



# THE GEF SGP CHINA RESULTS REPORT 2022-2023

# INTRODUCTION

The Small Grants Programme (SGP), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supports community-led initiatives that address global environmental issues. SGP empowers local civil society and community-based organizations, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities, through a decentralized delivery mechanism at the country level.

**COVERAGE**  **26 Provinces**



Since its inception in China in 2009, SGP has implemented 173 projects in 26 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government of China, benefiting 630,891 households.

As a GEF Corporate Programme, with dedicated GEF resources and co-financing from communities, governments, and other donors, SGP plays an important role in meeting the objectives of the multilateral environment agreements.

SGP also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030, by ensuring social inclusion and local stakeholder involvement in initiatives that promote multi-sectoral and integrated solutions to environmental challenges.

Since its inception in China in July 2009, SGP has supported 173 projects in 26 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in China, providing grants totaling US\$8.32 million.



**630,891 Beneficiary households**

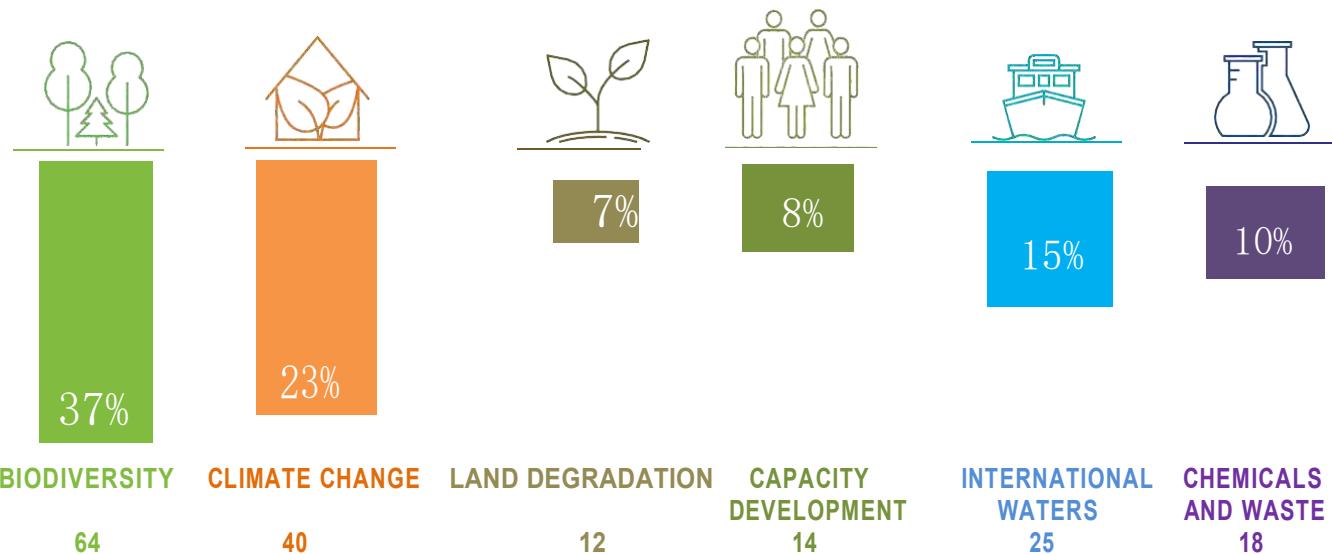
## Focal Area:

- Biodiversity (64)
- Capacity Development (14)
- Chemicals and Waste (18)
- Climate Change (40)
- International Waters (25)
- Land Degradation (12)

**SGP** The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



## FOCAL AREA DISTRIBUTION



## METHODOLOGY

This report presents the results for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Therefore, the project results only count the projects that have been completed during the reporting year.



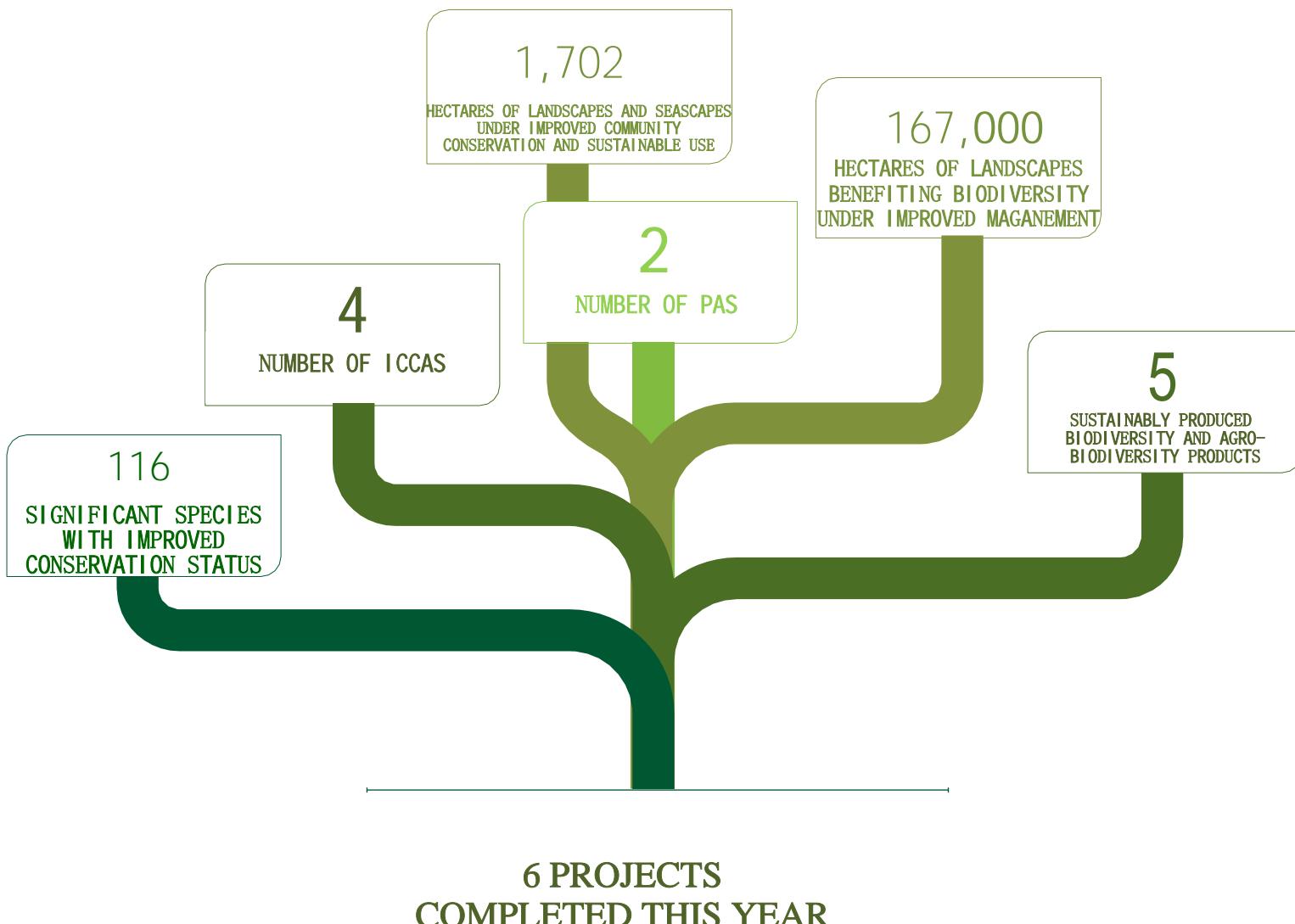
# PROGRESS TOWARDS FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES

While most SGP projects benefit multi-focal area results, for reporting purposes we have reported based on the primary focal area of each project.

## BIODIVERSITY



SGP's biodiversity focal area projects support improvements in management effectiveness of protected area systems and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes and seascapes, and related sectors. Support towards creation and management of Indigenous Peoples and Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) are also a key part of the SGP's biodiversity portfolio.



# **Sichuan Xinlong County Snow Leopard Community Conserved Area Establishment and Snow Leopard Conservation Network Outreach Project**

(6/2019 - 8/2022)

Grantee: Chongqing Jiangbei Feidi Felid Alliance Ecological Conservation Center of Popular Science

Grant Amount: 50,000 USD

Cofinancing: 147,432 CNY

The project site is located in Tongxiao Township, Xinlong County, in the middle of Ganzi prefecture of Sichuan, and in the middle of north of Saruri mountains. The area is geographically remote and the transportation is inconvenient. The grantee organization started wildlife investigation in 2015 and found 7 animals of the cat family and 11 ungulate species. It was the first time that snow leopard and Felis bieti were found in this area. The snow leopards in Xinlong County belong to the snow leopard population of the Shaluli Mountains, which is characterized by narrow distribution and can be easily affected by human interference and climate change.

The project achieved the following results: 1) A snow leopard conserved area covering about 204 square kilometers was established. 2) A conservation team was established in the local village, with 21 core members and 5 volunteers. 3) 7 offline trainings were completed, containing knowledge of snow leopard and ecosystem, infrared camera monitoring skills, human-animal conflict investigation and social media communication skills, with a total of 200 people trained. 4) A joint conservation action plan for the Xinlong conserved area was jointly formulated by the Xinlong County Forestry and Grassland Bureau, the local community and the project team. 5) The community conservation team conducted 37 patrols and produced one report of wildlife infrared camera monitoring.



# Project of Community Livelihood Improvement and Conserved Area Strengthening in Three Parallel Rivers Area (Lijiang)

(5/2021- 8/2022)

Grantee: Xi'an Lianhu Yingzaishengcun Public Service Center

Grant Amount: 50,000 USD

Cofinancing: 12,000 CNY

The project site is located in the hinterland of Laojunshan National Park in the parallel region of the Three Rivers (Lijiang). It belongs to Liming Lisu Town, Yulong Naxi Autonomous County, Lijiang City, Yunnan Province. There are 12 community-conserved areas (CCAs) established in Liguang Village, 8 CCAs in Liming Village, and 6 CCAs in Jinhe Village, covering a total area of approximately 170,235 mu (11,349 hectares). The CCAs are mainly self-governed by villages through community rules and regulations. CCAs not only provide a foundation for sustainable development, but also conserve the biodiversity in the area. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these CCAs faced many challenges in terms of livelihood. The project aims to promote the diversification of villagers' livelihoods, help them achieve sustainable living, and consolidate CCA management.

The project achieved the following results: 1) The project has conducted 5 trainings and 4 exchange meetings for villagers, distributed quince planting management manuals, helped villagers understand the importance of refined management skills and enhanced villagers' skills in planting Chinese quince (*Cydonia oblonga*). 2) The project has led 50 households to plant more than 2000 Chinese quinces with a survival rate exceeding 95%. Planting Chinese quinces on one mu (1 mu = 0.067 hectare) of land can generate an income ranging from 2,700 to 8,000 yuan, which is an average increase of more than 1,200 yuan for villagers compared to planting maize. 3) A women sustainable development group has been established, and each woman was provided with loans of 2,000-5,000 yuan to support the diversification of their livelihoods. 4) An agricultural product exhibition in Xi'an has been organized with more than 100 participants, contributing to villagers' signing letters of intent for cooperation with three companies. 5) Improved the agricultural product system in the CCAs, compiled a standard for agricultural product specifications and processes, redesigned agricultural product packaging, and promoted a 30% increase in agricultural product prices. 6) Completed a self-assessment report and publicized it in 8 media. By participating in public affairs such as development projects and CCA management, villagers have strengthened their understanding and management capability of CCA, obtained necessary financial, information and material support. The implementation of this project has promoted community mutual assistance and solidarity, increased income of villagers, and promoted the sustainable development of CCAs.



# Demonstration Project of Chinese Herbal Medicine Planting Management in Zhouqu County of Gansu Province

(5/2021 - 8/2022)

Grantee: Tianshui Longyou Environmental Conservation Association (TLECA)

Grant Amount: 50,000 USD

Cofinancing: 28,083 CNY

The project site is in the Baleng Township, Zhouqu County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province. The total area of the township is 9,066.7 hectares, the cultivated land area is 652.2 hectares, the average cultivated land per farmer is about 0.15 hectares, the forest area is 3726 hectares, and the grassland area is 3940 hectares. The area of cultivated land per capita is limited in Baleng Township, especially Jinqiangou in Xiepo Village where the cultivated land area is restricted by water source protection. Planting Chinese herbal medicines under the trees and developing the Chinese herbal medicine industry without destroying the existing ecological environment is one way for Baleng Township to develop economy and protect the environment at the same time. The proportion of migrant workers there is relatively high. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, on the one hand, the demand for Chinese herbal medicines in the domestic and foreign markets has increased, and on the other hand, the opportunities for villagers to work in cities have been greatly reduced. The development of the Chinese herbal medicine industry can help the villagers of Jinqiangou in Xiepo Village, Baleng Township to make a living in their hometown.

The project has achieved the following results: 1) Investigation: 21 community surveys and visits have been conducted to promote communication among stakeholders and project monitoring and supervision; 2) Planting of Chinese herbs medicine: With the support of Zhouqu County Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau and Baleng Township Government, 12 community meetings has been held, approving 10 hectares of land for demonstration planting of Chinese medicinal materials and 3.3 hectares of water conservation forest construction area, benefiting 168 households with a total of 696 people including 194 women. 3) Construction of water conservation forest base: The seedlings of the water conservation forest are purchased with project funds, and are jointly constructed and managed by Yingshan Village, Xiabanshan Village and Xiepo Village. The forest established would be collectively owned by Yingshan Village. In March 2022, the construction of the water conservation forest was fully completed, with a total of 5,000 spruce seedlings planted, 3.3 hectares of afforestation with a survival rate of more than 95%. 4) Skill trainings: During the project, a total of 4 training sessions on Chinese herb medicines planting, harvesting and processing skills were organized, containing theoretical training, on-site observation and field operation to strengthen the field management, harvesting, processing and market analysis capabilities of farmers, complement the knowledge and experience gaps of farmers in planting Chinese medicinal materials, and expand market information and technical service channels. A total of about 1,300 people participated in the training, of which more than half were women. 5) Bilingual project communication materials in Chinese and English were completed to further expand the influence of the demonstration project.

In June 2022, with the assistance of various departments in Zhouqu County, the project invited external experts to carry out the effectiveness evaluation. The evaluation results showed that the project completed activities as planned and achieved the goals, with some results exceeded the targets. The project results have played a positive role in promoting the industrial transformation and economic development of Xiepo village and Banshan village, and will bring ecological benefits to the water source of the Yingshan village in the future.





2

PROJECTS COMPLETED  
THIS YEAR

5

ENERGY PROGRAMMES  
DEMONSTRATED

363

HOUSEHOLDS  
GAINED SYNERGIES

## Demonstration Project on Mitigating Climate Change and Promoting Clean Heating in Sanjiangyuan Area

(6/2019 - 8/2022)

Grantee: China Energy Conservation Association (CECA)

Grant Amount: USD 50,000

Cofinancing: CNY 10,374,100

The average altitude of the Sanjiangyuan area is more than 4,000 meters. Due to high altitude and long heating period, the local traditional heating mainly rely on coal and cow dung, resulting in serious environmental pollution. As of the end of 2017, the heating building area in Qinghai Province was about 380 million square meters, of which 147 million square meters were clean heating area, and the clean heating rate was 39%; there were 233 million square meters of non-clean heating area, mainly distributed in the vast agricultural and pastoral areas and some counties and towns. In November 2018, the Qinghai Provincial Government issued the "Three-Year Action Implementation Plan for Blue Sky Defense in Qinghai Province (2018-2020)", proposing to actively promote clean heating in winter, but encountered many difficulties in the actual promotion process, and the clean heating transformation work in some areas and departments was stagnant.

The project has implemented clean heating technology transformation in three pilot sites, namely Tibetan Boarding School in Zalinghu Township, Maduo County, Deji Jiayuan Community in Huangnan Prefecture, and Tibetan Hospital in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, achieving annual coal replacement of 3,037 tons, annual savings of 1,825.16 tons of standard coal, and carbon dioxide emissions reduction of 4,342.55 tons. It can save a total of 1.3 million yuan in energy costs each year, achieving significant environmental and economic benefits.

Specific results include: 1) The air source heat pump demonstration project of the Tibetan Boarding School in Zalinghu Township, Maduo County was jointly funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme, Zhuoyue New Energy Equipment Co., Ltd. and Hisense Kelon Electric Appliance Co., Ltd. The total investment of the project is 1.221 million yuan, and the heating area is 1,870 square meters. The project was completed at the end of September 2019, and the State Grid completed the power connection in December 2019. 2) The clean heating project of the electric heating unit of Deji Jiayuan in Huangnan Prefecture: The project is operated in an energy cost trusteeship mode, that is, Zhuoyue New Energy Equipment Co., Ltd. would advance funds for the construction of the project in the early stage, and after operation, the heating fee will be charged to the owner to recover the investment cost and obtain reasonable returns. In October 2019, the project construction was completed and debugged and operated normally, with a heating area of 21,530 square meters. 3) The clean heating project of the air source heat pump of the Golog Tibetan Hospital: The project was jointly constructed by Qingdao Haier Air Conditioning Electronics Co., Ltd. and Qinghai Kesheng Complete Equipment Co., Ltd. and was put into operation at the end of September 2020. The heating area reached 15,600 square meters and the building was energy-saving. 4) The project team has summarized the experience and lessons learnt from this project, and put forward policy recommendations for clean heating in the Sanjiangyuan area based on practice, and submit them to the relevant departments of the Provincial Government. 5) A "Case Study Report" was completed to share and publicize during the first China (Qinghai) International Ecological Expo co-organized by the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, and the People's Government of Qinghai Province in June 2021.

# Demonstration Project of Chinese Universities' Low Carbon Transformation

( 6/2019 - 8/2022 )

Grantee: Guangzhou Yuexiu Kelaimeite Environmental Protection Exchange Center (CYCAN)

Grant Amount: 50,000 USD

Cofinancing: 283,500 CNY

Currently, there are nearly 2,000 higher education institutions in China (including undergraduate, junior college, independent and private colleges). As building complexes with highly similar functions and as energy-intensive public space, these institutions bear the important responsibilities of cultivating talent, technological innovation, and promoting sustainable development. The use of college communities as pilots for low-carbon transitions has attracted attention from a variety of stakeholders. The vision of the "Zero Carbon Campus" project, which uses campuses as pioneering pilot communities, is to promote the transition by 2030, and to drive public behavior change through the power of youth.

Main results: 1) Conducted Zero Carbon Campus theme week activities online and offline, including initiating the #ZeroCarbonCampus7DaysAdvacation# Weibo interactive theme week with 144 volunteers sharing their creative low-carbon action, collaborating with 13 college clubs to conduct the "Zero Carbon Campus, Entropy Reduction Life" theme week, and creating "Zero Carbon Campus" quiz section on the Alipay Answer Planet. 2) Compiled three research reports: "Global Low-Carbon Campus Case Compilation" included 26 low-carbon transition cases from 24 universities worldwide, "Baseline Assessment Report on Carbon Emissions in Chinese Universities—A Study Based on Energy Consumption Data from 15 Representative Schools 2017-2019" provided carbon emission calculation methods for school energy management personnel and campus energy-saving workers to conduct campus carbon emission verification, and "Study Report on the Path to Carbon Neutrality in Chinese Universities" outlined possible paths for universities to achieve carbon neutrality goals, providing guidance and reference for campus energy-saving and carbon-reduction, aiding in the construction of zero-carbon campuses. 3) Organized roundtable forum "Academic Symposium on Carbon Neutrality and Low-Carbon Campus Construction in Yunnan Universities" twice for campus managers, attended by nearly 40 representatives from universities in Yunnan Province, the China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN) and related enterprises. 4) Established the "CYCAN Zero Carbon Campus Demonstration Site" at Yunnan Normal University, supporting the Department of Energy and Environmental Science in inventorying different energy-consuming facilities in their buildings, and formulated a zero-carbon operation plan. Based on the successful collaboration, a low-carbon campus science competition was held from July to December in 2022 to further promote and showcase the results and impact of the demonstration site. 5) Released one video titled "Zero Carbon Transition: From Campus to City," 53 WeChat articles with a total of 20,823 reads, and 167 Weibo posts with 1,930,893 reads.





1

PROJECT COMPLETED

30 TONS

LAND-BASED POLLUTION  
REDUCED

1035 HECTARES

MARINE LANDSCAPE  
PROTECTED AND  
SUSTAINABLY MANAGED

1

TARGET MARINE  
LANDSCAPE  
SUPPORTED

## Pilot Project of Promoting Conservation and Sustainable Development of Fishery Communities in Sanniang Bay of Guangxi

(12/2019 - 8/2022)

Grantee: Nanning Green Seed Poverty Alleviation Service Center

Grant Amount: 48,906 USD

Cofinancing: 100,000 CNY

The project is located in the restricted red line area of the Sanniang Bay Chinese White Dolphin concentration distribution area and the restricted red line area of the Sanniang Bay important coastal tourism area, as delineated in the "Guangxi Marine Ecological Red Line Demarcation Plan". In addition to the Chinese white dolphin, the benthic biodiversity represented by the horseshoe crabs is also extremely rich in this region, which has great ecological and economic value. However, in the past two decades, the ecological resources and native cultures of Beibu Gulf have faced exploitation and changes under the rapid development of the region. Coastal erosion, siltation, pollution, degradation, reduction of intertidal wetlands, and declining biodiversity are the main challenges facing this region.



Mains results: 1) Conducted six surveys with participatory methods in Sanniang Bay Village, Wulei Village and Dahan Village about the conservation and utilization status of the marine ecosystem and key species (Chinese White Dolphin, horseshoe crab, and mangroves) as well as traditional fishing village culture. The project team collaborated with the anthropology expert team from Guangxi University for Nationalities, and their paper "Construction of Folk Beliefs and Social Order in Marine Immigrant Communities - Based on the Investigation of Sanniang Granny in Qinzhou" won the university's Best Paper Award. 2) Monitored the fishing situation in Sanniang Bay and summarized the main reasons for the decrease in catch, enhancing the understanding of the fishermen's livelihood status. 3) Mobilized local villagers to release a total of 1,453 horseshoe crabs, including 1,366 Chinese horseshoe crabs and 87 round-tailed horseshoe crabs. 4) Held a project summary meeting in Sanniang Bay, where experts, scholars, and villagers explained scientific knowledge such as data collection on Chinese White Dolphins, advocating for friendly dolphin watching and the protection. 5) Led local villagers in hand-drawing maps of the natural and cultural resources of Sanniang Bay community, provided materials for the Sanniang Bay Traditional Fishing Village Guidebook. 6) Carried out rich marine ecological culture education activities for local youth, such as eco-vegetable gardens, beach cleaning concerts, environmental book corner in Sanniang Bay Primary School, visits to the Chinese White Dolphin Museum. 7) Designed traditional fishing village tourism projects combined with local ecological culture, compiled "Sanniang Bay Eco-Cultural Tour Guide Handbook," and trained 10 village tour guides, receiving positive feedback from over 50 tourists. 8) Established an eco-inn demonstration site at Sanniang Bay Railway Station, advocated the reduction of single-use plastics and friendly dolphin watching, shared the tour guide handbook, and cooperated with local villagers on eco-vegetable gardens and eco-food for tourists. 9) Compiled the case "Multi-Stakeholders Platform for Coastal Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Livelihood in Sanniang Bay in Guangxi, South China," which was included in the eighth issue of the Satoyama Initiative Case Study Report.



# CHEMICALS AND WASTE

1

PROJECT  
COMPLETED

3400 TONS

SOLID WASTE  
REDUCED

1000 KG

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS  
FROM RELEASES

## Demonstration Project of Sustainable Urban Community in Kunming City

(1/2021 - 3/2023)

Grantee: China Association of Electronics Equipments for Technology Development (CAEETD)

Grant Amount: 50,000 USD

Cofinancing: 10,137 CNY

Starting from 2021, China Association of Electronics Equipments for Technology Development (CAEETD), in collaboration with Kunming Yuanrunxiang Renewable Resources Industry Management Co. LTD and Yunnan Urban Construction Property Group Co. LTD, implemented the "Demonstration Project of Sustainable Urban Community in Kunming City". The project selected three communities in Xishan District and Guandu District of Kunming as samples and gradually expanded to 16 streets in 4 districts, focusing on promoting sustainable practices in communities, conducting various publicity activities to guide residents in waste sorting, recycling, and energy-saving habits, thereby improving sustainable community management.

Main results: 1) Conducted 30 publicity activities in 12 residential communities, including Yinhai Forest Community and Dream by the Lake Community, and 10 schools, including Qiushi Primary School, Yongchang Primary School, and Yunnan Forestry Vocational and Technical College, directly benefiting 3,870 people (1,818 women, 906 children) and indirectly benefiting 7,000 people; 2) Conducted reward exchange activities for waste sorting in 12 communities, covering approximately 15,000 households; 3) Conducted 8 enzyme production activities using kitchen waste, with participants reducing kitchen waste by an average of about 0.6 kg per day per household; 4) Conducted energy-saving bulb replacement activities, replacing 600 incandescent bulbs, which is expected to save 33,000 kWh of electricity per year; 5) Produced a science manual on waste sorting. These activities recycled approximately 1,500 tons of recyclable waste, 500 tons of low-value waste, 1 ton of hazardous waste, and 1,400 tons of kitchen waste, diverting approximately 3,400 tons of solid waste from landfills and incinerators and increasing the overall waste recycling rate by 15%.

Through the implementation of this project, multiple sustainable community demonstration sites have been established in Kunming, which have significantly raised residents' awareness of waste sorting, recycling, and energy conservation, increased waste recycling rates, and reduced carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions. Based on the project results, the project team has developed some policy recommendations, which were submitted to the Yunnan Provincial Government by the relevant departments of the Kunming Municipal Government.





# CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





## SOCIAL INCLUSION

The SGP undertakes 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



100% COMPLETED PROJECTS WERE GENDER SENSITIVE



90% COMPLETED PROJECTS WERE LED BY WOMEN



14248

ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED CAPACITIES



2

COMPLETED PROJECTS LED BY ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLES



6

COMPLETED PROJECTS LOCATED IN ETHNIC MINORITY AREAS



2

PROJECTS LED BY YOUTH



## KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNICATIONS



22 POSTS IN SINA WEIBO



24 ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN SGP CHINA WEBSITE



50 NUMBER OF TRAININGS CONDUCTED



9 BROCHURES AND PUBLICATIONS DEVELOPED



4 NUMBER OF AWARD-WINNING PROJECT

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION



8 PROJECT SITES WERE VISITED



71 PROJECT & FINANCIAL REPORTS WERE REVIEWED



## LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Improving livelihoods is a core strategy of the SGP in addressing global environmental issues. Almost all projects have designed activities to improve livelihoods or contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of communities. Below are the strategies used by completed SGP programmes to improve livelihoods.

- INCREASED DIVERSIFICATION OF INCOME (DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-TOURISM, ECO-FOOD, HANDICRAFTS)
- IMPROVED HEALTH OF COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING TRAINING
- INCREASED INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE OF COMMUNITY (BUILD GARBAGE POOL)





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's grantmaking in over 125 countries 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 26,000 community-based projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaption, sustainable land management, conservation of international waters, and chemicals and waste management, while generating sustainable livelihoods.



The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a catalyst for action on the environment — and much more. Through its strategic investments, the GEF works with partners to tackle the planet's biggest environmental issues. Our funding also helps reduce poverty, strengthen governance and achieve greater equality between women and men. As such, we occupy a unique space in the global partnership for a more sustainable planet.



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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