



WWF China

newsletter

September 2009 – March 2010

Cities across China switch off for Earth Hour



Lights go out on the north gate of the Forbidden City for Earth Hour 2010

©Simon Lim / WWF – China

Beijing, China - Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Nanjing and Hangzhou are all part of the dozens of cities across China that turned off its lights tonight between 8:30-9:30pm for WWF's Earth Hour. Local governments and mayors from over 34 cities throughout the country supported the global movement to raise awareness and call for action on climate change.

"This is only China's second year of Earth Hour and we've already seen a huge jump in participation and support from cities, companies and individuals compared to last year. This is a very positive sign that people are a lot more aware of environmental issues and eager to make energy-saving changes," said Dermot O'Gorman, WWF China's Country Representative.

In Beijing, the historic Forbidden City went dark along with iconic modern structures such as the Bird's Nest, Water Cube, National Center for the Performing Arts and the Yintai Center.

In Shanghai's Pudong and Puxi areas, the Oriental Pearl Tower, the World Financial Center, Jin Mao Tower along with the trendy Xintiandi district also turned off its lights.

In Chengdu, Earth Hour Global Panda Ambassador Mei Lan led the city's 13 million citizens to turn off lights from her home at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.



A young girl celebrates Earth Hour 2010 in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province. ©譚曦

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<http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=668>

Yangtze warned to prepare for more droughts, floods and storms

First-ever large-scale report on the Yangtze and climate change adaptation released in Beijing



People stop to rest on the Tibetan Plateau, the source of the Yangtze River. Increasingly warm temperatures are changing plateau ecosystems ©Zheng Yunfeng

Beijing, China - Temperatures across the Yangtze River Basin could increase from 1.5 - 2 Degrees Celsius over the next 50 years, while extreme weather events will also become more frequent, according to the largest river basin climate vulnerability assessment yet done.

The Yangtze River Basin Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, released today in Beijing, not only describes the impact of climate change but also offers specific adaptation strategies for the Yangtze.

“Extreme climate events such as storms and drought disasters will increase as climate change continues to alter our planet,” said Professor Xu Ming, the report’s lead researcher.

“Given the complexities and uncertainties associated with climate change, adaptation should firstly consider a ‘no-regrets’ strategy, which does not require additional cost. If we take the right steps now, adaptation measures will pay for themselves.” he said.

Specific adaptation measures discussed in the report include strengthening existing infrastructure, such as power supply, transportation as well as river and coastal dike reinforcement. Other steps involve promoting Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM), switching to more flexible cropping systems, and reducing human impact on fragile ecosystems.

Data collected from 147 monitoring stations across the 1.8 million km² river basin points to a 0.33°C temperature rise during the 1990s. This hotter weather led to a spike in extreme climate events and flooding across the Yangtze basin, a trend that is expected to become increasingly dire over the next 50 years.

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<http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=631>

Growing China industry helps clean energy boom

Copenhagen, Denmark - Clean energy technology is on track to become the third largest industrial sector globally with a rapidly increasing share taken up by China, predicted a WWF report released at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Clean Economy, Living Planet - Building Strong Clean Energy Technology Industries is a first ever worldwide country ranking by clean energy sales, finding that relative to GDP it is wind energy and insulation pioneer Denmark and bio-ethanol giant Brazil that are leading the way. Germany, trading on a substantial manufacturing base and public support for wind and solar energy, is in third place.

China is ranked fourth in terms of absolute sales, and sixth relative to its GDP.

The report predicted that by 2020 the industry would be worth €1600 billion a year, ranking behind automobiles and electronics as the third largest industrial sector. In 2007, clean energy technology had a sales volume of €630 billion and was already larger than the global pharmaceutical industry.

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<http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=640>

Habitat fragmentation threatens giant pandas

WWF expert says the future of small panda populations is uncertain

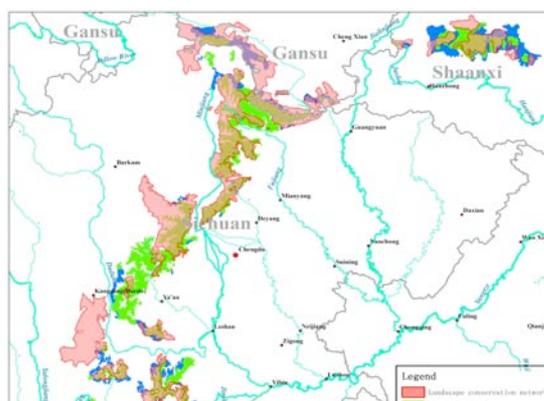
They are the national treasure of China, but giant pandas may be lost forever unless more action is taken to protect them.

That’s the view of WWF-China panda expert Fan Zhiyong, who says the fragmentation of panda habitats is having a devastating impact on the rare animals.

Continued human encroachment into panda regions is cutting off interaction between



Silicon blocks for the production of solar cells are seen at Yingli Solar in Baoding, China. China's solar manufacturing capacity is currently the largest in the world. ©WWF-China



different panda populations, who are left living in isolated “islands”.

“This is a crisis for pandas’ migration and reproduction,” Fan said in an interview with Beijing Sci-Tech Weekly.

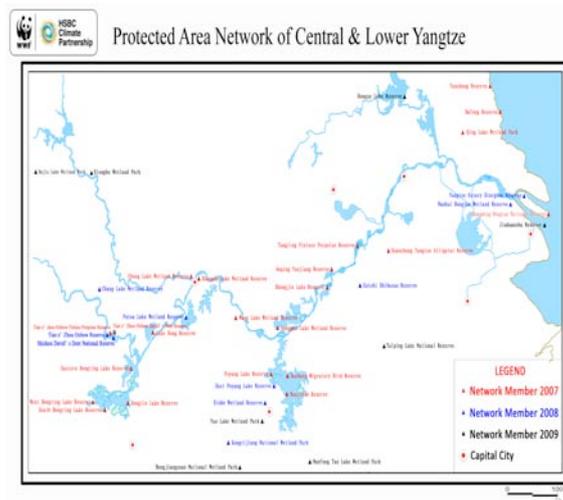
Unless their habitat conditions are improved, he says, some small panda populations may die out within two or three generations.

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Yangtze network expansion shows China’s leadership on climate change

3rd Annual Yangtze Wetland Conservation Network conference highlights climate change adaptation
Anqing, China – China’s State Forestry Administration today announced plans to extend a wetland conservation network to cover the entire Yangtze River Basin, a unique step in the country’s efforts to fight climate change.



The move would further extend the successful Yangtze River Wetland Conservation Network, a management platform that brings government, research groups, and the public together to protect wetland ecosystems.

“The larger the reserve is, the more stable the ecosystem is, and the better capacity it gains to withstand climate change,” said Dr. John Matthews, WWF’s head of Freshwater Adaptation.

“Connecting isolated reserves into an integrated area and establishing the wetland network to deal with climate change is a pioneering practice created by China,” he added.

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<http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=624>

Shanghai and Hong Kong well set to adapt to major climate threats

Beijing, China - Shanghai and Hong Kong topped a WWF ranking of cities with the best climate adaptation capacity out of 11 major Asian metropolises. However, while these two Chinese cities have good adaptation strategies in place to face major climate threats, Dhaka, Manila and Jakarta were found to be the most vulnerable to climate impacts such as rising sea levels and severe weather.

As Heads of States gather in Singapore for the APEC summit, WWF says that developed and developing countries must cooperate to prepare these cities for a brutal climate future, highlighting that their vulnerability and adaptation needs are compelling reasons for a fair, ambitious and binding deal at the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December.

According to *Mega-Stress For Mega-Cities*, many of the cities analyzed are extremely exposed to threats such as storms and flooding, while huge numbers of people and assets at stake result in worrying levels of socio-economic sensitivity. At the same time, the cities often lack capacity to protect themselves from devastating impacts.

“Climate change is already shattering cities across developing Asia and will be even more brutal in the future”, said Kim Carstensen, Leader of the WWF Global Climate Initiative. “These cities are

vulnerable and need urgent help to adapt, in order to protect the lives of millions of citizens, a massive amount of assets, and their large contributions to the national GDP.”

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<http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=632>

Low carbon development in post-earthquake Sichuan

Low carbon reconstruction requires more investment in environmentally friendly infrastructure and housing.

Guangyuan, Sichuan - Enterprises working in disaster hit areas need to develop effective low carbon strategies to benefit recovery efforts, experts say.

The call came during the International Low Carbon Reconstruction and Business Development Forum today in Guangyuan, Sichuan.

Experts and government officials pointed out that low carbon reconstruction requires more investment in environmentally friendly infrastructure and housing.

They also said the energy-intensive industries need to become more efficient, and wasted resources need to be recycled.

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<http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=616>

Shanghai World Expo Update

Under the theme “The Future of the Planet is up to Me”, WWF will present a beautiful vision of the harmony between humans and nature, and address solutions to various environmental problems at Expo 2010 in Shanghai. With over 200 countries and 50 international organizations participation, this is the largest Expo in history. Invited by the Expo Bureau, WWF is the only



A birds eye view of WWF China's pavilion at Shanghai Expo 2010

international conservation organization among all participants. The 324m² pavilion is located in the northwest corner of the International Organization Joint Pavilion.

The WWF pavilion design is based on the traditional Chinese concept of Yin and Yang, which symbolizes harmony and balance. The WWF pavilion is divided into two equal parts: the light area (Yang) represents “Biodiversity” and the dark area (Yin) represents “Footprint.”

WWF will use Tetra Pak chipboard, which is made from the company’s discarded packaging. An added benefit is that after the Expo, the chipboard can easily be reused or recycled.

Another feature of WWF’s pavilion is that all of its electricity will come from green sources. Cooperating with partners, WWF will build a pavilion powered by renewable wind and solar energy.

Furthermore, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international non-profit organization that promotes the responsible use of the world's forests, has certificated the pavilion's floor.

In Cooperation with the Shanghai Yangtze Estuarine Nature Reserve for Chinese Sturgeon, WWF will install a huge globe-shaped aquarium in the pavilion. With a diameter of 2.5m and a volume of around 10 tons of water, this installation will be the largest known aquarium of its kind.

What is behind the success of giant pandas' conservation?

What progress has been made on panda conservation after 60 years of efforts by the Chinese government and 30 years by WWF? This is a very important question urgently needing a clear answer. With the end of phase one of the Green Heart of China, a landscape conservation programme for giant pandas by WWF from 2008-2010, WWF held a giant panda planning workshop on phase two of this programme. Programme participants will focus on the next three years, and try to understand the real problems and challenges for giant pandas.

There are three major problems confronting giant pandas, experts said during the workshop. Firstly, one-third of the giant panda population and half of habitats are outside the current giant panda conservation network, which consists of 66 nature reserves, and are therefore not effectively protected. Secondly, three million ha of giant panda habitat have been fragmented into eighteen patches, with more than half of them hosting less than a dozen giant pandas. Thirdly, new threats of infrastructure, mass tourism, earthquakes and climate change have accelerated habitat loss and the fragmentation and degradation of giant pandas.



Giant panda planning workshop for phase two of The Green Heart of China.
©WWF China

Experts report that small, middle and large scale mining projects may cause 5, 27 and 120km² of habitat loss, respectively. There are 15 large-scale mining sites on the edges of the reserves in Minshan, not including small-scale mining projects, which also have serious impacts on vegetation.

An estimation from a preliminary case study shows that road networks may cause theoretical losses of giant panda habitat by 30 per cent, reducing panda population carrying capacity by 10 per cent.

The direct dam impact results in the loss of giant panda habitat caused by deep reservoir water. More seriously, the large reservoir water area of dam may be an obstacle to panda dispersal among populations. The Xushuihe River is the largest river branch of Hanjiang River in Qinling landscape, with 50 per cent of its length and 13 dams contained within panda habitats. Guanyinxia Dam is the largest dam on that river, which almost blocks the water flow. During construction, machinery noise caused pandas to move to higher areas above 1,500 meters. Projected dam construction means that Xinglongling and Panlong panda populations are seriously blocked in Qinling.

Climate change is also a potential threat to the long-term survival of giant pandas. Although we cannot currently draw a solid conclusion, the preliminary studies show that the suitable

and sub-suitable areas for giant pandas will shrink in the next 30-60 years along the north to south areas of Minshan, Qionglaihan and Liangshan-Xiangling landscapes, and may reduce 37-62 per cent and in the next 60-90 years in the southeast to northwest areas of Qinling landscape. This may impel giant pandas to move to northwest areas, posing sufficient conservation coverage by the current giant panda conservation network.

A report, *Landscape and GIS Based Giant Panda Habitat Conservation Gap Analysis*, explains the weaknesses of the current conservation network. It shows that there are 19 gap areas, including boundary adjustment of existing nature reserves, establishment of new nature reserves, giant panda population survival risk areas, corridor areas, and the collective forest reforming risk areas.

The combination of earthquake impacts and other traditional threats were bigger than original expectations. Experts suggest that the feasible way to continue to conserve giant panda populations is to expand the conservation network to cover more pandas and their habitats, reconnect isolated giant panda populations through corridors, mitigate the impacts of various threats through ecological measures and policy supports, and improve conservation efficiency though emphasis on those gap areas.

With expert supporters and WWF network exports from WWF UK, US and Germany, the panda planning workshop may help WWF comprehensively consider challenges through a logical framework, and promote policies for planning and implementing the coming panda project.

In Focus: Features and Commentary

Shining a light on wetland conservation

By Cheechee Leung

On a clear July night, a small crowd gathered along the Jialing River in Langzhong to watch a procession of glowing lanterns drifting along the water. But these were no ordinary lanterns – each one carried inside it a message of hope for the river.

“Hope everyone can love Jialing River” was one lantern’s message. In another, someone wrote about wanting to see their community becoming “more and more beautiful”. One note in English simply read: “Respecting the nature, just loving human”.

“This activity was most unforgettable,” recalled university student and event organizer Jiang Zhujiang. “The locals including children and the elderly were all involved, expressing their good wishes to the Jialing River.”



Artwork created by a participant in WWF's Wetland Ambassador Action awareness-raising campaign.
©WWF China

The lantern drifting in the north of Sichuan province was one of a series of activities run by Zhujiang and his fellow students from the Chengdu University of Information Technology as part of this year's Wetland Ambassador Action campaign.

The annual program, run by WWF, recruits university student volunteers to help promote conservation and the wise use of wetlands in China, with a particular emphasis on wetlands within the Yangtze River Basin.

These student volunteers, or wetland ambassadors, work in teams to carry out research and fieldwork at wetlands, and to raise awareness and educate the community about conservation. Many give up a large part of their summer holidays to participate.

This year there were 44 wetland ambassador teams spread across China. Some worked directly with nature reserves on wildlife observation, materials collection and public surveys. Others staged photo exhibitions, ran information sessions or convened workshops to boost public interest and knowledge on wetland issues.

At the Central South Forestry University of Technology students handed out bird-decorated bookmarks, and the Zhejiang Ocean University team educated younger students about protecting the Chinese river deer. Students from the South Central University for Nationalities worked for the second year in a row to inspire community interest in protecting Wuhan's South Lake.

Team member Huang Yanyun said it was immensely gratifying to return to the site and discover that their work of 2008 had left "a deep impression" on many residents. "And our activities this year not only broadened their knowledge of South Lake, but also improved their sense of participation," she said.

Wetlands in China hold about 2700 billion tons of freshwater, or 96 per cent of the country's available freshwater resources, but many are feeling the effects of pollution, over-exploitation, fragmentation and agriculture.

WWF started the Wetland Ambassador Action campaign in 2001 to help raise awareness on wetland conservation, and the program has had a substantial impact. About 3000 students from more than 70 universities have held the title of "wetland ambassador", with an estimated 550 communities and 300,000 people having come into direct contact with these ambassadors.

Discussions are already underway between stakeholders including WWF, nature reserves and the ambassadors about how to continue improving the



DENNIS PAMLIN

Innovation the key for China in Bonn

6 April 2010

In a few days the world's countries will meet in Bonn for a new round of climate negotiations. This presents an opportunity for China to support a more collaborative process with focus on solutions instead of problems.

Two major challenges face climate negotiations after the Copenhagen conference last year. First, climate negotiations are now so complex that no one has an overview of what's going on. Second, the culture at climate negotiations is one of short-term thinking where everyone wants others to reduce emissions and protect its own fossil industries.

China has an opportunity to put the negotiations on a positive track and demonstrate its willingness to deliver concrete results with the help of two suggestions. These two suggestions could be presented in Bonn in order to support future negotiations that will help the world deliver the reductions we need.

First, it could present ideas on how to make the process more open and transparent. New technologies with mobile applications and web-solutions allow experts and people all over the world to follow the negotiations in ways that was not possible a few years ago. Such tools could help the world to avoid a situation like the one in Copenhagen where many foreign experts and journalists misunderstood different countries' positions.

One of the key issues to be discussed in Bonn is "innovation in working methods, based on principles and models within the United Nations". A contribution from China could be to present ideas for tools to collect input from relevant stakeholders. It could develop its own mobile application and web-platform that could be launched after Bonn, which would help it in the process leading up to the big climate meeting in Mexico. This would allow China to better understand the stakeholders around the world, and provide tailor-made information so that companies, cities, countries and individuals can find ways to collaborate with it for a low carbon future.

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http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2010-04/06/content_9687687.htm

program for 2010, which will be the 10th anniversary year for the wetland ambassador scheme.



Wetland ambassadors line the Jialing River in Langzhong.
©WWF China

WWF-China's conservation director of operations Dr Zhu Chunquan said the campaign had been successful for so long because it involved young people who were passionate about the issues. "They are a bridge to convey conservation messages to the wider public."

And students want to be take part not only for the chance to act on their concern for the environment, but also to build valuable skills in areas like research, communication and project management.

Then there are the less tangible but no less important lessons learned, such as a greater appreciation for nature. Wetland ambassador Jin Yingwei — whose Wuhan University team investigated the impact of humans on wetlands birdlife — said the program had inspired him to look at the world in new ways.

"We witnessed both the beauty of birds and the struggle of farmers to make a living, and we asked ourselves whether we truly cherished our own superior living environment," he said. "It offers us a great chance to get to know something we may never notice."

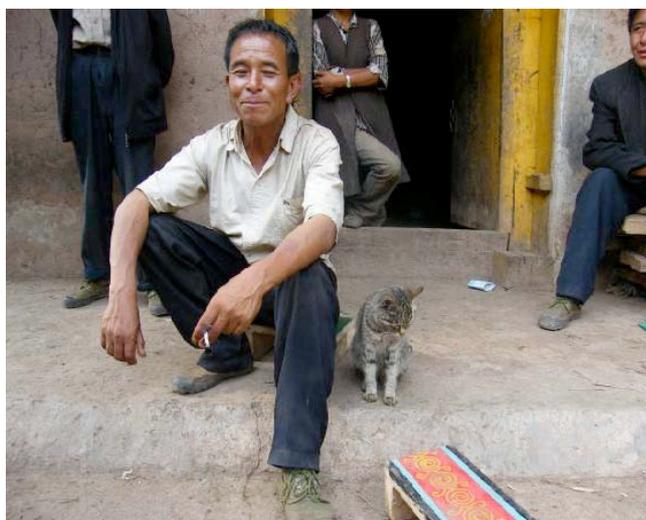
Meantime, nature reserves, forestry departments and other environment officials are reporting they are very pleased with the contributions of this year's young ambassadors to wetland conservation.

Chen Yunguo from the Chen Hu nature reserve in Wuhan said students had made "great progress", while in Sichuan Gu Haijun from the provincial wetland management center said the ambassadors had successfully improved public knowledge about wetland use and protection. "Their achievement is of great significance."

Feelings toward TCM in the deep mountains

"Let's go, it is time to go to the mountains." When he was seven – a boy with big, staring eyes, Erqigugu saw people around him carrying huge baskets up the hill one after another. He had no choice but stay at home, waiting for his family to return in one or two months.

At that time, ç was a carefree boy living in Erma Village, Yiguojue Country, Meigu County of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture. Now, he is the leader of Erma Village's community interest group. The vigorous and healthy man with dark, shining skin holds a cigarette between his first and middle fingers as he recollects memories from more than 30 years ago. He is overwhelmed with many different emotions.



Erqigugu sits outside a local building with his fellow villagers
©WWF China

Erma is a pure Yi village located in north Meigu County, a beautiful place 2,500 meters above sea level. 135 families make up a total of 517 villagers, and are divided into two village groups. Erma is

surrounded by the hills on one side and rivers on the other, and is extremely picturesque when bathed in the sunshine.

Young Erqigugu clearly remembers a time when people harvested medicinal plants in the mountains. Almost 40 years ago, production teams would organize villagers to look for and harvest medicinal plants. Each villager would hand over 1 yuan to the production team. Then, villagers would sell the herbs they had collected, and keep the money they'd earned from their sales. At that time, the villagers mainly collected Paris polyphylla, radix aconiti carmichaeli, Gastrodia elata Blume, etc. For Paris polyphylla, the price was just 4–6 yuan (US\$.48–\$.88) per kilo. Despite the low price, it was still a considerable income for the villagers. Time went by day after day. Erqigugu and his fellow villagers' lives were like a rolling wheel, moving in the same way it had in years past.



Paris polyphylla

©Creative Commons

In the early 1980s, the people's communes came to an end. There was a change in the village — people no longer cared that Paris polyphylla could earn them 3 yuan (US\$.44) per kilo. It was not because people were rich enough and cared less about food, or that villagers had relocated and found other jobs, but because they found another way of earning a living — logging.

At that time, the local township government established a logging factory. The money that came out of logging was far greater than that from herbs. "Cutting and logging, people's income increased day by day, while the number of trees decreased day after day."

But the logging-dependent riches did not last long. In 1998, so as to protect natural forest resources, the State began banning natural forests logging. For the villagers, this news was like a bolt from the blue, and they lost their incomes completely. "We did not know what to do, but we knew, taking into account the long-term development, our country issued this logging ban in case we chopped down all trees, and left no firewood to our offspring. But we lost all our income, how can we live?" Erqigugu was mildly depressed.

"Losing regular income, villagers had to make a living in other ways. We did not know whether God likes to play jokes on people or if humans are born to go in circles. The villagers walked back down the old road — digging medicinal plants!" This source of income was not futile, however. The price of Paris polyphylla had quietly increased to 10 yuan (US\$1.46) per kilo. The old saying goes, "beggars cannot be choosers," and so the poor villagers began harvesting herbs again as they did in their previous profession. Even the fifteen or sixteen-year-old girls and boys joined the "army" digging medicinal plants.

The year of 2003 was a special year for Erqigugu. It was his first year he joined the ranks of villagers digging medicinal plants. But it was different from his father's time. People could keep all of the money they earned. If they dug more, they would earn more. This benefit motivated villagers to work extremely hard, foraging all over the mountains to collect herbs.

The fever people had for digging herbs can't be exaggerated. Sucking deeply on the cigarette between his fingers, Erqigugu tightens his brow a bit. "Carrying big baskets and heavy potatoes, we climbed over the mountains regardless of day or night, knowing it would take two days to the destination." Villagers around Erqigugu nod to agree. One says, "Two days is nothing. We still had to live in the mountains for a month or two until all potatoes were eaten up, and then we would go back." Erqigugu responded with a smile, saying "In the mountains I even saw wild boar and giant panda feces!"

Digging medicinal herbs exhausts people physically and mentally. What was so magical that made it difficult for villagers to give up this source of income?

The magic comes from the rising price of Chinese herbal medicine. Take Paris polyphylla as an example: the price went from 10 yuan (US\$1.46) per kg in the 1970s and 1980s to 20–25 yuan (US\$2.93–\$3.66) per kg in the 1990s, 80 yuan (US\$11.72) per kg in 2008 and above 120 yuan (US\$17.58) per kg in 2009. A considerable increase in income was the driving force behind even more frantic excavation.

Time goes by. The villagers still work in the mountains at a fixed time every year. Six years have passed in the blink of an eye. Erqigugu, head of the village's community and interest group, senses things have changed. "In 2008, I collected 134.5kg of Parispolyphylla, but this year only 130kg, even less than last year's." The group leader has become aware of the decreasing prevalence of the herbs. If more attention is not paid to the over-harvesting phenomenon, there is a chance that Erqigugu's children will never see Parispolyphylla.

As the sun beats down, the amber light pulls Erqigugu's thoughts back to earth. He reflects on the cooperation between WWF and the EU Biodiversity Project, resulting in the Sustainable Management of Traditional Medicinal Plants in High-biodiversity Landscapes of Upper Yangtze Ecoregion project.

Turning to the project, Erqigugu's gloomy mood vanished; pride and excitement reshaped the expression on the optimistic and open-minded man's face. Because of his simplicity and elegant sense of responsibility, Erqigugu was unanimously elected from the very beginning of this project as the team leader of the Erma Village Sustainable Management and Use of TCM interest management team by villagers.



Villagers attend a regular field meeting to learn new TCM harvesting techniques and discuss the latest market news. ©WWF China

During the past two years, under the project's support, Erqigugu has led the interest team and project experts in investigating the livelihood of the villagers, studying existing TCM species and their populations, organizing villagers to discuss the status of the community's environment, and visiting other project sites to learn how to design and carry out project activities.

Now, the road leading to Erma Village has been finished. Villagers have their own feed mill to process crops into feed, which transformed the breeding industry from the scattered feeding practices of times past to the farm-raised techniques of today. Radix Aconiti Lateralis Preparata, Rhizoma

Pinelliae, Paris polyphylla and other medicinal herbs have been planted in pilot sites. Once the pilots are successful, the herbs will be cultivated to reduce wild TCM collection. The interest team has been involved in implementing the sustainable management and use of Chinese herbal medicines project, and villagers' awareness of sustainable collection has gradually improved. As head of the interest team, Erqigugu continues exploring new concepts.

The crimson clouds at sunset turn Erqigugu's swarthy face to gold. Busy greeting villagers returning from fields, Erqigugu becomes more mature and responsible. Through his hard work, he will lead the villagers to protect this piece of vibrant forest.

News in Brief

Information displayed on illegal wildlife trade on Russian-Chinese Border

Sixteen information boards about illegal wildlife products have been put on display at Far Eastern Customs Directorate checkpoints along the Russian-Chinese border. The informative displays are already set up in eight Customs houses, as well as in Vladivostok International Airport.

The bilingual boards — in Russian and Chinese — provide travelers with information about the legislation governing the transportation of wildlife products, and were designed with the input of experts from the Vladivostok branch of the Russian Customs Academy, the Russian and Chinese CITES Management Authorities, and TRAFFIC and WWF staff.



The information boards also feature images of convicted Russian and Chinese wildlife smugglers. It is the first time such public awareness notifications, specific to the implementation of Russian and Chinese legislations on wildlife transportation, have appeared at these regional customs checkpoints.

China's fisheries must adapt to meet new EU regulations

China appears to have made considerable progress in improving the traceability of its fish processing industry, but will need to adapt further if it is to meet the requirements of forthcoming European Union regulations.

From January 2010, all fish materials imported into the European Union (EU) will have to be accompanied by catch certificates, which have to be validated by the state flag of the vessel that caught the fish. The new laws aim to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing. To meet the new requirements, China will have to issue certificates for all catches by China-flagged vessels, and obtain certificates from other countries when fish is imported into China for processing.

Local harvesters learn sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants

Medicinal plant harvesters undertook a training session on sustainable harvesting of the southern Schisandra fruit in China's southwest Sichuan province in August. The training took place in Daping village, Shuijing Town, as an activity of the EU-China Biodiversity Programme. Participants included more than 30 villagers, mainly harvesters, staff from Wanglang Nature Reserve, and staff from TRAFFIC and WWF China.

The training materials were developed by experts from the Sichuan Academy of Chinese Medicine Sciences and Southwest University based on the international standards for sustainable harvesting of wild medicinal and aromatic plants (ISSC-MAP).

Participants learned about organic products and sustainable harvesting, and methods for identifying, harvesting, processing, packaging and transportation. Trainer Dr Yang Wenyu of Xihua University delivered the simplified training contents by using picture diagrams, enabling villagers to interact actively with the trainer, and offering their own ideas on sustainable harvesting.

Corporate Appreciation Dinner

WWF-China's 5th Annual Corporate Appreciation Dinner was held at the Mansion Hotel on 3 December 2009 in Shanghai. The theme of the year was "From Green to Gold." More than 40 corporate partners and guests attended the event. WWF was honored to have two speakers at the dinner. The first speaker was Carrefour China CEO, Mr.



Carrefour China CEO giving a speech © WWF China

Eric Legros, who shared Carrefour's experience in turning green to gold from energy savings at its stores nation-wide. The second speaker was Hurun founder Mr. Rupert Hoogewerf, who talked about China's Clean Tech Tycoon Rich List, and how those entrepreneurs turned green to gold.

As a tradition, every year WWF-China gives out conservation awards to corporate partners who have made significant contribution to its conservation work in China. In 2009 three awards were issued: two for Merit Conservation Supporters, and one Special award.



L - R: Paul Yin from Zegna, Dermot O'Gorman from WWF, Hua Bing from Industrial Bank and Brian Liao from Walmart. © WWF China

The award recipients were:

Merit Conservation Support

- China Industrial Bank – For its contribution to Green Banking and Financing in China
- Ermenegildo Zegna - For its contribution in nature conservation and ecotourism development in Qinling Mountain

Special Award

- Walmart – For its active promotion and participation during and after Earth Hour.

Nature library being built in Qinling



Funded by a Swiss family in the memory of their daughter
A nature library in Maoping school. ©WWF China Jade Peduzzi,

WWF built a nature library for the 700 students of Maoping School in Changqing Nature Reserve. WWF provided more than 1,700 books and 55 DVDs produced by BBC, Discovery, and National Geographic on a variety of themes. To facilitate the normal operation of the library, desks, chairs, bookshelves, window curtains, two computers, and one printer were also provided.

Maoping School was originally identified by Changqing Nature Reserve and finalized by WWF after several visits to the school and close discussion with the school authorities. It is a boarding school with students coming from 21 nearby villages. The library is set up to diversify students' after-class lives and cultivate interest in nature.

The library is expected to open in mid January 2010 so that after the final exams students can borrow books to read during the winter holiday. WWF expects the school to be a future environmental education site to cover nearby communities, which might have potential impact on the neighboring giant panda habitat.

WWF People
Comings
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