

CBIK Annual Report 2002

Linking Indigenous Knowledge to Governance and Livelihoods

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1. Introduction: A discussion on Indigenous Knowledge

The new CBIK program is structured into three inter-linked field-oriented programs, watershed governance, community livelihoods and indigenous knowledge, and three supported programs that provide overall leadership, capacity building and communication. This past year, activities were centered on understanding our own role as a Chinese NGO for bridging knowledge systems and facilitating changes for sustainable livelihoods. The concept and principle of “indigenous knowledge” are the foundation for our understanding field issues and promoting alternatives for sustainable development.

We explored “indigenous knowledge” for good governance and sustainable livelihoods in the field project implementation as well as the 3rd Conference on Montane Mainland Southeast Asia (MMSEA). Indigenous knowledge is a subjective understanding and social construction process, which consists of cosmos, corpus, praxis and institution to guide human action. Indigenous knowledge is composite but holistic, which is from different sources, their parents, indigenous experts and even scientific information. Knowledge is always imperfect (both indigenous and scientific), therefore involves an iterative learning process. Indigenous knowledge is a process for transforming natural landscapes into cultural landscapes (e.g., sacred mountains and lakes), ecological functions and livelihood support systems in the particularly situated socio-economic and biophysical environments. Indigenous knowledge is power to orient human action, is therefore social relations within community, social networks between lowland and upland, as well as political relations between periphery and center. By reading human managed or regulated landscapes, therefore can find out the clash of different forms of knowledge within individuals, among people within community (e.g., generation gaps), state and community.

Sustainable management of biological and cultural resources involves therefore redefining the knowledge, reconstructing social process and institutions for social changes. A decentralization and democratic process is necessary for strengthening local governance. Who’s knowledge account also calls for political dialogue on resources rights and intellectual property rights.

2. CBIK's Focus

2.1 Good Practices of IK

The indigenous knowledge often refer to the knowledge belonging to a specific ethnic groups or cultural society, which shapes their decision-making, operational practices and behaviors in livelihoods, cultural activities and resource governance. It is very dynamic, adaptive and holistic but often neglected by mainstream and formal knowledge systems.

The CBIK has started the process for documentation of good practices of indigenous knowledge in the following:

- Livelihood technology: such as rattan cultivation in swidden-fallow fields;
- Cultural-based resources management: such as sacred forest and landscapes;
- Traditional handicraft and cultural products: such as hand paper-making and hemp cultivation and processing;
- Customary institutions for resource management: such as traditional regulations in forest access and protection.

2.2 Links between IK and Local Governance

Governance refers the act, process, or power of administering, regulating, controlling, exercising a deciding or determining influence on the uses, control of resources deemed valuable to the group. The “local” can locate differently. For indigenous knowledge, the domain of “local” is specifically delineated to the local community, more explicitly, natural village or administrative village, both geographically and administratively, in response to the furthest decentralization of political authority based on implementation of the Chinese “Village Organic Laws”.

The critical link between indigenous knowledge and local governance is access. The definition of access, defined by Ribot and Peluso, refers to “the ability to derive benefits from things”, or resource access is composed of direct physical access, market access, labor access, access to capital, access to social relations and access to knowledge. Inventory of indigenous knowledge through participatory land use mapping for understanding local access to natural capitals (such as forest, land and water) and social mapping for social actors (including indigenous experts, traditional leaders, gender and generation difference) and kinship and institutional links within community and social networks between different communities, which provides the further understanding local access to social capital as well as decision-making.

Indigenous knowledge is power to orient human action, is therefore social relations within community. It is acknowledged that much research has been undertaken in the past without enough attentions to access issues and capacity building of local communities to better access to natural resources, market, knowledge, information and decision-making processes. Even the research findings are inaccessible by the local peoples who provided original data and knowledge.

The Access Principles provide a guideline not only for our own research but also support our local farmers and partners for awareness of access and ability to act for better access, the quality of life and sustainable livelihoods. The following Principles are the fundamental assumptions that form this guideline.

- Principle of Active Participation
- Principle of Full Disclosure and Transparency
- Principle of The Dynamic Interactive Cycle
- Principle of Equity and Social Justice
- Principle of Respect and Benefit-sharing
- Principle of Supporting Indigenous Initiatives and Institutions

2.3 Links between Cultural and Biological Diversity

Linkages between indigenous cultures, that have evolved longer than the age of modern disciplines of science and technology and the natural “habitats” from where these indigenous cultures were derived, are yet not uncommon to fall short of consensus amongst conservational biologists and environmental anthropologists.

As a result of the International Cultures and Biodiversity Congress (CUBIC) held July 20-30, 2000 in Yunnan, participants from over 80 countries, representing every continent, jointly produced “The Yunnan Initiatives”. It builds upon numerous research findings, and supports “the inextricable link between cultural and biological diversity, recognition of importance of local communities in conserving biodiversity and the necessity of respecting cultural and spiritual values in efforts to achieve sustainable development in areas where local communities live and work.”

Social and ecological linkages attest to the virtues of the traditional system of common-pool resource management, and articulate the view that local communities establish valuable linkages with their landscape. Local communities’ management practices, social organizations and institutional arrangements, or social capital, which reflect their understanding and observations of their natural environment, reflect a deep understanding of natural ecology. Such localized knowledge and institutionalized management practices (informal institutions) were socially acceptable and operational, yet scholastically less presentable and politically difficult to manipulate from the

point of view of a centralized management system. These place-specific linkages, though they are becoming less visible, can be important indicators for rebuilding a sustainable local economy. Conservation efforts therefore should build upon these linkages.

2.4 Links between IK and Livelihoods

Livelihood refers to the means for living. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living in which knowledge system is part of. Knowledge is an iterative learning process through innovation and interaction of different people. Therefore revival and strengthening of indigenous knowledge definitely contribute to sustainable livelihoods, which can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks as well as maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future. Special attention should be given on local livelihood strategies in transformation to market economy and environmental conservation policies such as “Upland Conversion Program” and its impact on cultural identity and natural resource management, and how to trade-offs between local pressure for short-term benefits and national-level policy considerations.

3. Implementing CBIK Strategic Plan

3.1 Watershed Governance:

A research approach based on watersheds and their environmental functions provides the holistic background and rational to assess the complexity of mountain agroecosystems. It address’ a wide-range of natural resource management issues, the diversity of biophysical- and socio economic environments, as well as the underlying dynamic interactions between upland and lowland stakeholders in mountainous regions. The watershed and ecosystem program is a collaborative initiative with different partners, especially ICRAF and WRI.

Objectives:

- To develop a thorough understanding of the agro-ecosystem, its past and present land use and land cover changes and the underlying causes and drivers of change at a watershed level;
- To promote and facilitate dialogue among different actors involved and responsible for watershed governance;
- To improve human capacity and capability for environmental sound watershed and eco-system management at the landscape level, through

consultation and technical, policy and institutional innovations derived during that process.

Main results:

- Training workshop on Landscape-level Agroforestry, Livelihoods and Governance in Montane Mainland Southeast Asia (MMSEA): The workshop was co-organized by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK), the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB) and the World Resources Institute's Resources Policy Support Initiative (WRI-REPSI) attended by 23 participants from Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and China during 5-14 November 2002, Xishuangbanna.
- Research synthesis: The writing workshop on Resource Tenure Mapping was organized by Dr. Jeff Fox and Dr. Uraivan Tam-Kim-Yong and Xu Jianchu with three case studies from Laos, China and Thailand. The case study from China completed a paper "Land-use/land-cover change and farmer livelihoods in Xishuangbanna". Another project supported by the Ford Foundation, has produced a synthesis paper "Land Use and Land Cover in Lancang Watershed of Yunnan"
- Watershed GIS database development: The Nan-e watershed has been selected in the field and delineated in spatial information system. The new image has been processed.
- Compiled and disseminated "Policy Review and Institutional Capacity Analysis in Yunnan", supported by DFID-YEDP project.
- Translated and published two WRI books on watershed governance.

3.2 Community Livelihoods

CBIK's community livelihood program aims to enhance capabilities of local community for sustainable livelihood in upland areas of SW China. With limits of CBIK resources, we have selected four field sites for our strategic invention: a) Mengsong: Xishuangbanna, Southern Yunnan; b) Luquan: Central Yunnan; c) Zhongdian: Northwest Yunnan; and d) Dimaluo: Northwest Yunnan.

Objectives:

- To facilitate the knowledge, technical and institutional innovations of indigenous communities in the key areas;
- To enhance the endogenous development and improve community livelihood;
- To promote application of indigenous knowledge and technology in sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.

Main results:

- Established eco-tourism field site in Jisha Tibetan community in NW Yunnan
- Documented traditional paper making and rehabilitated indigenous technology in Daju township
- Completed participatory planning for Indigenous Livelihood Initiative project in Mengsong Hani community
- Carried out planning and submitted proposal on “Enhancing agropastoralist livelihoods in NW Yunnan”.
- Draft of field manual on “Participatory Technology Development”.

3.3 Indigenous Knowledge

The IK Program is concerned with the impact of the socioeconomic changes upon the future of ethnic communities in SW-China. Therefore we focus on the body of knowledge that local communities have about plants, animals, ecosystems and their uses. What are the present practices by which they conserve biodiversity in their communities and what are the guiding cultural principles that orient their use of resources.

Objectives

Our overall goal is to incorporate these cultural assets in the formulation and implementation of a strategic support of IK for sustainable resource management and livelihood development.

- To work with local communities to understand, reinforce, disseminate Indigenous Knowledge
- To build the capacity (among young researchers, development workers, technicians and communities) of understanding, confronting and coping with external changes
- To create a long-term space for Indigenous Knowledge and enhanced local, ethnic communities.

Main results:

- Selected 5 pilot sites in different ecosystems in Yunnan for documentation of IK, facilitating farmer’s networks and inter-cultural dialogues with support from GTZ.
- Case studies for vernacular and official identification in collaboration with Yale University and Chiang Mai University.
- Prepared community-based education project.

3.4 Supporting Services

3.4.1 Capacity building

Objectives:

- To develop CBIK into an learning organization;
- To build staff competences required by programs
- To build CBIK partners' capacity for participatory action research.

Main results:

- Selected and approved 22 small-grants for partner institutions in SW China
- Provided training workshops for small grantees (methodology training workshop in March 5-8th, 2002, and progress workshop in December, 2002.
- Sending Mrs. Xie Hongyan for training course Improving the Quality of Teaching in Forestry and Agriculture at Colleges and Universities in Germany, October, 2002, jointly sponsors by German Foundation for International Development and CBIK.
- Facilitation skill training workshop for CBIK and other partners in September, 2002.

3.4.2 Communication

Objectives:

- To generate knowledge and facilitate inter-cultural dialogues
- To improve communication among different partners and stakeholders
- To promote the conservation of IK and BD and their application in the community development, and improve the position and function of CBIK in the public and government finally.

Main results:

- Successfully organized the III MMSEA in Lijiang, August 26-29 with a total of 200 conference participants and presented about 80 papers in the plenary and six sub-plenary.
- The Mountain Festival for intercultural exchange and dialogues held in Lijiang, August 24-25, 2002 with active participation of about 150 indigenous participants from MMSEA region as well as conference participants in the International Year of Mountains.
- Indigenous Knowledge Film Series, including paper-making, rattan, hemp and mushroom, Tibetan festival, have been developed.
- Darrel Posey's book on "Beyond Intellectual Property" have been translated and edited.

3.4.3 Institutional development

Objectives:

- To develop the quality of interaction and communication among the staff
- To build up NGO values, norms and behaviors for staff
- To govern CBIK as sustainable institution

Main results:

- Informal International Advisory Board (IAB) meeting was held during the III MMSEA conference. The IAB provided good insights for CBIK governance. The IAB also called a donor's meeting during MMSEA conference.
- Local Boards meeting was organized on December 31, 2002 with productive and constructive comments and decision-making.
- The internal CBIK policies and regulations have been developed, which provides more transparency decision-making and governance.

4. Financial Statement

4.1 Overall Financial Report

1. Restricted Project Fund

1) Income:

Project Name	Fund sources	Budget
Indigenous Initiatives	MISIEREOR	EUR 60,000
CRN-Identification		USD 36,476
Cultural-based Resource management	ICCO	EUR 52,622.17
Indigenous Knowledge	GTZ	USD 40,000
Book translation	WRI	5000USD
Tibetan medicinal Plant	WWF	EUR 3125.20
Rent office	ICRAF	USD 6,300
Total		20.3 万 USD =RMB 1,660,000

2) Expenditure

Items	Expenditure (10,000yuan)
Travel and per dium	¥ 58.6
Training	¥ 10.5
Meetings	¥ 1.2
Salary	¥ 27.5
Fund transferred to partners	¥ 28.6
Publication	¥ 13.4

Consultants and labor	¥ 32.4
Communication & post	¥ 7.5
Equipment	¥ 36.9
Others	¥ 3.6
Total	¥ 220.2

2. Administration

1) Income

Items	Expenditure(10,000yuan)
Sale of VIPP box, cards and books	¥ 1.9
Overhead charges from projects	¥ 18.3
Project remaining fund transfer	¥ 7.5
Administration operation	¥ 10.5
Photocopies	¥ 0.4
Bank interests	¥ 0.2
Total	¥ 38.8

2) Expenditure:

Items	Expenditure(10,000yuan)
Salary	¥ 12
Vehicle	¥ 5
Office maintenance & supply	¥ 10.4
Journals and books	¥ 1.1
Office space (2nd installment)	¥ 23.7
Staff beneficiary	¥ 3
Total	¥ 55.2

Balance: -164,000Yuan

3) New assets

Items	Expenditure (yuan)
Books	¥ 8,400
Equipment	¥ 184,549
Office furniture	¥ 3,000
CBIK vehicle	¥ 256,524
House property	¥ 200,000
Total	RMB652,473

3. MMSEA Conference

Funding Sources:

- Ford Foundation, Beijing \$ 51,800
 - Rockefeller Foundation: \$ 36,000
 - Rockefeller Brother Fund: \$ 15,000
 - Ford Foundation, Hanoi: \$ 10,000
 - HBF, Germany: \$ 30,000
 - ICRAF-Kunming: \$ 2,000
 - Yunnan Bio-resources Office: \$ 2,400
 - ICCO, Netherlands: \$ 4,854
 - WRI: \$ 5,000
 - Registration Fees: \$ 14,960
- Total: \$172,014(RMB1,420,835.64Yuan)**

Expenditure:

- Conference materials and preparation: RMB38,684.42
 - Sponsored participants and experts in China: RMB 19,096.36
 - Travels to Laos, Thailand and Vietnam: RMB 21,751.53
 - Facilitator training in Lijiang: RMB 48,315.09
 - Staff and land transportation: RMB 67,888.79
 - International travel cost for key notes speakers RMB 81,882.30
 - Foods and hotels: RMB 254,086.25
 - Facilitators and organizing committee international tickets: RMB 62,680.19
 - Meeting room rent: RMB 43,000
 - Regional participants travel cost: RMB 50,124.79
 - Translation: RMB 16,400
 - Material prints, documentation and video: RMB 190,497.94
 - Field workshop in Zhongdian: RMB 44,918.54
 - Mountain festivals: RMB 162,844.50
 - Administration: RMB 112,394.87
 - Others: RMB 40,951.93
- Total: RMB 1,255,517.50**

After conference cost:

- Country review: 5 experts: RMB 25,000
 - MMSEA proceedings publications: RMB 90,000
 - Editing: RMB 15,000
 - CD multi-media: RMB 27,000
 - Post cost for proceedings: RMB 8,000
- Total: RMB 165,318.14**

4.2 Ford Financial Report

GEANTEE: Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

GEANRT NUMBER: 1010-0660

PERIOD OF GRANT:1/1/2002-12/31/2002

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$315,000

DATE SUBMITTED:

PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT-FROM:1/1/2002

TO: 12/31/2002

Budget Category	Approved Budget US \$	Expenditure		Balance
		US \$	RMB ¥	
Small grants program	108,000	44,664.78	368,931.10	63,335.22
Salaries and office costs	125,000	125,000	1,032,500	0
Training and degree study	45,000	26,357.22	217,710.64	18,642.78
International board meeting	15,000	15,000	123,900	0
Publication	22,000	20,967.55	173,191.96	1,032.45
Total	315,000	231,989.55	1,916,233.7	83,010.45
Rate: RMB:USD=8.26:1	Signed Financial Officer:			

Xu Jianchu, Ph.D

Executive Director

Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

March 21, 2003

5. CBIK Directory

International Advisory Board:

Dr. Frances Seymour, USA
Dr. Percy Sajise, Philippines
Dr. Jeff Romm, USA
Dr. Uraivan Tan-Kim-Yong, Thailand
Dr Anthony Cunningham, AUstralia
Dr. Nicholas Kay Menzies, Swiss

Board of Director:

Prof. Pei Shengji, President
Chair of Board
Pei Shengji
Zhang Jianbang
Jiang Zhiyun
Li Dezhu
Qiu Xuezhong
Wang Chun
Xiao Junqing
Xu Jianchu
Yang Yongping
Yin Shaoting
Li Chun
Yang Fuquan
Chen Ronggui

Executive Directors:

Dr. Xu Jianchu, Director
Mr. Wang Chun, Deputy Director
Mrs. Qian Jie, Deputy Director

Watershed Governance Program

Mr. He Jun, Head of Program
Mrs. Zhang Peifang, GIS Specialist
Mr. Tang Rongyi, GIS technician
Mr. Chen Xuecong, Rural Development
Mr. Zhao Zhiming, Forester
Mr. Andrew Willson, Australian Volunteer

Community Livelihood Program

Mr. Li Bo, Head of Program

Mr. Andreas Wilkes
Project officer of Rangeland Initiative
Mr. Shen Shicai, Technician
Mr. Shen Dingfang, Technician

Indigenous Knowledge Program

Ms. Zeng Yiqun, Head of Program

Capacity Building Program

Ms. Wang Yu, Head of Program
Ms. Pu Luoping, Technician

Communication Program

Mr. Lu Bin, Head of Program
Ms. Chen Yuan, Internet maintenance

Support service

Mrs. Li Zhengli, Head of Financial Office
Mrs. Guan Yuandong, Accountant
Prof. Chen Sanyang, Library & editor
Mrs. Luo Qiongxiang, Facility services
Mr. Ying Shouquan, Driver
Mr. Xu Xida, Security