

TITLE

Project No: CPR/SGP/OP6/Y3/STAR/BD/18/01

Grantee Organization: Shan Shui Conservation Center

Location: Qinghai Province

SGP Contribution: RMB 321,000.00

Cash Co-Financing: RMB 310,000.00

In-Kind Co-Financing: 0

Project Duration: 24 months

Focal area: Zhaqing, Qinghai Province

Background

Our working site is the Diqing Village of Zhaqing Town (N 95.162153, E 33.065378; 4246 meters above sea level) in the National Park Lancang River Source Park. The village has a total of 672 households of 2885 people, all of whom are Tibetans.

We wanted to solve two basic problems: how to compensate the local herders for the loss of ecological protection, and at the same time realize the direct benefits of local herders from protection.

Project Objectives and Key Activities

Explain the main objective and activities pursued

by the project

Project Objectives:

Through the compensation for human-wildlife conflicts and the demonstration of Nature Watch, the local herders will benefit directly from the protection while being compensated for the losses due to ecological protection. This will stimulate the protection of the community and achieve sustainable protection mainly by local herders. Through cooperation with the Lancang River Management Committee, after the pilot summary, compile the case summaries as the basis for future replication and promotion in the entire region.

Key activities:

1. Train at least 15 herder households to be Nature Watch demonstration household. The annual household income of the host families will increase by at least 6,000 yuan.
2. Protect the 900-square-kilometer habitat of snow leopards.
3. Estimate the effective of current human-wildlife conflict insurance compensate system. Change the attitude of local herders to wild carnivores around the community and reduce the risk of retaliatory hunting.
4. Sharing the cases of Nature Watch and human-wildlife conflict insurance.

Current activities:

1. Invited ecotourism experts, combining with the local experience, to design the “Nature Watch” tour route.



2. In August, we had a meeting with local community. We introduced the principle of “Nature Watch” project and the requirements of the host family. Many people stated that they would love to be the host family. We wrote down their names and they would have the priority to be considered as first round first families.



3. We collected the camera trap data and continued our camera trapping project. Now our camera trapping monitoring area had reached 1000 km². Those camera traps not only capture the wildlife but also help to prevent anti-poaching activities. Besides, the camera trap data would help us to

know more about the wildlife in this area and provide basic information on Hot Spot to watch animals as well.



4. The human-wildlife insurance has been taken over by insurance companies. Now we are trying to contact them and planning to have interviews with the staff to track the progress and challenges of this project.

Environmental Impact

Describe the environmental results achieved by the project. It should reflect on how the project contributes to global environmental benefits

The project directly contribute to biodiversity conservation through protect snow leopard and its habitat. Snow leopard act as an indicator of the health of the entire ecosystem in which they live, due to their position as the top predator in the food web.

The project site –Tibetan Plateau is one of the most sensitive area to global climate warming. The people who came here had a clear sense of how the climate warming influenced the mountain glaciers and ice caps in this area. It will help people have a better understanding on how the climate warming has changed our planet and spare the idea of eco-environmental protection.

Socio-Economic Impact

Describe all socio-economic impacts of the project (employment, infrastructure, education, additional income, training, improved quality of life, etc)

1. Reduce the loss of the local herders caused by wild carnivores preying on livestock.
2. Increase the income of local herders from the protection of wildlife.
3. Promote the community to become the main body of protection activities.
4. Increase the exchange between the tradition and modernity in Tibetan area and outside.

Youth Engagement and Participation

Explain how the project engage with the youth and any notable contributions by youth to the project.

1. The PhD students who are working on snow leopard research will show the local youth how education could change one's life. It may reduce the drop-out rates in this area.
2. The youth will have more opportunities to talk with people from outside. Those people will bring new information to the youth and help them learn more about the world.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Explain how the project responds to the needs of both women and men and any results in terms of gender equality and women empowerment.

The traditional custom of this area is the male host. Thus, women have few opportunities to access to external affairs and strangers. However, the Nature Watch activity breaks this role. Even though the men of the host family are still responsible for the communication and guide, the women have an opportunity to contact the strangers because they need to cook and prepare the room for the visitors. Those women's warm-hearted and thoughtful is impressed by visitors. The visitors in turn would love to keep contact with those women and encourage them to explore their interests in their life. Besides, visitors bring the new idea which man and woman are equal to the community. It accelerates the blending of traditional culture and modern civilization.

Replication, scaling-up and policy impact

Describe any efforts to replicate, or up-scale the project or if it had policy influence at local, regional or national level with details of which partners were engaged, etc.

1. Share the concept of nature observation in SLT community training, getting recognition of community staff in other countries, and hoping to promote this event to more countries with snow leopard.
2. Hope that the assessment of conflicts between human and wildlife would better improve the existing compensation system for human-wildlife conflict insurance.

Lessons learned

Explain the main lessons learned by the project

Due to the workflow of local governments is relatively slow and conservative, it is better to be patient, and get much communication with relevant staff, as well as continuously publicize the project concept to the public. Sometimes, it is also important to work with 1-2 households with the permission of local governments, so that everyone can see the effect of the project and can better accept the project concept and its related activities.