



NEWS

Celebration of Dutch Youth Ranger Corridor Creation

On May 14, WWF China, the Shaanxi Forestry Department and other local partners celebrated the creation of Dutch Youth Ranger Corridor in Guanyinshan Nature Reserve in Qinling Mountains, Shaanxi Province, planting native bamboo in the corridor to provide food for the giant pandas.



The corridor was built to facilitate the conservation of the Qinling giant pandas as it is expected to enable the two panda subpopulations separated by the National Highway 108 to get reunited. The construction of the highway in 1983 caused a hindrance preventing pandas from both groups meeting each other. This will lead to a loss of genetic variability and fitness of the two panda sub-populations.

The Guanyinshan Nature Reserve was established following a tunnel construction on the highway in 1999 in order to protect the area that is recognized as one of the most important biological corridors for the Qinling giant panda. To mitigate the continued human disturbance to panda habitat, WWF and Guanyinshan Nature Reserve launched the Qinling Tunnel Giant Panda Habitat Management Project to restore the bamboo forest, strengthen management and support sustainable community development in the corridor area in September 2005.

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WWF and TRAFFIC Call for Green Tourism in Tibet

On the opening day of the Qinghai-Tibet railway on July 1, WWF, TRAFFIC and partners distributed brochures to train passengers and visitors to the region, asking them to refrain from buying products made from such endangered species as tigers and Tibetan antelopes as a way to mitigate the likely increasing damages to ecosystem in Tibet Autonomous Region.

Activities

“Windows On the Wild (WOW)” Opened in Shangri-La

The first biodiversity education workshop called the “Windows On the Wild” (WOW) was jointly held by the government of Yunnan Province, WWF China, Education and Capacity Building Programme and the Education Committee of the Jiantang Town in Shangri-la from May 29 to 31. More than 35 representatives from local governments and NGOs, middle and primary schools and nature reserves took part in the workshop conducted by International Environmental Education (EE) experts.

ESD Workshop in Tibet Plateau Kicked Off



Jointly organized by WWF, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Center of Qinghai Normal University and Sustainable Development Research Institute of Tibet University, a workshop on sustainable education in

Billed as the highest railway in the world, the Qinghai-Tibet line runs over 1,000 kilometres from central China to Lhasa. Environmental groups, including WWF, are concerned that the railway will threaten the fragile ecosystems as more visitors will flood in.

With an average elevation of 4,000 metres, the Tibetan Plateau is the highest and largest plateau on the earth. It shelters a wide array of unique species, including the Tibetan antelope, Tibetan gazelle, snow leopard, brown bear, Bengal tiger and black-necked crane. The plateau is also the source of almost all of Asia's major rivers, including the Yellow, Yangtze, Mekong and Indus.

The Tibetan Plateau remained fairly 'untouched' by travellers from outside the region before the 1980s, when tourism first began. The past years have seen a rocketing increase of tourists from 1,059 in 1980 to 1.22 million in 2004, among which over 90 per cent are domestic tourists nowadays.

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Panda Monitoring and Patrolling Network Set in Qinling

On March 17, WWF launched the Qinling Giant Panda Monitoring and Patrolling Network Project in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. Officials from Shaanxi Forestry Department, professors from universities and research institutes and the management teams of all the giant panda reserves in Qinling area attended the event.



The Shaanxi Forestry Department has established 14 giant panda nature reserves and five corridors in Qinling Mountains, among which eight reserves and all of the corridors were established with WWF's support. In addition, WWF and Shaanxi Forestry Department worked together to establish a monitoring and patrolling network within the giant panda reserves and corridors in Qinling Mountains, where management on a landscape scale used to be difficult due to the inconsistent monitoring methods adopted previously.

A project management committee was organized to enhance the network capacity and provide equipment. Monitoring standards and procedures and an information-sharing network were also set up to enable the forestry department to improve systematically the giant panda conservation management and cooperation with international conservation projects in Qinling Mountains, which could facilitate the overall conservation of the wildlife in the area.

Tibet Plateau was held from May 14 to 19 in Xining, Qinghai Province. John Huckle, an ESD expert from UK's South Bank University presided the training workshop attended by about 40 representatives from universities, local education bureaus and NGOs in adjacent regions.

International Efforts against Wildlife Trade Discussed

High-ranking delegates from China, India and Nepal converged in Beijing to take part in a tri-country meeting on control of the illegal tiger trade in the region from June 12 to 25. The meeting was hosted by State Forestry Administration and CITES with support from WWF and TRAFFIC. A visit to Chengdu and Wolong Nature Reserve in Sichuan Province was organized after the meeting section in Beijing.

EI Shares Its Success in China

China's Ministry of Education, WWF China and BP Company jointly organized an experience-sharing workshop on Environmental Educator's Initiative (EEI) in Beijing on May 26. Launched in 1997, EEI has been regarded as one of the most successful and profound projects on environment and sustainable development education in China with an aim to integrate ESD with China's education system and enterprises.

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Study on Human-wildlife Conflicts in the Chang Tang Nature Reserve Carried Out

The "human-wildlife conflict surveys" jointly launched by WWF and the Chang Tang Nature Reserve Management Bureau in March was carried out throughout six counties of Nyima, Tsonyi, Shenzha, Amdo, Rutok, Gertse, and Gygyal in Tibet Autonomous Region, where researchers had collected conflict data to work out conservation measures.

The ongoing surveys showed that the exciting results of wildlife protection could be overshadowed by the increased population in Chang Tang that has doubled since the 1960'. These conflicts have inflicted economic losses to poor herding families, many of whom have incomes of only 400 US dollars per year. In Chang Tang and the Seling Lake Nature Reserve, herders' livestock, houses and belongings and, sometime, personal safety have become targets preyed on by wild animals. At the same time, the herders' further search for grazing lands in Chang Tang has become so serious that it is regarded as the largest threat to the survival of the species originally inhabiting there.

The understanding and resolving such human-wildlife conflict is the key to build a harmonious coexistence between nomads and wildlife in the Chang Tang Nature Reserve. WWF will share the research outcomes and policy recommendations with local government, donors, and other conservation organizations to address the issue. Lhasa office will also launch a new snow leopard project based on the survey report.

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Joint Action Taken in Reserves in Minshan

A joint action against illegal herbal collection and poaching was successfully completed from May 17 to 23 in six nature reserves within the Minshan region, resulting in finding of 30 people who were instructed how their illegal behaviour could imperil the natural environment.

Supported by WWF with participation from local government, forest department, nature reserves, forest enterprises and forest police, the action consolidated multi-administrative power to strike a heavy blow on those who had tried to escape the legal punishment by running from one administrative region to another, yielding a fruitful success to strengthen local biodiversity conservation as well as accumulated valuable experiences for the future. The action was later featured on China Central Television's



Biodiversity Training (WWF) Held in Sichuan University

Dr. Maria A Salas and Dr. Hermann J Tillmann from IKAP (Indigenous Knowledge and People) — Network Chiang Mai, Thailand were invited to give lectures at a training course on indigenous knowledge and biodiversity jointly staged by WWF and the Life Science School of Sichuan University on March 24 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Around 20 faculties and graduate students from Sichuan University and fraternal universities in Chengdu participated in the 10-day training.

For more information about IKAP-Network, please visit: <http://www.ikap-mmsea.org>.

Shangri-la Education Initiative in Action



A series of activities were held in Shangri-la from March to July as parts of the Shangri-la Sustainable Community Initiative (SSCI) project to promote the local people's awareness of protection to rivers and lakes. WWF China has cooperated with local government authorities, Buddhist monasteries, local People's Liberation Army, nature reserves, schools and communities to support the "Education Initiative for Shangri-la Rivers and Lakes" project.

(CCTV) news channel.

The Minshan area, located in the core upstream of Yangtze River, is one of the most important temperate forest systems in the world, which also provides a cozy shelter to giant panda with good ecosystem and large proportion of habitat in China. However, illegal herbal collection and poaching activities take place in the area rampantly from April to May each year, causing serious impacts on the wild animals. At the same time, firewood collection also brings eco-disaster to the nature reserves.

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The Fourth Anniversary Celebrated to Benefit Lake Hong

On April 14, the WWF-HSBC Yangtze Programme celebrated its fourth anniversary with a symbolic planting of aquatic vegetation and the release of dozens of fish species by Vincent Cheng, Chairman of HSBC China, and Richard Yorke, CEO of HSBC China, into Lake Hong, one of the field sites of the WWF-HSBC Yangtze Programme.



Partnered with HSBC, WWF has significantly improved the water quality of the key areas of Lake Hong to be drinkable again through working with local communities and nature reserves, benefiting not only people living around the lake but also the globally endangered oriental white stork that returned to the lake for the first time in past 12 years.

The local government has committed itself to continuing restoring the whole lake area of 412 square kilometers after it successfully had 50 per cent of the fishing nets removed within past 10 months. The five-year eco-partnership between WWF and HSBC was launched in 2002 with a focus on three lakes in the Hubei Province (Lake Zhangdu, Lake Hong, and Tiane'zhou Oxbow). It now aims at expanding the work across the entire central Yangtze region to heal the complex lake-river ecosystem by restoring significant wetland areas in the Central Yangtze.

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Sluice Gate Opened for Wise Management

The WWF's Yangtze Project saw a leap forward in its WWF-HSBC freshwater initiative on June 2 when the synch-opening of three major sluice gates took place in Anhui Province's Anqing Lake Cluster in the Central Yangtze, reconnecting eight lakes with the main water. With the sluice opening, the beneficial area of the Anqing Lake Cluster has almost doubled to 800 square kilometers

The Wetland Protection Training Held in Wuhan

Over 20 technical staffs from all of the 24 wetland preservation network branches in Hubei Province converged at a five-day training organized by the Hubei Wetland Preservation Network Administration Center from May 23 to 28. The lecturing scholars described the common problems and damages to wetlands to participating trainees, who paid a visit to Zhangdu Lake in Xingzhou District, Wuhan after the indoor training.

Wildlife Trade NGOs Meet in Beijing for Alliance

On April 15, TRAFFIC East Asia – China programme assisted Conservation International (CI) to organize the 7th trade alliance meeting in Beijing. Participants from various NGOs and institutes such as CI, WCS, IFAW, WWF, Save the Tiger Fund and Wildaid discussed how to share and use the data and information on wildlife trade for conservation amongst NGOs.

Director of WWF Global Forest Programme Visited WWF CPO

Mr. Duncan Pollard, Director of WWF Global Forest Programme visited WWF CPO on April 10. During the visit, Mr. Pollard introduced the status of WWF global forest programme. He also discussed problems and difficulties in project

from last years' 448 square kilometers, covering two thirds of the total area now.



“The successive opening of the sluice gates in the Central Yangtze within these two years proves that the efforts of establishing a wise sluice gate management is well paid off,” said Dr. Zhu Jiang, Officer of the WWF-HSBC Yangtze

Programme, WWF China.

WWF has cooperated with HSBC to launch WWF-HSBC freshwater initiative since 2002 to restore the “web of life” along the Yangtze River, the world’s third longest river whose basin covers an area three times larger than that of the England with a natural linkage with 10-odd lakes once. However, dyke and dam building along the river has seriously disrupted natural processes across the basin.

WWF believes that a practical solution to the issue is to amend the existing sluice gate management regime wiser by taking great account of the farmers’ livelihoods and safety as well as health of the wetland ecosystems. WWF is now calling for intense cooperation between authorities and communities on wise sluice gate management that contribute to restore the Web of Life in the Central Yangtze and the health of the Yangtze eventually. To better the sluice management, a multi-stakeholders participation mechanism is vitally needed.

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TRAFFIC Promotes the Conservation of Traditional Chinese Medicine

To help address the growing threat imposed by the increasing use of wildlife in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), representatives of the Chinese government and TRAFFIC East Asia - China Programme as well as key traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners, researchers and wildlife experts converged on March 28 for a workshop titled “Relationship between Use and Conservation of Rare Animal Medicinal Resources.”

At the workshop, participants sought to address the conflict between conservation and use of rare, wild medicinal resources and research for substitutions. They also discussed the need to conduct scientific research on the actual effect of certain traditional Chinese medicines that use rare animal resources. In addition, representatives of major state-run TCM manufacturers introduced current trade procedures as pertaining to relevant laws and regulations prohibiting the use of rare animal medicinal resources.

The workshop was jointly supported by China Wildlife Conservation Association, the Endangered Species Scientific Commission of China and TRAFFIC East Asia - China Programme.

implementation with respective programme managers and directors after he listened to their introductions. Accompanied by Ms. Li Lin, Ms. Han Zheng and Ms. Dong Ke, Mr. Pollard paid a visit to Badaling Forest Farm on April 11 to inspect the farm’s preparation for FSC Certification.

The Asian Dolphin Protection and Management Meeting Held in Katmandu

Experts, environmentalists and WWF officials in charge of fresh water dolphin protection converged to discuss the dangers and experiences in dolphin protection at the Asian dolphin protection and management meeting held in the capital of Nepal, Katmandu on May 26 and 27. Chinese experts introduced the current situation of Yangtze dolphin and porpoise protection and acknowledge WWF China’s contribution to the progress of dolphins’ natural habitat. The feasibility of cross-nation protection was discussed and the outcome will be used in forming the “WWF Regional fresh water dolphin protection strategy.”

WWF China Encourages International Exchanges of Hydro-technology

The first Chinese-Korean Hydro-technology exchange conference was held in Wuhan, Hubei Province on May 13 by CWRC and KOWACO with an objective to further

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Badaling Forest Farm Passed Forest Management Certification Main Audit

The Badaling Forest Farm, located at the Badaling section of the Great Wall with a total forest area of 2,900 hectares became the first state-owned forest farm to pass the main audit of forest certification carried out by auditors from GFA, Germany and local experts from Beijing Forestry University from May 29 to 31. Leaders of Beijing Forestry Bureau, Beijing Forestry Society, representatives from WWF China and Beijing Greenmark Company also participated in the main audit.

The three-day auditing ended with an approving conclusion by auditors that the farm successfully passed the FSC forest management audit after they combed through relevant documents with a field inspection and talk to some forest workers and stakeholders.



They also pointed out some existing problems such as environment protection, safe production and chemicals storage although the farm has improved a lot to meet the suggestions and requirements put forward by auditors during the pre-assessment last year.

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BRIEFS

Bamboo Blossoms in Pingheliang Reserve

A large proportion of bamboo blossom was discovered in April in Pingheliang Nature Reserve in Qinling Mountains where monitoring and patrolling staff found that 924 hectares of arrow bamboo above 1,900 metres and a large arrow bamboo forest above 2,400 metres had blossomed.

Giant Panda Died in Laoxiancheng Reserve

An old giant panda was examined to have died of natural causes quietly in Laoxiancheng Nature Reserve in Qinling Mountains on May 14 when two reserve patrolling rangers found his dead body and reported it immediately to the Shaanxi Forestry Department.

Conservation Fund Conferred

A total of 12 new projects have been selected out of 78 proposals to receive support from WWF China Wildlife Conservation Small Grants Fund for 2006 with a focus to address issues of rare and endangered species and their critical habitats in different places across the country.

share the technology and experiences in sustainable water resources management and administration through a long-term and stable collaborations. As a part to the Yangtze Forum Project, the conference was sponsored by WWF China, and the representatives from WWF Wuhan office also attended the conference. The second Chinese-Korean hydro-technology exchange conference will be held in Korea in May or June 2007.

Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network Initiated

On February 11, Yunnan Normal University and the TRAFFIC East Asia – China programme organized a training to teach Yunnan province and Chongqing municipality middle school teachers how to conduct wildlife surveys and bring conservation messages to their classrooms. Experts from CITES MA, Kunming office and Neijiang Normal University as well as Xu Ling of TRAFFIC East Asia – China programme attended the training. TRAFFIC East Asia – China programme will organize similar trainings in the future.

The First Training Workshop for COFCO

With WWF China's support, former President of Roundtable Process for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) - Toeh Cheng Hai, held the first training workshop for Northsea

Solemn Tones from Tibet

Organized by the Education and Energy Programme and the Lhasa office with support from the Communication Department of WWF China, a concert called Searching for the Dreamland of Shangbala was staged on June 9 at the concert hall of the Central Conservatory of Music, where nine pieces of Tibetan folk music composed by four Tibetan students at the conservatory were performed to 800-odd audience.

New Hope for Leopard

A national notice requiring all traditional Chinese medicine manufacturers using leopard bones to adhere to a new labeling system has come into effect this year. The notice was issued by the State Forest Administration and State Administration for Industry and Commerce in December 2005, and reissued by the State Food and Drug Administration in March 2006. The notice prohibits any kind of use of leopard bones for TCM.

Compensation Fund Offered in Tsonyi County

A total of 260 herder households in Chang Tang have received compensative subsidies since 2005 when WWF supported Tsonyi County government and the forestry bureau to establish the first Compensation Fund in the region. The fund helps local herders overcome economic losses caused by wildlife and WWF will continue to create similar fund in other counties in Chang Tang.

Anxin Flooring Awarded COC Certification

Shanghai Anxin Floors, a member of China Forest and Trade, was awarded the Chain of Custody Certificate from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) by WWF China and SGS on March 28 during the 8th Domotex Asia China Floors Shanghai show. The FSC is a non-profit, international organization set up to promote responsible management and exploitation of the world's forest resource.

The "Chang Tang Cup" Writing Competition Launched

WWF China's Lhasa Office will launch the "Chang Tang Cup" writing contest in collaboration with a series of high-profile literary Tibetan magazines to focus on topics of environment and sustainability issues in Tibet Autonomous Region. The competition will last two years and winning articles will be collected for republication after the competition ends.

WWF China People

Comings:

The following people have joined WWF China:

Li Lin, Conservation Director of Strategy
Meng Lan, Finance Director
Wang Lixia, Programme Associate in Xi'an programme office
Zhuang Shiguan and Tan Rui, Communications Officer
Lou Jia, Head of Harbin programme office
Kang Tiedong, programme officer of Harbin programme office
Wang Lu and Fu Lin, Corporate Relations manager
Shao Wen, programme officer of Cheng Du programme office
Gelsang Norbu, programme officer of Lhasa programme office
Pubu Wangdul, office assistant of Lhasa programme office.

Goings:

Cheng Zhu, Nima and Qiao Limin have left WWF China.

Oils and Grains Industries (Tianjin) Co., Ltd, the largest palm oil importer and processor within COFCO group, on June 30. WWF China Forest Team covered Forest Conversion Initiative Programme and threats by illegal logging and the expansion of unsustainable palm oil plantations. Toeh Cheng Hai also led discussions related to RSPO principles, criteria on sustainable palm oil production and Code of Conduct for RSPO member.

The First Sustainable Palm Oil Conference Held in Beijing

Supported by WWF International and WWF Forest Conversion Initiative programme, WWF China successfully organized the first introductory seminar on sustainable development of palm oil on April 12 in Beijing. Dr. Isabelle Louis Isabelle, Director of WWF Asia-Pacific region, and Mr. Duncan Pollard, Forest Director of WWF International were invited to attend the seminar that covered several relevant key issues.

WWF Organized Agro-forestry Fieldwork in Yunnan

Staffs from nature reserves in Sichuan and Gansu provinces within Minshan Mountain went on an organized survey trip by WWF China's Chengdu office to Baoshan and Tengchong in Yunnan Province, where pilot project by

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World Agro-forestry
Centre has been
undertaken for two years.
The survey proved that the
relation between the
nature reserves and
neighbouring farmers has
improved since the
alternative energy and
livelihood project was
introduced in 2004.
More information is available
at www.worldagroforestry.org.