

A woman wearing a black cap, a red jacket, and blue checkered overalls is kneeling in a forest. She is reaching out to touch a mossy tree trunk. The forest floor is covered in moss and fallen branches. The background shows more trees and foliage.

**SGP** The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



# GEF SGP China Results Report 2024 - 2025

# INTRODUCTION

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a community-led programme funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to address global environmental issues. Through decentralized operations at the national level, SGP empowers and improves the skills of local civil society organizations, especially women, indigenous people, youth and people with disabilities.

As a GEF-supported project, the SGP plays an important role in achieving the objectives of the multilateral environmental agreements by leveraging GEF dedicated funds and matching funds from communities, government departments and other donors.

SGP promotes intersectoral and integrated solutions to address environmental challenges by ensuring community inclusion and local stakeholder engagement and contributes to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Since its launch in July 2009, SGP China has funded 217 projects in 27 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in China, with grants totaling US \$10,303,980.

## Project Footprint



27 PROVINCES



765,711 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

### GEF Small Grants Programme in China

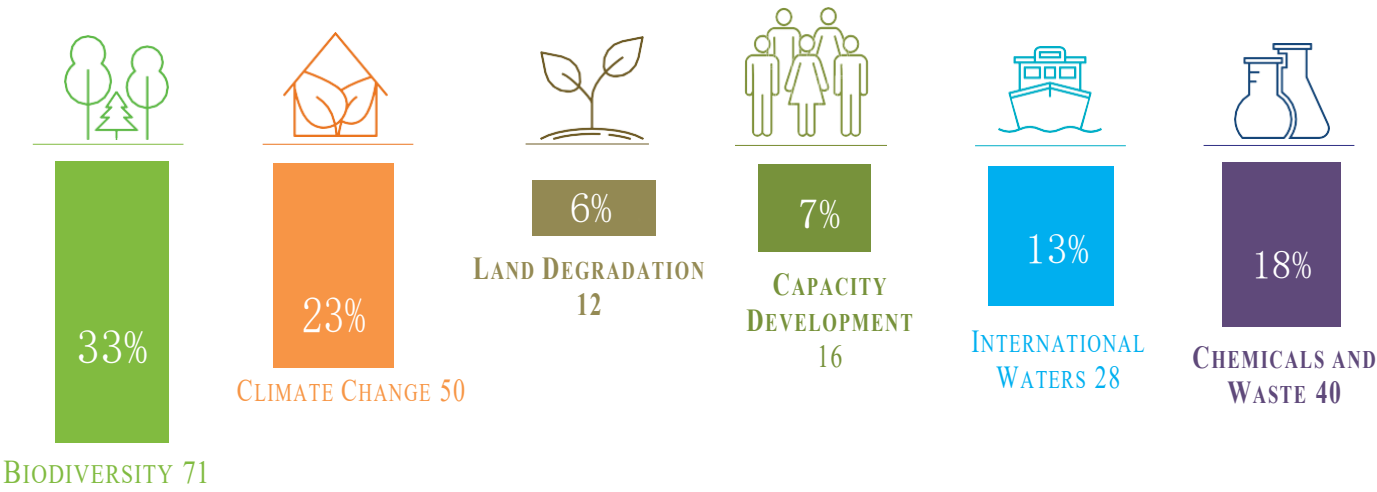


- About **1,525,045 hectares** of biodiversity are protected, with **56 community protected areas**
- About **733 hectares** of degraded land have been restored or improved
- About **2,007 km** of coastline and **1224 hectares** of important sea areas are protected
- About **765,711 households** directly benefited

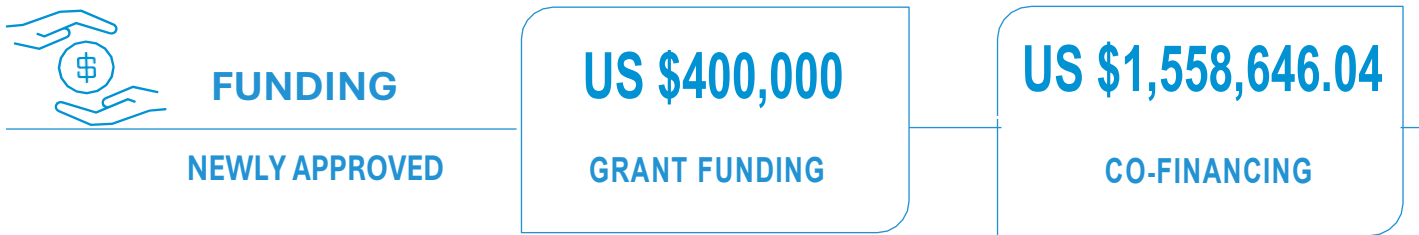
#### Focal Area:

- Biodiversity (71)
- Capacity Development (16)
- Chemicals and Waste (40)
- Climate Change (50)
- International Waters (28)
- Land Degradation (12)

# Focal Area Distribution



This report presents SGP’s results for the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025, in alignment with the GEF reporting year.



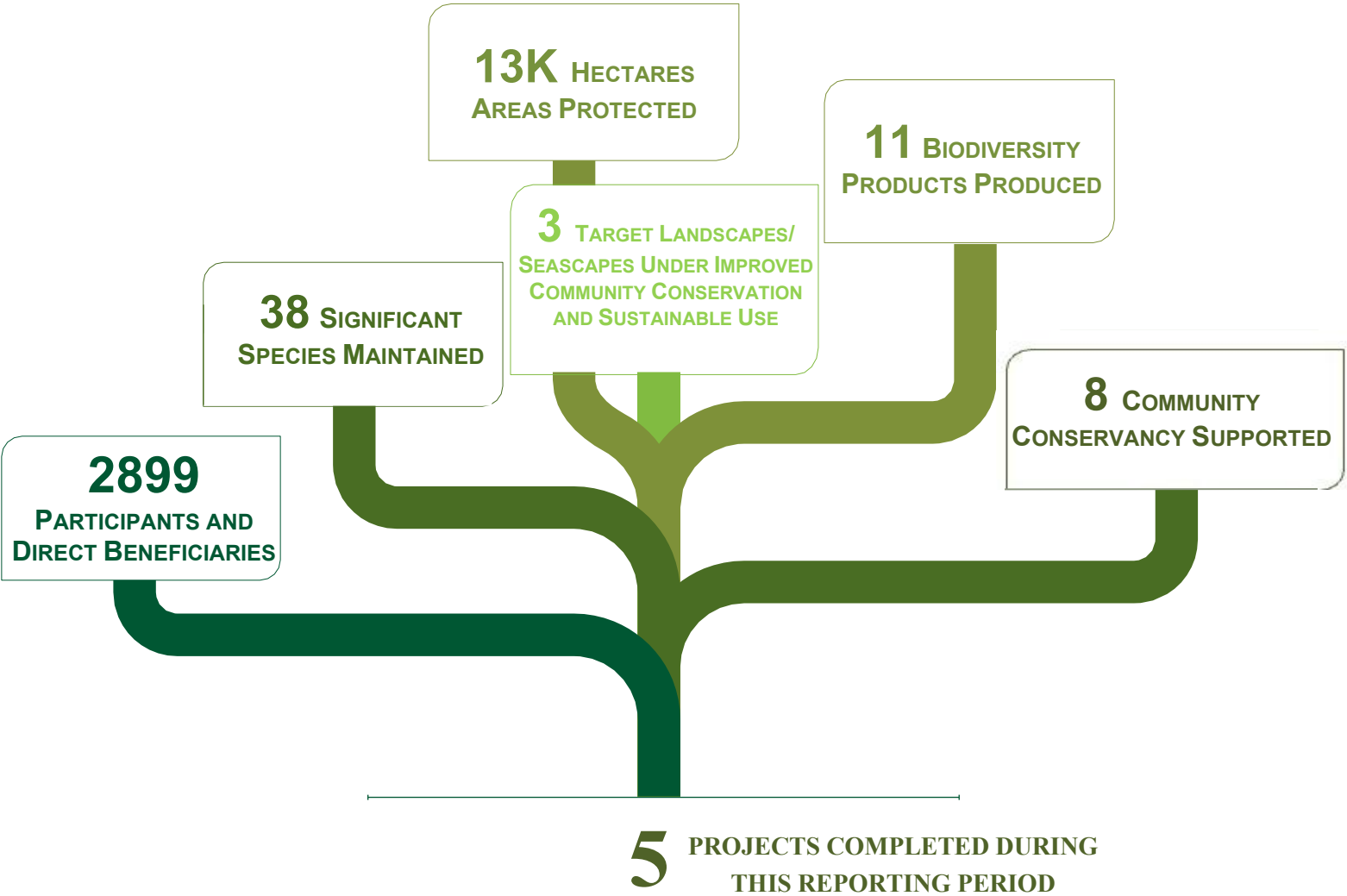
# Progress Towards Focal Area Objectives

Most SGP projects continue to have multiple benefits and integrated approaches with relevance to more than one focal area. However, to simplify the counting and avoid duplication, this report is completed by summarizing and categorizing those projects based on their core areas of contribution.



## BIODIVERSITY

SGP’s biodiversity focal area portfolio supported improvements in the management effectiveness of protected areas and in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors. Support towards creation and management of Indigenous Peoples and Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) are a key part of SGP’s biodiversity portfolio.



# Project of Alpine Meadow Seed Diversity Conservation and Communities' Degraded Grassland Restoration in Qumalai County, Qinghai

(January 2023 – February 2025)

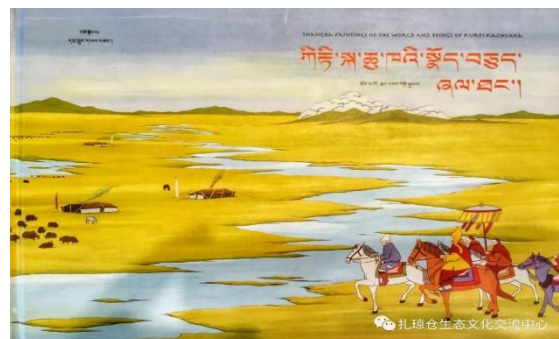
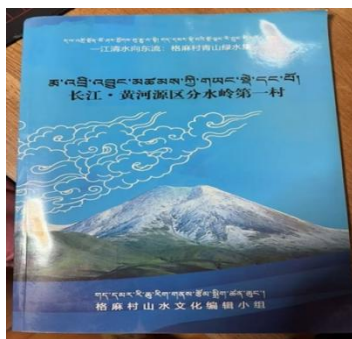
Implementing organization: Beijing Fuqun Social Service Center

Grant funding: 50,000 USD

Co-financing: 203,500 CNY

The Three-River-Source Region, located on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, is where China's three major rivers, the Yangtze, Yellow, and Lancang-originate. It is highly sensitive to global climate change. Alpine meadow degradation, caused by climate change, overgrazing, and rodents, makes restoring the grassland very challenging. This is especially true in Gema and Bufu villages. The rough terrain with deep valleys makes mechanical planting costly and hard to implement. Using non-native grass species and lacking follow-up care often lead to further degradation or even desertification.

Since the project's implementation, the following achievements have been made: 1) The project elevated grass planting initiatives to biodiversity conservation efforts, promoting the planting of perennial grass seeds in severely degraded areas. It encouraged active participation from 61 herder households (including 17 females) in Gema Village and Bufu Village, resulting in the collection of 300 kg of grass seeds over two years and the restoration of 500 acres of grassland. The germination rate of perennial grass seeds reached 50%, exceeding expectations; 2) The project supported 13 herder households in piloting forage planting on 300 acres of land. The forage was sold to herders in the same village and surrounding areas at prices 45% lower than market rates, enabling sustainable operation of the forage base and benefiting over 50 herder households; 3) In Bufu Village, the project promoted livestock structure optimization by introducing sheep breeds adapted to degraded grasslands, effectively stabilizing herders' income. Breeding experts were invited to provide guidance on efficient breeding techniques, and sustainable grazing and degraded grassland restoration plans were developed for both villages; 4) Agreements were made with both villages to expand restoration areas, adding rotational grazing and key protection zones for grass seed collection (including 1,000 acres of protected natural grass seed collection areas). Additionally, herders were assisted in reaching acquisition agreements with other Tibetan pastures to purchase perennial grass seeds at 50% below market prices, further enriching the types of grass seed resources.



# Project of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tibetan Agricultural Biodiversity Based on Traditional Knowledge in the World Natural Heritage Site of Three Parallel Rivers

(January 2023 – February 2025)

Implementing organization: Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

Grant funding: 50,000 USD

Co-financing: 50,000 CNY

The Diqing Plateau in Yunnan Province not only nurtures rich biodiversity resources but also is a rare area where multiple ethnic groups, various religious beliefs and customs coexist. Meanwhile, traditional varieties, agricultural knowledge and biodiversity are rapidly being lost, and there is an urgent need for systematic protection and sustainable utilization.

The project has achieved the following results: 1) More than 10 field investigations have been completed, covering over 1,000 hectares of agricultural, forestry and pastoral livelihood landscapes in high mountain and canyon areas; Published 3 scientific and technological papers, authored 1 monograph of 270,000 words, and wrote 2 comprehensive investigation reports. 2) A 52-minute documentary titled "The Power of the Land" was produced, 12 short videos and a film were made for education. 3) Complete the construction of the Agricultural Biodiversity Exhibition Hall in Kegong Village; Establish a development path for characteristic products mainly based on high-altitude rice and mountain honey, supplemented by matsutake mushrooms, Cordyceps sinensis, etc., and identify and solve the problems in product development. 4) Free distribution of high-quality high-altitude rice seeds enabled all 71 households in the village to achieve bountiful harvests. Eight households are involved in rice sales, two households in honey sales, and two community sales agents are appointed. Thirty-six contracted households received management fees ranging from 500 to 3,000 CNY, and the average annual income of the demonstration households increased by more than 3,000 CNY. 5) Seven community protected areas and seed gardens have been established, with a total protected area exceeding 700 hectares. A crop variety exchange meeting was held, directly benefiting 100 people (half male and half female), and indirectly benefiting over 200 people, promoting the normalization of seed exchanges. 6) Hire one villager as a project assistant (with a subsidy of over 4,000 CNY) and provide a subsidy of over 5,000 CNY to the logistics villagers during the training period. Support women's organizations in leading seed exchange activities to enhance the community's capacity for protection and inheritance.



# Demonstration Project of Pollinating Insects Protection in Hilly Areas of Chongqing

(January 2023 – February 2025)

Implementing organization: Chongqing Zoological Society

Grant funding: 50,000 USD

Co-financing: 284,972.72 CNY

In the hilly areas of Chongqing, many semi-natural habitats such as grasslands and forests have been converted into farmland. Meanwhile, some steep mountainous farmlands, due to abandonment, are overgrown with weeds and shrubs, which is not conducive to providing habitats and feeding grounds for pollinating insects. At the same time, intensive agricultural production methods such as extensive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and unified management have led to the decline of farmland biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem service functions. The decline of pollinating insects has led to a decrease in the yield and quality of some crops that require pollination by pollinating insects, such as rapeseed and melons and fruits, affecting farmers' production and income and increasing the input of additional labor such as artificial pollination. Therefore, enhancing the diversity of local pollinating insects, improving pollination efficiency, increasing farmers' income and raising their awareness of biodiversity conservation are the main directions of this project.

To address the issues, the project team implemented comprehensive measures to promote the virtuous cycle of the agricultural ecosystem. The project has achieved the following achievements: 1) Sustainable management was implemented for approximately 105 mu (7 ha) of forest land in Yinghuo Valley Farm. Seven combinations of wildflower belts that attract pollinating insects were designed and constructed, effectively maintaining and improving the survival conditions of five or more important species populations. 2) Systematic buffer zone planting planning and construction work was carried out in two Farms. Among them, 12 wildflower buffer zones were built in Jianshan Farm and 24 in Yinghuogu Farm. The wildflower belts of the two farms cover an area of over a hundred mu, and the landscape area promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural management exceeds 40 mu (2.67 ha). 3) The above-mentioned areas have completely banned the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They have promoted eco-friendly farming methods such as returning straw to the field, applying organic fertilizers, and intercropping and crop rotation. They have successfully achieved sustainable production of five types of agricultural products, maintained and improved the protection of five important species, and restored the population of nine pollinating insects. 4) The project has successfully carried out five teaching and research activities in two farms and, in collaboration with the local village committee of Jianshan Farm, organized two demonstrations, publicity and promotion training sessions on wildflower belts. A total of 10 online and offline promotional activities has been held, directly benefiting 240 people (100 males and 140 females). A total of more than 210 brochures were distributed. 5) Volunteers guided 12 villagers (5 males and 7 females) to collect wildflower seeds and organized 6 volunteers to participate in 5 activities of collecting, designing and making materials for solitary beehives together with 10 villagers (4 males and 6 females). 6) The "Biodiversity Conservation Techniques for Agricultural Land Remediation," was included in the Ministry of Natural Resources' (First Batch) List of Innovative and Applicable Technologies for Territorial Ecological Restoration. The techniques include the wildflowers' strips and solitary Bee nesting methods developed in the project.



# Demonstration Project of Promoting Conservation of Medicinal Plant Resources and Forests by Community Sustainable Courtyard Economy in Northwest Yunnan

(January 2023 – August 2024)

Implementing organization: Yongsheng Rural Community Development Association

Grant funding: 50,000 USD

Co-financing: 558,900 CNY

Yangping Township is located in a high-altitude mountainous area with rich biological resources. However, in recent years, due to villagers' overreliance on traditional livelihoods, forest degradation, species endangerment, and ecological damage have occurred. This project introduces the "Ama's Medicinal Garden" model to support community women in sustainably cultivating medicinal plants. It replaces wooden garden structures with eco-friendly alternatives, reducing reliance on wild resources. Through training in seedling propagation and circular farming, the project strengthens local livelihoods and raises biodiversity awareness.

The project has achieved the following achievement. 1) Successfully catalyzed the establishment of two community women's self-organizations, formulated and implemented organizational charters, and elected management personnel. This has effectively enhanced the participation awareness and subjective initiative of community women. 2) Conducted a total of 5 training sessions and 1 study tour focusing on innovative development of the ecological economy, medicinal plant cultivation techniques, and observational learning. These activities reached 240 participant-times for training and 56 participant-times for the tour, significantly enhancing the comprehensive skills of community residents, especially women, in ecological planting, medicinal plant propagation. 3) Supported 60 farmer households by contributing labor and efforts to successfully establish "Mother's Medicinal Gardens" demonstration plots with a total area of 93.7 mu (6.25 ha). 4) By promoting artificial propagation techniques for medicinal plants (cultivating 978,000 seedlings) to replace wild harvesting. Standardized cultivation of medicinal plants on 74.6 mu (4.97 ha) is estimated to generate an output value of 1.083 million CNY, achieving an average annual income increase of 10,000 to 20,000 CNY per household. 5) By formulating and implementing village regulations for biodiversity conservation, conducting awareness campaigns (reaching 630 person-times), organizing household waste reduction and classification activities (reducing waste by 8,235.9 kg), and carrying out community "Six Clean-ups" campaign (removing 11,350 kg of waste). 6) The project has not only brought direct economic benefits and environmental protection outcomes but also enhanced the community's capacity to cope with economic vulnerability, raised residents' awareness of ecological conservation, and through women's self-organization and skills training.





## CHEMICALS AND WASTE

**2 PROJECTS**

COMPLETED DURING  
THE REPORTING PERIOD

**50,862.91 TONS**

SOLID WASTE PREVENTED OR  
REDUCED

### Demonstration Project of Waste Management and Integrated Utilization in Nanzhuang Village, Cuicun Township, Changping District, Beijing

(October 2021 -July 2024)

Implementing organization: Beijing Shijingshan A'niu Public Welfare Development Center

Grant funding: 50,000 USD

Co-financing: 211,000 CNY

Nanzhuang Village is in an ecological conservation area. A large amount of vacant land is facing reclamation and cultivation, and the ecological environment urgently needs to be restored. Meanwhile, the garbage classification work in Nanzhuang Village is relatively weak, and villagers have not yet developed the habit of classifying garbage independently at the source. Since the implementation of the project, through systematic waste management and ecological construction, significant improvements have been achieved in environmental, economic and social benefits. The main achievements are as following.

1) The environment of all 21 administrative villages in the town has been significantly improved, driving the prosperity of various industries. The average annual rental income of farmers has increased by 20,000 to 50,000 CNY, the sales income of agricultural products has increased by 5,000 to 10,000 CNY, and the cultural and tourism services have brought an average annual income of 200,000 to 1,000,000 CNY to each village. 2) After the implementation of garbage classification, the efficiency of sanitation collection and transportation has been improved, the working environment for workers has been enhanced, and the costs of labor and materials have been significantly reduced. The operation of sanitation in the entire town has become more efficient and sustainable. 3) Through on-site composting of kitchen waste and resource recycling, a total of 5,789.54 tons of kitchen waste and 45,000 tons of agricultural and forestry waste have been processed, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 9,228 tons, equivalent to saving 16.57 million kilowatt-hours of electricity in carbon emissions. A total of 965 community residents (260 males, 531 females and 174 children) have received learning and education on the theme activities related to domestic waste classification. 5) Incubate village-level volunteer organizations, enhance villagers' participation and grassroots collaboration capabilities, and provide replicable experiences for the sustainable development of villages across the country.



# Demonstration Project of Comprehensive Management of Recyclable Plastic Infusion Bottles and Bags at Digital Empowerment for Medical Institutions

(August 2023 – February 2025)

Implementing organization: China National Resource Recycling Association

Grant funding: 50,000 USD

Co-financing: 307,404.45 CNY

Medical institutions are significant sources of municipal solid waste. Among the waste generated, uncontaminated infusion bottles (bags), packaging materials, and discarded electronics are recyclable. Taking Huanggang City as an example of the challenges in recyclables management, the annual consumption of infusion bottles (bags) reaches about 3,200 tons, yet only about 55.9% of medical institutions currently use designated enterprises for recycling. Electronic traceability systems have not been widely adopted, resulting in significant gaps in full-process supervision.

This project, through the implementation of demonstration construction, systematically enhances recyclables in medical institutions and promotes the improvement of recyclable waste management in medical institutions. Key achievements include 1) Through the training of 272 health workers and the distribution of 650 manuals, medical staff improved waste sorting efficiency by 18%. In Hong'an County, the recycling volume of plastic and glass infusion bottles increased by 15.89% and 12.5% year-on-year, respectively, demonstrating enhanced process standardization and management effectiveness. 2) The usage rate of the electronic recycling system rose from 0 to 4.26%, covering 469 medical institutions across the county. The system added a scheduled pickup function, achieving a traceability data completeness rate of 91%, effectively addressing issues such as loss of paper records and low statistical efficiency. 3) A total of 28.37 tons of plastic infusion bottles were recycled annually, equivalent to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 42.55 tons. This significantly lowered carbon emissions from plastic production and waste disposal, supporting the *carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals* and promoting green transition. 4) Township health centers improved temporary storage conditions by adding signs and reminder stickers, reducing sorting confusion. Recycling enterprises increased transport efficiency by 20% and reduced operating costs by 15%, making the grassroots recycling system more efficient. 5) The baseline report helped clarify the status of infusion bottle (bag) recycling in Hong'an County. The Health Bureau and Environmental Protection Bureau of Hong'an can now accurately monitor the processing of recyclable plastic infusion bottles (bags) in real time, enhancing administrative efficiency and public trust. 6) Project experiences were shared across 16 provinces in China, contributing to a 20% increase in industry standardization coverage. The baseline report and operational guidelines from Hong'an County provided a basis for local government decision-making, and the demonstration model is being gradually replicated and scaled up.





## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### 1 PROJECT

WAS COMPLETED DURING  
THE REPORTING PERIOD

THE CAPACITIES OF

### 120 CSO

WERE DEVELOPED OR IMPROVED

THE CAPACITIES OF

### 675 PEOPLE

WERE IMPROVED

## Strengthen the Capacity and Collaboration of China's NGO Networking and Participation in the Implementation Process of the CBD and Biodiversity Conservation

(January 2023 – December 2024)

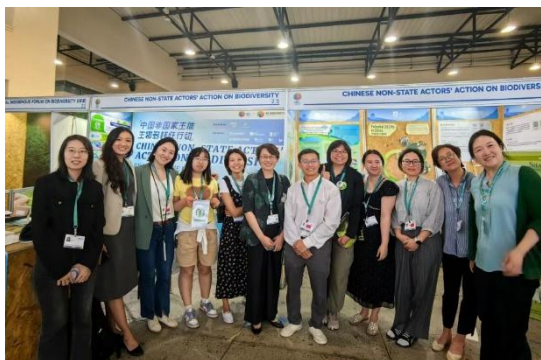
Implementing organization: Beijing Chaoyang District Yongxu Global Environmental Institute

Grant funding: 50,000 USD

Co-financing: 926,272.85 CNY

This project aims to address the challenges faced by Chinese civil society organizations in participating in global biodiversity governance. Building on the network of the Public Welfare Protected Area Alliance and the China Civil Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC) initiated by the Global Environmental Institute (GEI), the project enhanced the capabilities of Chinese civil society in international cooperation. These efforts contribute to achieving the goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Key achievements include: 1) Co-organized five side events and forums during CBD COP15 with over 20 institutions, attracting 215 on-site participants including representatives from international organizations such as the CBD Secretariat, WWF, and TNC, as well as over 20 online participants and more than 100 viewers via official live streams. 2) Conducted seven thematic trainings and multiple workshops focusing on key issues such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), reaching over 280 participants from domestic and international institutions, with females accounting for up to 78% of attendees. The training significantly improved participants' understanding of global biodiversity agendas and their capacity for practical action and advocacy. 3) Organized three field visits to investigate community conservation and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), with a total of 87 participants. 4) Established communication platforms for China-Africa and China-Southeast Asia biodiversity conservation collaboration, engaging over 40 institutions. Produced key knowledge products such as *the Strategic Summary for Promoting OECMs*.







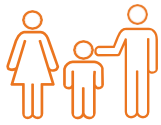


# Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals



# Knowledge and Communications

	30	WEIBO POSTED		24	PROJECTS VISITED TO TRACK PROGRESS
	31	ARTICLES PUBLISHED		86	M&E REPORTS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS REVIEWED
	55	TRAINING SESSION CONDUCTED			
	12	BROCHURES AND PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED			
	1	AWARDS RECEIVED			



## Social Inclusion

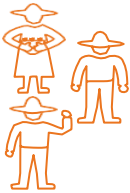
During the reporting period, SGP continued to undertake targeted efforts to support greater social inclusion of marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities.



100% PROJECTS RECEIVED  
GENDER MAINSTREAMING  
TRAINING



5638 INDIGENOUS INDIVIDUALS  
WITH STRENGTHENED  
CAPACITIES



100% GENDER RESPONSIVE  
PROJECTS



4 COMPLETED PROJECTS LED  
BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE



75% PROJECTS LED BY  
WOMEN



3 PROJECTS LOCATED IN  
ETHNIC MINORITY AREAS



2 PROJECTS LED BY YOUTHS





## Livelihoods and sustainability

Improving livelihoods is one of SGP's core strategies. Almost all projects are designed with livelihood enhancing activities that contribute to the improvement of community livelihoods. Strategies to improve livelihoods and quality of life in the completed SGP projects are as follows:

- INCREASED AND/OR DIVERSIFICATION OF INCOME
- INCREASED ACCESS TO MARKETS
- INCREASED ACCESS TO FINANCE
- IMPROVED HEALTH OR ACCESS TO HEALTH FACILITIES
- INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITIONAL VALUE
- INCREASED ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY





The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Established in 1992, SGP is currently active in 127 countries and promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth. SGP has supported over 30,000 community-based projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable land management, conservation of international waters, and chemicals and waste management, while generating sustainable livelihoods.



The GEF is a family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support helps developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$22 billion and mobilized \$120 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 national and regional projects.



UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.



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