and Financial Officers met for a two day intensive training in project and financial management from December 10 to 11 in the Friendship Hotel in Beijing. This was the first time that staff from all the field projects met and worked together under the same roof and provided a good opportunity for staff from different projects to communicate and network.

The field project component of ECBP (COSU) provided training in project cycle management, progress reporting, annual work plan development and in a broad spectrum of financial management methods and reporting.

After opening remarks by representatives from EU, MOFCOM, SEPA and UNDP, Dr. Cai Lei, Division Chief for the Biodiversity Office, the Department of Nature & Conservation of SEPA, gave the participants an overview of central government activities and plans for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. A large number of activities have been launched with support form ECBP to formulate a new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and the field projects can play a vital role in implementing the NBSAP in practice. The field projects will act as agents of change to convert strategies and policies to practice on the ground.

After this presentation the 11 ongoing field projects explained about their objectives, strategies, expected results and main activities. The workshop then concentrated on technical aspects of project and financial management. To support its instructions to the participants COSU staff provided all participants with written guidelines and templates for: Progress Reporting, revision of Annual Work Plans, ledgers for equipment and much more. In this way the workshop focused on putting policies (of COSU) into practice through the field projects.

During the workshop also staff from ECBP°Øs Visibility and Awareness Component (VAC) gave the participants brief instructions on how to use the ECBP program logo and other logos on their products. They also outlined a series of supportive activities that VAC plans to offer for the field projects to help them strengthen their visibility and awareness activities.

The workshop alternated between plenary lectures, questions and answers sections and group work. During group work staff from field projects shared their experiences and planned for joint activities, future cooperation and exchange.

Currently, 11 field projects have been approved and initiated start up activities. Staff have been engaged, grants and matching funds put in place and operations on the ground have started. At the same time, the remaining 7 field projects continue to negotiate strategies, annual work plans and related details with COSU in order to get final approval. This means that some projects have been in operation for one or two quarters while the rest will start up very soon - and against this background many participants expressed that the workshop was very timely and useful.

This workshop was the first of a series of training and thematic workshops that ECBP will arrange for the field projects to train their staff and to promote experience exchange and identification of best practice approaches for replication and dissemination of field project results.

Field Projects Interviews

Ms. Liang Haitang, Administrative Manager, Wildlife Conservation Society

The financial management part was very instructive and the group discussions provided a good chance for me to get to know the people in other projects. After this training I think many activities can be followed up via the ECBP website where COSU can provide continuous guidance and instructions and all projects can discuss common issues and learn from each other.

Mr. Li Shengzhi, Project Director, Conservation International

I'm very impressed by the working efficiency of the COSU team, and appreciate the efforts to mainstream and ensure quality in the management approaches of all the field projects. After this workshop my team and I are inspired to solve outstanding issues following the general principles. I'll also keep close communication with my peers of other field projects which have already made brilliant progress, and learn from them.

Nyima Dundrop, Executive Deputy Director, Lhasa Environmental Protection Bureau

I believe this workshop makes us all feel closer to each other and helps to build good relationships. I will support and participate in this kind of training in the future. I hope our commitment to conserving biodiversity is as high as the Mount Chomolungma, and the outputs from the field projects will flow and diverge as all the huge rivers born in Tibet highlands!

Three New Field Projects

COSU signed three more projects during the last quarter. Profiles of each are given below:

Sustainable Agro-Biodiversity Management in the Mountain Areas of Southern China

The Challenge

China has a long history of locally adapted agriculture based on sustainable utilization of a wide range of ecosystems. Over the past 30 years the agricultural production has intensified with introduction of new cultivars and hybrids and with increased use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. This development has had severe costs to biodiversity. Still the Wuling (Chongqing, Hunan, Hubei Provinces), Dabie (Anhui, Hubei) and Wuzhi (Hainan) mountain ranges represent areas of high biological and agricultural diversity spread over 3 climatic zones. However, increasing demand on land resources and structural changes in agriculture put pressure on these unique areas. It is therefore of utmost importance to develop ways and methods to sustainably manage the agro-biodiversity (ABD) resources at farm and village levels in these areas.

The Response

The project will support villages and agricultural extension staff in mountain ranges of Chongqing, Hunan, Hubei, Anhui and Hainan Province to develop and test new concepts for agro-biodiversity management. With support from local agricultural authorities, institutions and private enterprises, farmers will implement biodiversity friendly farming practices and undertake sustainable management of genetic resources, species, and ecosystem.

Project Focus

* To promote sustainable management of biodiversity and ABD at farm and village levels;
* To support farmer groups in the sustainable use of ABD through introduction of biodiversity friendly farming practices;
* To develop proposals for the integration of ABD in a concept for sustainable development of the Wuling, Dabie and Wuzhi mountains in southern China;
* To mainstream ABD management into agriculture and relevant sectors' policies at county and village levels;
* To support capacity building and awareness creation to sustainably manage biodiversity and ABD resources.

Cooperating Agency

Deutsche Gesellschaft füer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

Partner

Department of Science and Education, Ministry of Agriculture

Sustainable Management of Traditional Medicinal Plants in Upper Yangtze Ecoregion

The Challenge

The mountain landscapes in the upper Yangtze River basin are recognized for their biodiversity values and have been identified as high priority areas for biodiversity conservation in China. An estimated 75% of commercially harvested Traditional Chinese Medicinal (TCM) plant species are found in this region, but unsustainable TCM collection is common and undermines the integrity of the montane ecosystems, threatening the survival of many species. At the same time, collection of wild medicinal plants provides a significant source of income for many Chinese households as well as being important for people's primary health care. Thus there is an urgent need to promote sustainable management and conservation of medicinal plants while at the same time working to secure the livelihoods of local people.

The Response

The project will work to develop sustainable harvesting practices for medicinal plants, and to secure and improve the livelihoods of local medicinal plant collectors in key landscapes of the Upper Yangtze River Ecoregion. The overall outcome of the project will be to develop and implement a replicable strategic model for sustainable utilization and management of traditional Chinese medicinal plants.

Project Focus

* To analyze and strengthen the policy and

regulatory framework for medicinal plants;
* To promote sustainable TCM use and conservation by establishing effective local TCM management and monitoring mechanisms in the pilot sites;
* To raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable use of wild medicinal plants among key stakeholders;
* To test incentive based mechanisms for sustainable production and conservation of wild populations of medicinal plants.

Cooperating Agency
WWF Beijing Office

Partners
1. TRAFFIC
2. IUCN-World Conservation Union
3. Sichuan Provincial Forestry Department
4. Gansu Provincial Forestry Department
5. Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department
6. Sichuan Administrative Bureau of Traditional Chinese Medicine
7. The Ecology Committee for Natural Resources of Chinese Meteria Medica

Community-based Conservation in Qinghai and Sichuan

The Challenge
Many large scale ecological restoration programs have been launched in China during the recent years. In order to make such initiatives more successful and sustainable, improvements are needed in terms of measurable ecological impacts and well functioning economic compensation and incentive schemes for local stakeholders. Community-based conservation efforts have so far been limited but could play a pivotal role to ensure such improvements.

The Response
The project will develop and demonstrate community-based conservation in important areas for biodiversity in Qinghai and Sichuan provinces. To accomplish this, the project will engage and bring together relevant local government authorities, local communities and NGOs in a process to develop supportive policies, regulations and payment schemes for ecological services.

Project Focus
* Establish and employ science-based conservation targets and indicators to guide community-based conservation in the project areas
* Initiate and manage a Community Conservation Action Fund
* Award small and medium-sized grants to finance activities undertaken by communities to improve biodiversity conservation, rehabilitation of sustainable cultural practices and improved livelihoods
* Provide technical advice and legal recognition to the community-based initiatives
* Establish and undertake biodiversity monitoring in order to document the effects of the community based initiatives
* Document and communicate project results to local, national and international stakeholders

Cooperating Agency
Conservation International

Partners
1. Qinghai Forestry Department
2. Sichuan Wildlife Resources Survey & Conservation Management Station

News from on-going Field Projects

Sustainable Management of Natural Bamboo Forest Ecosystems and its Biodiversity, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

Project team is setting up demonstration plots in biodiversity-rich mixed bamboo forests in Pikeng village, Hunan Province.

Local forestry technicians were doing biodiversity baseline survey in the field in Sichuan.

Prof. Xie is teaching farmers on managing the bamboo forest site in bamboo demonstrative field.

All field team members accommodated in villagers' home in the Yinxing Village for more than 10 days for setting up the demonstration site and train the local farmers.

Three field sites set up in Hunan, Sichuan and Yunnan

Three field sites at Pikeng village of Shidu township(Hunan), Jiulong village of Shuanghe township (Sichuan) for moso bamboo *(Phyllostachys pubescens)* with high economic and environmental importance in China and Yinxing village of Mugan township (Yunan) for the most endangered bamboo species *(Qiongzhuea tumidinoda)* were selected as planned in the Annual Work Plan 2007.

Each site has an area about 45 hectares of bamboo forests and was sub-divided in areas for various demonstration activities. Biodiversity baseline survey of tree, shrub, and underground species of core area were carried out, as well as estimations of bamboo productivity. Different bamboo forest management practices will be carried out in the demo sites and a total 74 trial plots were set up for demonstrating and observing the impact on biodiversity, environmental service function and bamboo forest productivity, as well as farmers' knowledge, technology and income generating from bamboo forests.

The teams who undertook the baselines surveys were composed of bamboo and forest experts from provincial forestry universities, local staff of provincial and county forestry departments, INBAR project staff and volunteer master students. The teams were accommodated in local farmers' houses in Yunnan and Hunan.

Farmer's training in Yunnan

The first farmer's training sessions in Yunnan were held in Yinxing village in Mr. Chen's (one of the involved farmers) house, in October 2007. More than 30 bamboo farmers in the project area joined the training course on management of the endangered Qiongzhu bamboo forest. Local government officers were present at the training and addressed the importance of this project. Director Zhang from the County's Forestry Department introduced the relationship between forest ownership reform and project. Professor Dong from the Southwest Forestry College taught the farmers the management technologies, for example, the age structure of the bamboo forest showed warning signs if the percentage of 4 and 5 years old plants was greater than 30% and if some were already blooming. Local Qiongzhu bamboo expert demonstrated how to recognize the age of bamboo for better regulating and optimizing bamboo composition of culms in terms ages which is a crucial technique for the bamboo management. The local farmers expressed that it was their first time to learn about better management of the natural bamboo forests although they lived with it everyday. They felt proud to be a part of the ECBP, and hope that the experts would bring more knowledge and demonstrate management technologies for them in future project implementation.

News from on-going Field Projects

Changtang Conservation Management

Needs assessment in November

November the 4th to the 13th, ECBP Changtang Field Project, with the assistance of international training experts from WCS, conducted an investigation on training needs.

Changtang area is the habitat for Tibetan antelopes, wild yaks, Tibetan wild ass, and other wild animals. Changtang Reserve, established in 1993 has adopted a series of protective measures, but there are still cases of poaching, and the capacity of local protection is very limited. The training needs assessment, through combining individual interviews and small workshops, identified the capacity and training needs of the managers of Naqu Reserve, Ali Reserve, county-level management personnel, forest police and wild animal rescue staff, based on which various training schemes will be developed to address the needs of different staff levels, providing guidance over the following 2-year training.

Come to Qixiangcuo watching Tibetan Antelopes

Qixiangcuo is located in Baling Township, northeast of Changtang, with a sparse population of less than 2,000 in a large area of about 9,000 square kilometers, some 4.5 kilometers above sea level.

Qixiangcuo is one of many scattered and poorly-known lakes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. One of its attractions is the wild animals that abound here. Local people regard this as "Paradise for Bears" as well as, home for Tibetan Antelopes, Tibetan Argali, lynx, blue sheep. A baseline survey on the conflict between humans and animals is a "required action" of this field project.

This November, chief scientist of this project, Gorge Schaller and his colleagues camped in Baling Township and managed to count the wild animals around Qixiangcuo.

Local herdsmen indicate that in spring and autumn, solitary antelopes or small herds wander around. At the turn of spring and summer, pregnant females will go into the basin area to give birth. Midwinter is the prime season for male and female antelopes, and thousands of them, young and old, gather on the plains to the south of Qixiangcuo.

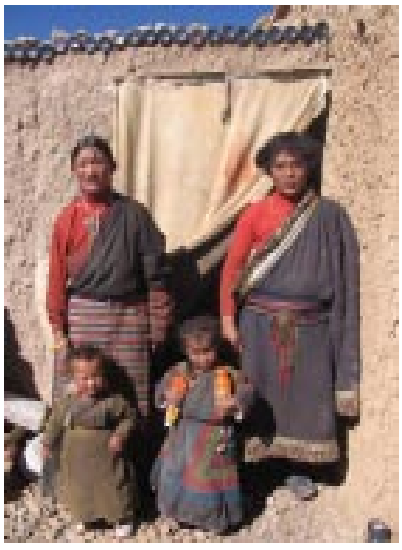
During 4-day successive survey, the investigation team found over 2,000 antelopes. As midwinter approaches, male antelopes have mostly white coats with black faces and straight sharp horns, which makes them more charming to woo females.

The males, defying the cold, start a splendid yet traditional ceremony - to challenge other males and attract the females.

This spectacle is very impressive for the lucky newcomers, who are able to witness it for the first time.

"the more dangerous, the more brave"

Changtang is vast, 300,000 square kilometers, with an average altitude above 4,500 meters. Transport is the headache for any outdoor work. In all seasons, vehicles get stuck due to the weather problems. Then it'll take half a day or a whole day or even more to dig out.



On the way to the November training needs assessment, in spite of the fact that we were fully prepared, we still got into such trouble. November the 8th was a sunny day. When we arrived at Langduo, E Jiu Township, Nima county, a frozen river, 1.35 wide, was standing in our way. The river was a piece of cake for a good long jump athlete, but we got stuck in such a small river and could not make a move. We looked for help but there was nothing but one house within a radius of 50 kilometers. The Tibetan couple from the house found us stuck, and came with shovels to dig the car out.

We all get off. Ignoring the altitude of 4,700 meters, suffocating, and cold, we hurried to unload all the baggage from the car. Our team leader served as a temporary traffic commander, and others were dredging or pushing. After more than two hours later the car was finally dragged out of the frozen river. This is not the first time, have we got into such a situation and it will certainly not be the last. We must behave like Yang Zirong, "the more dangerous, the braver", as well as being fully prepared before departure.

Mapping Meeting: Awareness Alliance Formed

Key government and NGO biodiversity awareness advocates have agreed to form an alliance to coordinate their efforts, share resources, find synergies between respective programmes and intensify efforts to inform the public and government about the importance of biodiversity in China's socio-economic development. The alliance was forged in a workshop on November 13th under the joint sponsorship of the Visibility & Awareness Component (VAC) of ECBP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) The alliance, working under the agreed slogan of 'Biodiversity Matters', will immediately start to share news, information and other resources and cooperate on some joint activities to strengthen green messages at the 2008 Olympics. ECBP and IUCN will coordinate the alliance which includes such major conservation NGOs as CI, WWF, TNC, WCS, FFI, TRAFFIC, Wild China Film, Friends of Nature; projects such as the State Forestry Administration's GEF Wetlands project; CESDRRC, aid agencies such as GTZ. The alliance will also involve other government ministries such as Ministry of Construction through ECBP's implementing agency, SEPA, which also serves as the China secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The alliance continues to broaden its outreach by accepting more partners.

Partner Profiles

ECBP has built up a network of many partner organizations with whom we cooperate on the implementation of field projects or in our alliance for promoting biodiversity awareness. This section of our newsletter presents profiles of some of these partners in each issue.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

IUCN is a Large international union of state, agency, NGO and individual members; based in Gland, Switzerland and with regional offices and some national offices around the world. The great strength of IUCN is that it can call on its membership of several thousand consultants organized under several specific commissions of IUCN. These experts are the sum of current knowledge and state of the art of biodiversity conservation and IUCN sets the standards that are followed regarding endangerment status of species, categories and zones of protected areas, etc. They have released a series of Best Practices guidelines on many aspects of environmental conservaton. They have recently launched their Countdown 2010 programme to bolster efforts to reach the millennium goal objectives set for that year by the United Nations. In China their programme includes addressing revision of Protected Areas legislation, strengthening the World Heritage Natural Sites system and promoting awareness. IUCN co-hosted the awareness alliance meetings with ECBP and are currently in negotiation with the programme to serve as technical service provider. The Union°Øs new Director General Julia Marton-Lefevre visited Beijing recently to attend the CCICED Annual Meetings. She had formerly served on this council for 10 years during its first two phases. The steering Committee of IUCN's famous Species Survival Commission held their annual meetings in Beijing in November.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

WCS saves wildlife and wild lands through careful science, international conservation, education, and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together, these activities change individual attitudes toward nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in sustainable interaction on both a local and a global scale. WCS is committed to this work because they believe it essential to the integrity of life on Earth. The WCS have recently cemented a close relationship with Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Sciences. They continue the pioneering studies of American zoologist George Schaller and work in some of the remotest parts of China on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau and in NE China on the Russian border (Amur Tiger project). They work with ECBP on a project in the huge Chang Tang Nature Reserve featured in this issues news reports.

The Nature Conservanc(TNC)

TNC is a large US-based conservation organization, whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. TNC uses strategic, science-based planning processes to identify the highest - priority places—landscapes and seascapes that, if conserved, promise to ensure biodiversity over the long term. In China TNC has been working to conserve biodiversity in NW Yunnan with the cooperation of local villagers. TNC will be partners with ECBP to continue these efforts.The organization is also working with SEPA to develop a Conservation 'Blueprint' for China - a digital map and database which prioritizes sites for conservation. The 'Blueprint' can also be used by ECBP in trying to mainstream biodiversity into government planning processes.

Conservation Internationa(CI)

CI is another fast-growing US-based conservation organization with a mission to conserve the Earth's living heritage, our global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature. CI's China office is headed by world famous Giant Panda scientist Luzhi. The organizations is involved in field surveys, integrated conservation projects and conservation awareness. They have recently released a diner's card that tells you what you should and should not eat in the restaurant. CI will cooperate with ECBP with the Conservation Planning and Community Involvement field project as well as being local partner on two other field projects - Conservation Planning in Lhasa Municipality and Strategic Environmental Assessments in Sichuan. They are also keen to collaborate in the area of biodiversity awareness.

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)

WWF was the first international conservation NGO to start working in China following the initial 1980 cooperation with then Ministry of Forestry to study and save Giant Pandas in Wolong, Sichuan. Today WWF has grown and broadened its interest with a wide range of programmes all

across China. This covers conservation education, training, field projects, seeking alternative livelihood for inhabitants of biorich areas and working on policy issues relating to wetlands and other issues. WWF is involved as ECBP field project partner for the Chang Tang project and on the Traditional Plants and Local Communities project.

Beijing, China - A new climate change programme for China was launched in Beijing today by HSBC, the world's first carbon neutral bank, together with four global environmental organisations - The Climate Group, Earthwatch Institute, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). The climate change programme in China forms part of the HSBC Climate Partnership - a five year US$100 million programme to respond to the urgent threat of climate change worldwide with the same four partners - launched in May 2007.

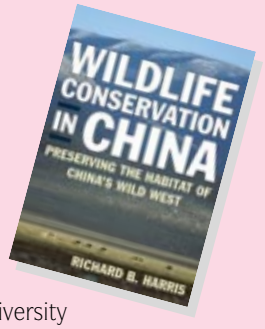
New Books

A Guide to the Mammals of China
Editors: Andrew T. Smith, Xie Yan
Princeton University Press.

"This is a landmark book for Asian mammals. Its publication marks a watershed event, enabling public understanding of a tenth of the world's mammal species. Contributors to the volume include many of the world's top experts on Chinese mammals. This is an ambitious book."

——*Bruce D. Patterson, Field Museum of Natural History*

Wildlife Conservation in China
Author: Richard Harris
M.E. Sharpe Inc.



"Western China is a land of mystery, striking landscapes, and abundant biological resources. Rich Harris is an astute observer of the dramatic changes that have affected the natural resources of this region over the past two decades (and which continue unabated today), and their impact on the region's people and its biodiversity. In Wildlife Conservation in China he presents a thoughtful, penetrating and honest analysis of the challenges, and draws upon these observations to outline a model for future wildlife conservation in the region."

—— Andrew T. Smith, Arizona State University

Who's Who in ECBP

Here we present brief profiles of six of the seventeen ECBP staff members. Other staff will be profiled in future newsletters

Søren Mark Jensen

Søren Mark Jensen, also called "Mr COSU", is the Director of UNDPs Country Office Support Unit which is in charge of contract negotiations, supervision and monitoring of the ECBP field projects.

He holds a Master degree in Biology/Ecology and Human Geography and before he arrived to China he was Associate Professor with Danish universities. He was also engaged in the Danish Forest and Nature Agency of the Ministry of Environment where he was appointed Chief Coordinator of the National Fund for Nature Conservation and Restoration. Soren is presently on leave from the Ministry. Soren has thorough experience from EU were he is used to represent Denmark in the Committee for the Habitats Directive, which is the main legal instrument for nature conservation in EU. When the Biodiversity Convention was negotiated Soren was also a member of the Danish negotiation committee which played an important role in achievement of consensus between developing and developed countries. During the last 15 years he has undertaken numerous missions where he helped to establish new or evaluate on-going nature conservation projects all over the world for the Danish Government, EU and UNDP.

Soren spent three years in Namibia as Director of a national ecological reform and training program for the country's learners and teachers. This project received a prestigious UNESCO award as a Best Practice Project. More recently he was Chief Technical Advisor in Sabah, Malaysia for three years on a project designed to integrate biodiversity conservation into government development policies. Some of the achievements of this project were to develop a State Plan for Sustainable Eco-tourism and to discover and improve the protection of a large and, until then, unknown population of Orangutans in Sabah's central rainforests.

Soren has recently been joined in Beijing by his wife and three sons. His eldest son is now enrolled in the University of Peking studying Chinese. Soren likes to join the project staff in badminton evenings and he enjoys skiing during his winter weekends. Warning: If you see a silver Tian Ma bearing down on you, get off the road quickly. It could be Soren driving like a native.

Spike Millington

Spike grew up in the countryside of rural England and developed a passion for nature from his early childhood. He started writing his first nature journal at the age of ten, documenting the natural history at sites around his home. At school, he became an active birdwatcher, something he has kept up to this day, having seen 4,000 species around the world, almost half of all known bird species. Spike studied Zoology at the University of Leeds but left the UK in 1978 to pursue graduate studies on the evolution of Darwin's finches in the Galapagos Islands. After completing a Master's degree in Evolutionary Ecology at the University of Michigan in USA, Spike spent a year deep in the rainforests of Panama researching tropical forest ecology for the Smithsonian Institution. He then became part of the newly-created International Program of the Nature Conservancy in Washington DC before embarking on 13 years working on international natural resources and biodiversity conservation programs throughout Africa in 1985. This work included protecting endangered Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda, coordinating the environmental policy and institutional component of Africa's pioneer Environmental Action Plan in Madagascar and advising the Ethiopian government on its National Conservation Strategy. Spike then returned to USA working for an international environmental consulting firm and carrying out biodiversity assessments in the Caucasus and Central Asia. His first involvement in China came when he was employed by the Asian Development Bank in Philippines from 2001-2003 to develop the PRC-GEF Partnership to Combat Land Degradation in Dryland Areas, GEF's first long-term program in Land Degradation. During his time overseas, Spike has actively contributed to the development of national and local conservation societies and NGOs and is past Vice-President of the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society and past Vice-Chairman of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi. Spike has been Chief Technical Advisor of ECBP since August 2006, principally responsible for the central policy and institutional strengthening component of the program, but also providing technical support to the field project and awareness components.

Zhang Fengchun

ZHANG Fengchun was born in 1960 in Inner Mongolia. He has a Ph.D. and M.Sc. from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel to cap his B.Ag. from the Inner Mongolia Forestry College, China.

Dr. Zhang is the: Institutional and Policy expert of EU-China Biodiversity Programme. Responsible for (i) strengthening the structures and mechanisms for CBD implementation, notably the CBD Steering Committee and Implementation Office; (ii) incorporating biodiversity into sectoral and economic policies; (iii) mainstreaming biodiversity into SEA and EIA and (iv) integrating biodiversity

into local land use planning.
Prior to working for ECBP Dr. Zhang was Senior Project Officer, Central Project Management Office, PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems and earlier participated in an international project on "the Effects of Global Warming on Plants in Desert and Mesic Areas" in Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Israel. He has also worked at Gansu Desert Control Research Institute, during which took charge of several research projects and acted as deputy director of a UNDP project "Gansu Integrated Desert Control and Sustainable Agriculture".
Publications: over 30 scientific papers were published on international and national journals.

Shi Jianbin

Shi Jianbin is the Programme Manager of UNDP-COSU. Under the supervision of the COSU Director and with close cooperation with other components of the Programme, he is responsible for all programmatic elements of COSU work, including the strategic direction and management of field project development, implementation and monitoring process.
As Jianbin comments on his time with COSU - "I enjoy working as a member of the four-people strong COSU team and a member of the overall big ECBP family since I joined ECBP in August 2006. COSU is a small team, but we are a hard-working and very productive team with me being called a long-term labor worker. There has been lots of fun to work with the field project people from different institutions and different places although negotiations with them are less fun. I like visiting field project sites and look forward to more field visits to the project sites in the next few years".
Before joining ECBP, Jianbin worked as a Programme Manager with a US-based international NGO — the Nature Conservancy (TNC) China Programme for two years, involved in management of a multi-million-USD biodiversity conservation planning programme. In addition he formerly worked with the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China from 1994 to 1999 as a biodiversity conservation officer.
Jianbin received his PhD degree in Animal Ecology from the University of Liverpool in 2003. He also obtained a Master degree from Beijing Normal University in 1994.
Jianbin enjoys swimming but is also a keen member of the Thursday evening badminton sessions with other ECBP colleagues and friends. So much so that no appointment will be available for ECBP business at that time.

Li Xuelan

My name is Li Xuelan, administrative assistant of PMO in EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP). I am responsible for project routines such as organization of events and conferences, arranging training courses, compiling financial reports and cash advance with program request, disbursement, file management of project documents etc.
Working with ECBP since April 2006, I have gained a great deal of knowledge and experience in project cycle management, financial controlling and administration.
ECBP is a new area for me focusing on certain issues of environmental protection because my major in university is English. I am so glad to start my career with ECBP and in close cooperation with my kind colleagues who are accomplished in biology in our big family.
Biodiversity is a mysterious world for me, which I am studying on every day and really learning more about. Maybe at first I am just interested in the lovely animals in the pictures, but the more and more knowledge I get from daily work will make me concern about them in the future.
I graduated from Tianjin University of Technology. Sometimes I dream about my hometown Tianjin and my happy life in the university. I also dream to roam about the grassland or huge mountains by myself without the crowd and noise in the cities, only and just the sound of nature. I'd like to express my thinking and share my new and strange ideas with you.
Wishing you happy everyday.

Gao Wei

Hello every one! My name is Gao Wei and I am the interpreter for ECBP, responsible for the translation of PMO documents on a daily basis and interpretation of ECBP meetings and/or workshops.
As an English major with barely any environmental background, I never imagined I would work in such a large-scale, unparalleled biodiversity programme. I owe this credit to one of ECBP's designing ideas and fundamental elements — Partnership; partnership between national and international forces, and the demand for an interpreter on this programme thus entailed. Over the one and a half years' time I spent in the ECBP family, I feel really lucky that I walked into that office for the interview one sunny morning shortly after graduation from university. Not only does this fascinating programme unveil in front of me the diverse and mysterious beauty of nature and life, but also this big family with all three components (PMO, COSU and VAC) working together in close contact teaches me the importance and art of communication and coordination in teamwork.
Personally, I am an outgoing girl with lots of interests — climbing, swimming, singing and traveling! Before I got this job I was interviewed for the post of English editor for school students. I was asked what my greatest wish would be. I replied — to travel around the world to see the wild. I guess from the interviewers troubled faces after this reply, their subsequent doubts as to whether I was quiet enough to stay for ever in front of a desk editing English textbooks might have contributed to the refusal from the publishing house. On the other hand, however, I have happily found out that there may be always something deeply rooted within me that longs for nature. It is this great job that fits me better.
I hope that, as a result of my work, a bridge can be built for better communication between ECBP and you, dear partners and stakeholders. And I am always ready to know about you.

Upcoming Events

- Undertake review of existing studies and information on economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Support SEPA to review national biodiversity indicator system
- Support SEPA in organizing technical working groups to develop drafts of technical chapters for the China°Øs revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Co-signing of the remaining seven Field Project Agreements
- Launch of revamped ECBP website
- Hold a media training workshop on biodiversity

EU-China Biodiversity Programme

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