

**CBIK Institutional Development
Annual Report for 2005**

Submitted by:

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1. Summary

Past support from the Ford Foundation has helped us to establish ourselves as a well-known center of research on bio-cultural interactions and a promoter of innovative approaches to natural resource management and development. Internal reflections and a recent institutional review highlighted several shortcomings in institutional management. This report outlines activities in the areas of organizational, program and project management. Much progress was made in cooperation with supportive staff and CBIK's partners. The young management group overcame some internal challenges and has established a collective decision-making working approach. Institutional governance issues have been resolved and give hope for CBIK's better development.

2. Achievements and Shortcomings

A recent institutional review conducted by Dr. Nick Menzies and Zhang Lanying praised CBIK's achievements to date: "The Center is recognized internationally and regionally as a valuable resource and the source of innovative ideas about the linkages between culture, knowledge, the environment and development." This achievement has not only been due to the successful implementation of projects and related information dissemination activities. It has also been due to a range of improvements in organizational structure and institutional management that we have implemented over the last 5 years. Many of these improvements have been supported by the current Ford Foundation core institutional grant. The institutional review also pointed out many current shortcomings and pointed to potential ways to improve management.

Achievements to date: In 2005, supported by the current institutional grant we have achieved the following significant accomplishments:

Internal management:

- Successfully completed a transition from the former leadership to a new leadership and re-election of the board of governors.
- Developed organizational management styles of senior staff in more a collective, open and transparent manner: regular mid-level management meetings are now held at which important issues are discussed among a wider range of staff than previously.
- Enhanced financial management to fulfill the requests from various stakeholders to be transparent to the public: financial management procedures and information flows have been improved, and the annual institutional financial report is now shared with members and the public.
- Developed a mentoring program and engaged in various capacity building activities

to improve the young staff and partner's knowledge and skills.

Information dissemination:

- Developed regular external and internal newsletters to strengthen communication with various stakeholders (including membership);
- Created a digital library to better share information and resources with various stakeholders;
- Created an electronic museum to initiate new forms of knowledge sharing with the public and to better disseminate CBIK's ideas;
- Produced many publications to provide knowledge to various stakeholders.

These accomplishments have strengthened CBIK's internal cohesion, enabling us to cooperate together in a friendly and warm working environment, making the staff more determined to act together. Through various information sharing and dissemination efforts, CBIK has increased its publicity, had more influence on partners and other key actors, and opened channels and forum for enhanced future dialogue. With support from CBIK staff, members and partners, CBIK is now confident to head into a new period with younger leaders and more innovative thinking about our organization's future development.

Main shortcomings: Despite these accomplishments, we face significant challenges and are preparing to deal in yet more practical ways with some of the organizational weaknesses we face:

Internal management:

- The 2001 strategic plan has not served as an effective framework for action: Chinese and English versions differ, the Chinese version has not been endorsed by all main stakeholders, and the statement of goals and objectives at organizational and program levels is still difficult to operationalize.
- Communication between the board of directors and senior staff needs to be improved.
- The design of the three research programs does not provide sufficiently clear focus for project activities to develop synergies, for the development of feasible advocacy outputs, and for the monitoring of performance and impact.
- Project management procedures need to be improved.
- Processes and mechanisms to promote better analysis and learning at project and program levels are weak.
- Communication between project staff and between programs is weak.
- Institutional budgeting needs to be improved to serve management's needs and to ensure longer-term financial sustainability.

In addition to the shortcomings in internal communication and learning outlined above, we are also aware that:

Information dissemination:

- CBIK lacks a coherent information dissemination and advocacy strategy.
- The impact of our various information dissemination activities has not been assessed, and we have no mechanisms through which lessons from experience can feed back into current and future information dissemination and advocacy activities.
- Insufficient involvement of key stakeholders in program and organizational activities.
- Links between project design and information dissemination strategies are weak.

Furthermore, CBIK currently faces two challenges: a young and relatively inexperienced leadership, and insufficient understanding by government of the activities and potential of the NGO sector. With regard to the latter, while the situation in Yunnan appears somewhat better than recently in Beijing, the level of understanding of the intentions and potentials of NGOs among government officials is still insufficient, and our experience has shown that the relevant government agencies should also be engaging in more support for NGOs in addition to just regulatory activities.

3. Brief Introduction on Performance of Programs in 2005

3.1 Watershed Governance Program

Focusing on the northwest and southeast of Yunnan Province and the Mekong River Basin, the objectives of this program are to develop a holistic (vernacular-cun-official, scientific-cum-indigenous) understanding of the agro-ecosystems, past and present land use and land cover changes and the underlying causes and drivers of change at a watershed level. In addition the program aims to promote and facilitate dialogue among different actors involved and promote responsible for watershed governance. This will improve human capacity and capability for environmentally sound watershed and eco-system management at the landscape level, through consultation and technical, policy and institutional innovations derived during this process. Following the recommendation of the institutional review, in the coming year, the focuses and objectives of the watershed governance will be further reviewed to ensure that it fits coherently within CBIK's overall strategic plan and develops synergies with the other two programs.

3.1.1 Sustainable management of watersheds in the Mekong Watershed

This project aims to develop approaches to the integrated management of watersheds

in the Mekong watershed, and thereby to promote sustainable livelihoods among ethnic minorities. This project, funded by Oxfam America, is implemented in the Nan-a Watershed in Xishuangbanna and in Deqin County. It began in January 2005. Project outputs: The surveys in the Xishuangbanna site were shared at the MMSEA IV meeting in Vietnam in May 2005. Work is proceeding well in that site, where each village has set up a watershed management committee, and water management activities are ongoing. Cooperation with the local government is extremely good, and it is planned in May 2006 to establish a watershed management committee for the whole watershed. In Deqin, the involvement of officials, school teachers, local NGOs and villagers in 10 research projects has laid a very good basis for the development of future research activities.

3.1.2 Project on Enhancing Multi-scale water governance (Funded by M-POWER)

CBIK serves as a partner organization in the project entitled “Enhancing multi-scale water governance” in M-POWER, which stands for the Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience. M-POWER is a program of action research that aims to improve the quality of water governance in ways which support sustainable livelihoods in the Mekong Region. M-POWER is implemented through a distributed network of collaborating organizations and individuals with different roles and responsibilities, which is funded by various funding agency, such as IFAD, SIDA etc.

CBIK has actively participated in the inception workshop and submitted a proposal to apply for a small grant to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue in Deqin County (middle-reaches of Mekong River in Yunnan). At present we are considering the following engagement in the M-POWER program:

- Undertaking some reflective research on some of the community-research strategies we have used to date (e.g. what do villagers think of ‘photo-voice’ as a research and communication tool?);
- CBIK staff learning about how to support and facilitate research by villagers from other institutions in the region;
- Taking village researcher partners to visit other village-based researchers in the region to learn from them;
- Holding activities that can serve as a platform for community-based researchers to learn from each other and together;
- Holding activities that can serve as a platform for various local stakeholders to discuss how local research, dialogue and advocacy activities can be conducted.

It is expected that in the future CBIK will join local partners to discuss interactions between upstream and downstream communities in the lower reaches of the Mekong.

3.1.3 Understanding Policy Processes in Biotechnology and Bio-safety Measures in Thailand and China (Funded by IDRC)

CBIK cooperated with the Asia Institute of Technology (Thailand) to apply for this

project from IDRC in 2004. The project started from July \ 2005. The objectives are: (i) to describe important historical and contextual factors that influenced the intensification of biotechnology in the rice sector in China and export shrimp sector in Thailand; (ii) to describe the actors, interactions, and processes at work in biotechnology/bio-safety policy networks as well as the dominant, subordinate and/or counter discourses at play; (iii) to analyze the bio-technology/bio-safety discourses and how they have been employed by certain actors in the policy network and have related with other non-technical or socially-focused discourses in policy formulation; (iv) to describe and understand the interactions, negotiations, consensus building, and tensions between actors in bio-technology/bio-safety policy network and to explain how these influence the shaping of relevant policies.

CBIK had conducted an inception workshop and two trainings for the team members from 4 organizations to conduct policy network analysis and discourse analysis. A detailed work plan has been developed. The first draft of a research paper will be ready by May 2006.

3.1.4 Mobile Workshop for Land Use History in MMSEA (funded by Rockefeller Foundation)

The idea for a ‘mobile workshop’ focusing on key elements of land use history within the Montane Mountain Southeast Asia (MMSEA) eco-cultural region emerged from the MMSEA Symposium III held in Lijiang, Yunnan, China, in 2002. Symposium participants from Laos, Thailand and China suggested organizing an event that would transect portions of the three countries within MMSEA to enable better understanding of regional land use dynamics and transboundary issues.

In response to this innovative idea, a group of partner organizations decided to work together to organize this mobile workshop. Key partners included: Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK), National University of Laos (NUoL), National Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Chiang Mai University (CMU), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and East-West Center (EWC).

During 15-27 January 2005, some 60 participants from eight countries actively took part in a unique learning process: a ‘mobile workshop’ on land use history that traversed through the heart of the Montane Mainland Southeast Asia (MMSEA) eco-cultural region. 1000 copies of the well-written summary report has been disseminated by CBIK and ICIMOD to various stakeholders, including donors, participants, and regional partners in MMSEA. In addition 250 copies of a DVD produced by CBIK and ICIMOD is available, which contains all of workshop papers and photos for the participants. The dissemination of the DVD is limited to the participants and regional partners in MMSEA. The workshop participants in Yunnan

cooperated together to hold a dialogue and dissemination workshop with policy makers at the county, prefecture and provincial levels in July 12 and August 14-15. The knowledge gained from the Mobile workshop has been disseminated, and issues raised in the Mobile workshop have been discussed deeply in the different meeting contexts.

3.2 Community livelihood Program

Focusing on the upland areas of Southwest China the objectives of this program are to facilitate the knowledge, technical and institutional innovations of indigenous communities; enhance endogenous development and improve community livelihoods and promote application of indigenous knowledge and technology in sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation. The focus of the Community Livelihood Program is also currently under review to ensure that its activities better contribute to CBIK's strategic aims.

3.2.1 “Jisha Eco-tourism and Legal Aid” project (funded by CI-CEPF)

Over the last 3 years, a prominent issue in the western provinces in China has been the overheating of tourism development and other resource exploitation projects initiated by investors from big cities. The Jisha project funded by ICCO (Netherlands) explores livelihood improvement and good resource governance at the community level, through articulation of collective community decision-making in ecotourism management. This will in turn strengthen community stewardship on natural resources and collective responses to other stakeholders' claims on nature resources, and ultimately build strong linkages between local cultures, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. This is the background to the CEPF-sponsored legal aid project. The idea to use legal mechanisms to protect the legal rights of Jisha villagers came from a strong awareness during the process of implementing the above activities that the villagers were not aware of their own rights as citizens. The first visit by CBIK's legal advisor to Jisha revealed the value of such legal aid. The legal aid project began in March 2005, while the eco-tourism lodge sponsored by ICCO was completed in February 2005, and since then villagers have been acting as wardens until a way to transfer the property rights over the lodge to an operator has been found.

3.2.2 “Enhancing the Livelihoods of Agro-Pastoralists in NW Yunnan” project (funded by IDRC)

The project is funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada, and implemented by CBIK in partnership with Animal Husbandry Bureau of Yunnan Province from April 2003 to June 2006. The project aims to enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders to support the development of sustainable livelihoods of agro-pastoralists in NW Yunnan. The project is working initially in two areas, one in

Xianggelila County (a Tibetan community) and one in Gongshan County (a multi-ethnic region). In Gongshan, participatory technology development processes have been adopted county-wide by the animal husbandry bureau agencies. In Diqing, various participatory experiments have been conducted on rangeland degradation, fencing and agricultural crops. We intend to apply for a second phase of the project, focusing in Gongshan on institutionalizing participatory approaches in the county and in Xianggelila on developing rangeland co-management approaches with communities and local government counterparts.

3.2.3 Sustainable Agriculture for Livelihood Development in Uplands of Yunnan (funded by Misereor)

Upland is both a bio-geographic and socio-cultural term that refers to the mountainous areas, their biological components, livelihood practices and cultural identity. Uplands are critical since any disturbance in these areas may have a significant impact on ecological functions in the lowlands. Upland people are very vulnerable. Their livelihoods are often not well addressed in the formulation of government policies and development programs, and are also uncertain due to environmental, sociopolitical and economic vulnerability in the mountain region. The overall goal of this project, which is supported by Misereor (Germany), is to increase rural livelihood security and sustainability in the mountain region of Yunnan, Southwest China. A project objective is to develop and implement sustainable agriculture practices in the uplands of Yunnan, and to achieve good local resource governance by improving the access of indigenous people and communities for local livelihood development. The project is engaging community members in participatory technology development processes and strengthening farmers' organization to implement sustainable agriculture practices.

3.3 Indigenous Knowledge Program

Concerned with the impact of the socioeconomic changes upon the future of ethnic communities in SW-China this program's overall objective is to establish a participatory development process for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, primarily to benefit the livelihoods of ethnic minorities. This specific objectives and foci of this program are also undergoing review to ensure complementarity with the other programs.

3.3.1 Naxi Papermaking Project (funded by ICCO)

The papermaking project stresses a process of recognition of perceptions, knowledge and values by which a group utilizes its resources. The focus on culture gives a temporal dimension not only towards the past but also an orientation to the future. Moreover it reflects the meaning they attach to the utilization of resources. It is not

enough to say that it is “the way of Naxi people” to make the paper. To appreciate the “Naxi way” of producing paper one has to gain a deeper understanding of the explanations given by the members of the community about how they deal with their resources. We aim to understand the condition of ethnic groups’ handmade paper, to improve the communication between ethnic groups, to understand the knowledge on raw resource management and related market. In 2005, the project held exhibitions of hand made paper in Kunming and Jinhong; held an art competition using handmade paper and produced a bilingual introduction to hand made paper of several ethnic minorities in the region. Visits by paper makers to Thailand and other locations were instrumental in making hand made paper a main source of income in one partner community in Xishuangbanna.

3.3.2 Community-based Education on Indigenous Knowledge of Biodiversity (funded by Ford Foundation)

Due to the impact of socioeconomic changes upon ethnic communities, most young generations know little about their own history and culture and generally they cannot learn this knowledge from formal school education systems. Furthermore, older generations and local elites have realized that most indigenous knowledge and practices are dying out. Reforms of the school system provide great opportunities to enhance teachers’ interest in local knowledge and biodiversity and to use the knowledge generated in teaching. There is also an increasing awareness by local government officials of local autonomy and cultural identity, and they are starting to look at the diversity of natural and cultural resources as potential sources of livelihood and tourism development. Local communities have a rich repertoire of knowledge about natural and cultural resources and livelihood activities, so there is a bridge between community and school, between teachers, students and villagers to learn and explore indigenous knowledge interactively. The project aims to achieve the following objectives: promote indigenous knowledge systems in biodiversity conservation and livelihood development; develop participatory education methodology; enhance the capability of local partners to apply indigenous knowledge for biodiversity conservation. Initial experiences have been extremely well received by school teachers, students and parents, and also by local education bureaus.

3.4 Capacity Building Program

Focusing on ongoing professionalization of staff, members and resource persons, CBIK will promote participatory approaches in attitudes, methods, tools and teamwork; provide learning opportunities for staff and strategic partners and create and improve its training capacity.

3.4.1 Trainings

CBIK organized some trainings to address the staff's learning needs and support their career development. The trainings are as follow as:

Organizer	Time	Place	Content	No. of participants from CBIK
PCD	Jan. 29 – Feb. 2	Xishuangbanna	Facilitation skills	2 persons
WINROCK	Feb. 23-28	Beijing	NGO Financial System	2 persons
CBIK	March 2-3	CBIK	Gender analysis	15 persons
WINROCK	March 15-18	Beijing	Leadership	2 persons
IIRR-CBIK-PRA	April 25-30	CBIK	Case study writing	8 persons
CBIK	May 11-13	Kunming	Capacity building	19 persons
CBIK	June 1-2	CBIK	Community facilitator	6 persons
Bai Jing	June 4-6	Kunming	Leadership in Organization	23 persons
WINROCK	June 8-12	Beijing	Fundraising	2 persons
WRI	June 16- July 1	USA	Environment assessment	1 person
CBIK	June 28-30	Kunming	Micro-finance	5 persons
TMI	August 7-10	Northwest Yunnan	Market Chain Analysis	1 person
Southeast Asia Fellow Program	August 28 – Oct. 24	USA	Project management	1 person
IIRR	Sept. 17 – Oct. 8	Philippines	Farmer-led extension	1 person
CAU	Sept. 20-26	Beijing	Participatory monitoring and evaluation	2 persons
SIB	Sept. 28-29	Sichuan	Social & gender analysis	2 persons
ICIMOD		Nepal	Logical framework	1 person
ICIMOD	Dec. 4 -6	Chongqing	Farmer-centered research	5 persons

3.4.2 CBIK forum

A total of 10 CBIK Forums were held in 2005, which is helpful for CBIK to disseminate the knowledge learned from the projects and partners to CBIK members and the public, to build a communication platform to discuss the current issues on resource governance, sustainable livelihood, indigenous knowledge and environment conservation in Yunnan. Around 177 people joined CBIK Forum to share the information and knowledge, experiences and lessons-learned.

Time	Content	Speaker	No. of Participants
May. 13	How to enhance the application of the information resource on the internet in the scientific researches	Wang Yuhua	17 Persons (from 5 institutions)

Jun. 15	Protection of the intellectual property rights of indigenous knowledge	He Pikun	20 persons (from 4 institutions)
Jun. 30	How to use the indigenous knowledge to promote the community development and protect the benefits of the community	Living Buddha Zongdan Saha Rinpoche	19 persons (form 4 institutions)
Jul. 7	To protect the community natural resources governance methods, and to promote the sustainable rural development in Guizhou Province	Chen Deshou	15 persons (from 3 institutions)
Jul. 13	From pre-historic rock painting to eco-tourism	Li Xiangmu	19 persons (from 7 institutions)
Aug. 17	Environmental Community Development in the Darebin Creek Catchment	Therese Grinter	17 persons (from 4 institutions)
Nov. 8	Introduction of Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden	Sharon Chow	15 persons(from 3 institutions)
Nov. 18	Workshop on Livelihood Development for upland in Western China	Li Zhinan	24 persons(from 4 institutions)
Nov. 28	Soliciting opinions on the “Public Participation in the Measures on Environmental Impact Assessment”	Andy Wilkes	11persons(from 3 institutions)
Dec. 19	Indigenous Knowledge from the view of film making	Chen Xueli	20persons(from 3 institutions)

3.5 Communication Program

The focus of this program is to better engage CBIK in intercultural and policy dialogue at regional, national and international levels. Its objectives are to:

- Improve cooperation between different disciplines, departments, institutions and people
- promote conservation of indigenous knowledge and biodiversity within community development
- Accumulate knowledge and innovate knowledge

Priority Activities are:

- Strengthen internal and external communications through print, film and web based media

- Develop and implement an e-library and e-museum
- Maintain and upgrade the CBIK webpage and internet facilities

3.5.1 Conferences Attended

57 conferences were attended by CBIK staff in total in 2005, including 13 international conferences held in the region. 127 persons including CBIK staff, CBIK members, and partners were involved in those events with support from CBIK. These communication opportunities strengthened the staff's learning, mutual exchanges with different stakeholders, and improved CBIK's experience and skills in disseminating our experiences and lessons-learned, and allowed CBIK to have more space for policy advocacy.

3.5.2 Workshops and training services

In 2005, a total of 55 workshops and trainings were held in CBIK, which involved 722 participants. As an NGO, CBIK administrative staff improved their working efficiency and quality, provided good services to various stakeholders, including project members, partners, donors, CBIK members, other NGOs, and national & international visitors.

3.5.3 CBIK Newsletter

In order to maintain communications with CBIK members and other groups who are interested in CBIK's work, we put lots of effort into preparing and disseminating the quarterly CBIK newsletter. It covers the progress of projects, important news, recent important activities, visitors, brief reviews of CBIK Forum Series, etc. The feedback from CBIK members is positive and encourages us to continue this effort. The following are the lead titles of the CBIK Newsletters in 2005 (The details are in the attached CD-ROM with the report):

- Improving Accountability of Chinese NGOs
- Capacity Building of NGOs
- Non-Material Cultural Heritage Protection
- Participatory Technology Development

3.5.4 CBIK Windows

CBIK Windows as a monthly newsletter for CBIK staff providing an opportunity for the CBIK staff to write in English and expresses their opinions freely in both formal and informal contributions. The twelve editions of CBIK Windows are a collective way in which all staff to make contributions towards the CBIK community by enhancing internal sharing and communication. Since many staff still have difficulty to read and write in English, the internal readership isn't well developed. We have initiated some modification to encourage the staff write either in English or Chinese.

The mixed format has been arranged in the last four editions. (All the content of CBIK Windows can be found in the attached CD-ROM.)

3.5.5 Improvement of the library

- Establishment of on-line library for information storage and better access for relevant good papers in PDF files (see <http://www.cbik.ac.cn/onlinestore/>)
- Finalization of electronic library: The readers can use the library computer to easily find out the relevant books and borrowing status, which is good for information flow and management of the library.
- Purchase books according to project needs: we solicited requests for new books from all CBIK staff to address their needs. After collecting their opinions, we bought 141 Chinese books and 76 English books related to various topics, such as “people-centered” scientific development, sustainable development, ethnic culture, project management, financial management, and biodiversity conservation.

3.5.6 Information dissemination

E-Museum:

- Hand-make papermaking (<http://www.cbik.ac.cn/papermaking/>)
- Eco-tourism (<http://www.ecoyunnan.org/>)

Film Making:

- Film of “Trade on Wild Animal” for Imaging the Mekong project
- Documentary film of “Jisha Story” for ICCO Eco-tourism project
- Film of “Traditional costume in Mensong” for Ford Community-based Education project
- Flash of “Hand-made paper-making in Ethnic Groups” for ICCO Paper-making project
- Flash of KIB’s History, present and future for partner organization
- Documentary film of WTO conference in Hong Kong

Other activities:

- Calendar on eco-tourism and people-centered development
- Multimedia CD-ROM for forest governance workshop
- Poster making for watershed governance project
- One-month exhibition on hand-made paper-making culture in Yunnan Ethnic Museum
- Three-month mobile exhibition on hand-made paper-making culture in various counties in Yunnan
- Bookmarks on Wild Vegetables in Xishuangbanna
- Publication of the book on “Participatory Technology Development”
- Publication of the book on “Map of Handmade paper-making in Yunnan”

3.6 Institutional Development Program

Focusing on the need to strengthen and manage ongoing organizational governance and planning, leadership, internal management policies and practices, human resources, resource development, financial management and program capacity building CBIK will continue to cultivate values of civil society and an organizational culture of cooperation and process.

3.6.1 CBIK Institutional Review

A institutional review conducted by Dr. Nick Menzies and Zhang Lanying took place from Oct. 3rd to 18th in 2005 in Kunming. In the report, they praised CBIK's achievements to date, such as improvements in organizational structure and institutional management that we have implemented over the last 5 years. Many of these improvements have been supported by the current Ford Foundation Core Institutional grant. The institutional review also pointed out many current shortcomings and pointed to potential ways to improve management. (See the attached CD-ROM for more information.)

3.6.2 The 1st board meeting organized by the 3rd CBIK Board of Governors

There was a CBIK Board Meeting held on Dec. 30 in 2005. It was a great success and the outcome of the meeting was that the president and vice-president of CBIK were confirmed, and the executive director was elected. 12 board members out of 13 Board members took part in the board meeting, including Pei Shengji; Li Dezhu; Wang Chun; Xu Jianchu; Yang Yongping; Yin Shaoting; Li Chun; Yang Fuquan; Niu Hongwei; Hu Haiyan; Yang Yuming; Qian Jie. The key decisions from 3rd CBIK Board of Governors are as follow: Prof. Li Dezhu as President of CBIK, Prof. Xu Jianchu as Vice-President of CBIK, Mrs. Qian Jie as Executive Director of CBIK.

During the board meeting, the translated and original reports on CBIK institutional review were disseminated to each board member. All board members thought they were useful, relevant and important for CBIK's future sustainable development. They urged CBIK's executives to put in action some of the good recommendations from the institutional review report in 2006. They all hope that a vibrant, efficient and functioning CBIK Board can be established and bring more strength to CBIK for bettering the development of Chinese civil society.

3.6.3 Initiatives on financial accountability

- The directors and financial managers attended various trainings and workshops on organizational accountability and financial management;

- Improved information sharing and communication between financial managers and project leaders for better understanding and improvement of financial transactions and processes;
- Adopted a new reimbursement procedure for better cooperation between project management and financial management;
- New financial software is being used and producing financial reports more efficiently.

3.6.4 Initiatives on administrative efficiency

- Evaluation of work performance based on annual work plan and job description are being practiced, and feedback from supervisors is being disseminated in a timely fashion to each staff;
- Team building among administrative staff to act as a group and support each other when tasks extend beyond their fields of responsibility;
- Provide various on-the-job trainings for administrative staff for better supporting service provision;
- The institutional welfare plan is ready to be put in action.

3.6.5 Dialogue platform with government agencies and other NGOs

At the present time, it is difficult to predict how the government will treat the NGO sector. In 2005, there were both encouraging signs (such as the invitation to NGOs to contract village level participatory poverty alleviation activities) and also warning signs (such as the requirement of all Beijing NGOs to re-register and the accompanying public critiques of NGOs by prominent academics). Events overseas appear also to have influenced the attitude of the government to NGOs, and the future impact of such events is hard to predict. In such a climate, the success of NGOs such as CBIK is also dependent on cultivating supportive relationships with the relevant government departments and with other NGOs.

In the recent past, CBIK has been praised by and received an award from the provincial Civil Affairs Department. Within the Yunnan NGO circle, CBIK also has a reputation as a relatively more mature and successful NGO. In 2005 we undertook several activities in collaboration with the Yunnan NGO Promotion Society (a GONGO) and the Civil Affairs Department, including convening and facilitating an NGO meeting at which NGO capacity building needs were discussed. One outcome of the meeting was a recognition among NGOs and the relevant government departments that such events are extremely useful and also that there are needs on the part of both NGOs and government to understand in more depth ways to promote the capacity building of the NGO sector so that it can perform its functions better. Specific needs identified to date relate to NGO governance, leadership, financial management, project management, information sharing and communication strategies, dissemination and advocacy. Another workshop was organized to discuss issues related to new financial management regulations and to exchange experiences and

lessons learned since the introduction of the new regulations. The participants highly welcomed this kind of small-scale workshop as an effective way to learn from each other and as an opportunity to give feedback for future revision of the regulations.

Submitted by:

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Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

Date:

4. Financial Statement

Overall Financial Report in 2005

Income of CBIK in 2005

Donors	Grant Income	In RMB (Yuan)
Oxfam-America	49,990 USD	412,917.40
YASS	6,400 RMB	6,400.00
ICMOD	18,846 USD	155,667.96
China Poverty Fund	7,755.69 RMB	7,755.69
Ford Foundation	713,605.04 RMB	713,605.04
GAAS	40,000 RMB	40,000.00
MISEREOR	77800 EUR	778,000.00
CI	19,988 USD	165,100.88
Action Aid	18,618.17 RMB	18,618.17
PCD	1,000 RMB	1,000.00
WRI	12,256 USD	101,234.56
INWENT	8,747 RMB	8,747.00
PRA	90,652.60 RMB	90,652.60
IDRC	55,913.25 USD	461,843.44
Rockfeller Foundation	48,655 USD	401,890.30
IDRC-AIT	9,780 USD	80,782.80
MISEREOR	9660 EUR	96,600.00
Individual grant	50,414.33 RMB	50,414.33
Total		3,591,230.17
Note: Exchange rate is USD:RMB=1:8.26; EUR:RMB=1:10.		

Expenditure in 2005

(A)Project	Expenditure in RMB
Community Livelihood	1,980,756.33
Watershed Governance	585,426.08
Indigenous Knowledge	765,624.08
Capacity Building	781,909.30
International Conference	692,201.55
(B)Institutional management	-13,007.06
(C)Fundraising	71,948.21
Total	4,864,859.26

Note: The negative number in the item of institutional management is because the actual overhead fee is larger than the real expenses.

Appendix 1 CBIK Project Progress Report for 2005

“Enhancing the Livelihoods of Agro-Pastoralists in NW Yunnan” project

The project is funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada, and implemented by CBIK in partnership with Animal Husbandry Bureau of Yunnan Province Agriculture Department from April 2003 to April 2006. The project aims to enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders to support the development of sustainable livelihoods of agro-pastoralists in NW Yunnan. The project is working in one community in Shangrila County (a Tibetan community), and five communities in Gongshan County (Lisu, Nu and Tibetan communities).

Main project activities in 2005

Participatory Technology Development: In 2004 we were working on fodder, fencing, and livestock disease experiments in two communities – one, working directly with community members and the other supporting the township veterinary station to facilitate farmer experiments. In the latter community, in 2005, the community devised ways to ensure sustainable access to technologies that the experiments had proven successful. Due to the good work of the township veterinary station, in 2005, we were invited by Gongshan County Animal Husbandry Bureau to initiate PTD processes in one village in each of four townships throughout the county. Following a training for county and township technicians, farmer experiment groups were set up in each township, working on a similar range of issues. Experiments are ongoing. In Shangrila County, after two years of experiments with propagation methods for hedgerows, in 2005 we began extension of these methods to neighbouring villages. We have also been supporting one community to manage their own Technology Innovation Fund. The results of the 2005 experiments (potato, oil seed rape and pig breeds) have yet to be evaluated.

Participatory Institutional Innovation

Revolving drug funds: In 2004 we supported one village committee to procure, supply and manage basic veterinary medicines, but the impact was not significant. In 2005 we supported two hamlets to manage their own revolving drug funds, and initial assessments suggest that this has had greater impacts on livestock disease.

Rangeland management: We have continued to support one village committee to implement a grazing ban on a degraded rangeland.

Applied Research

- A study of plant community structure in a rangeland infested with weeds;
- Supported research on the impacts of herbicides on a grassland weed;
- A study of the impact of fire on rhododendron in rangelands;
- Supported an emerging community-based NGO to undertake a study of the impact of forestry policies on agro-biodiversity in Dulongjiang Township;
- Initiated development of a method for rapid assessment of rangeland degradation;
- A study of the impact of a government rangeland fencing program;
- A study of causes of changes in animal husbandry practices in Diqing.

Networking

- One project staff attended training at IIRR (Philippines) on farmer-centered extension
- Project staff provided training in Dingri County, Tibet, on rangeland co-management (at the invitation of ICIMOD)
- Project staff provided training in Chengdu on participatory monitoring and evaluation of rangeland co-management (at the invitation of ICIMOD)
- Project staff provided training in Chongqing on participatory action research to the Farmer Centered Research Network (at the invitation of China Agricultural University)
- Established collaboration with China Center for Agricultural Policy on veterinary service reforms

Successes and lessons learned

1. This year, we began to collaborate closer with the county animal husbandry bureau, and in August began PTD activities in four townships. This signifies the beginning of explorations about how to promote bottom-up planning for technology extension at the county level. There have been few experiments of this kind in China. Also, the county animal husbandry bureau pro-actively requested that we assist with introducing participatory approaches in a government-funded livestock breed project,

signifying that the project has already begun to explore ways to institutionalize participatory approaches within the county.

2. In June 2004 we began PTD work with Pengdang Township Veterinary Station. Although the activities have been going on for over 1 year, we have learned that the capacity building of grassroots technicians must link with practical field work. Exploring ever better ways to support their learning is a future topic for research.
3. This year Diqing Prefecture began to develop new grassland management regulations, and attention to grassland management issues at the prefecture level has clearly increased. The project has grasped this opportunity to discuss the piloting of rangeland co-management arrangements in Diqing beginning in 2006. Their enthusiastic response shows that NGOs can be of great value to government departments when there is an issue that the department does not know how to deal with.

Outcomes achieved in relation to CBIK's strategic goals:

“Improve capabilities of local people for sustainable livelihoods and the well-being of human and non-human residents of mountain watersheds”:

- The involvement of over 100 households in technology experiments together with technicians in Gongshan.
- Continued support for two communities in Shangrila County to manage their own Technology Experiment Fund.

“Generate environmentally sound and socio-culturally adapted knowledge for managing and conserving natural and cultural resources”:

- Production of ethnic minority language VCD/DVD on silage fodder production;
- Through monitoring of the impacts of prescribed fire on rhododendron, providing preliminary information on potential ways to deal with one kind of rangeland degradation.
- Through continued support for community-based management of grasslands, increased villagers' awareness of the importance of self-management.

“Enhance the capacity of committed researchers and development workers for interdisciplinary research, facilitation, documentation and dissemination in partnership with indigenous people”:

- Trainings provided for researchers, officials and technicians on rangeland co-management and participatory action research.
- Working papers on various aspects of project management, agro-pastoralist livelihoods, grassland ecology and local knowledge have been produced and shared with other NGOs, research institutes and donor projects.
- Project staff have each written several papers based on their work and research experience and are improving their skills in communicating research findings.
- Training for 30 local animal husbandry technicians on how to diagnose farmers’ needs, set up farmer experiment groups and engage in experimentation with farmers;

“Offer means and methods for bridging between knowledge systems, political systems and cultures to contribute to a society of intercultural, intersectoral and interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation”:

- Various working papers produced.
- In cooperation with other CBIK projects published a book with 10 case studies of experiences with PTD, and distributed to more than 100 interested parties.

Sustainable Upland Agriculture Project

This project, funded by Misereor, is implemented by CBIK in Mengsong Village, Xishuangbanna, and by Luquan County Environment Bureau and Yunlong Township Government in Yunli Village. 2003-4 and 2004-5 were there first and second phases of the project, and we intend to apply for a third phase in 2006. The overall goal of the project is to increase rural livelihood security and sustainability in the mountain region of Yunnan. The project objective is to develop and implement sustainable agriculture practices in the uplands of Yunnan, to address local environmental and livelihood needs through Participatory Technology Development (PTD), and to achieve good local resource governance.

Main Activities in 2005

Improving agricultural productivity in a sustainable way: In Guangming hamlet in Mengsong, after two years of project implementation, sustainable agriculture production had taken on three forms: an Organic Tea Garden, Green Vegetable cultivation, and Local Rice cultivation. To date we have helped villagers to cultivate a 33 hectare tea garden, and villagers have planted a total of 133 ha. of tea. Because the tea in Mengsong is organic, the price of tea in Mengsong increased greatly and a lot of purchasers came to collect tea this year. So households earned between 1000 and 7000 yuan each from tea production. This year about 6 ha. of vegetables were planted by the women's group in fallow paddy land in the winter, which has provided another source of cash income (between 300-2000 Yuan per household). At the same time, the legume-dominated winter vegetables have improved the quality of the paddy soils. This year in Mengsong, villagers taking part in a 'Rice Friends Association' trialed 5 varieties of rice, from which two varieties of paddy rice and one upland rice were selected for promotion next year. The Association is beginning to resuscitate the traditional varietal selection system. In Yunli village, last year pears and walnuts were selected as the main intervention, but owing to severe snow in March 2005 this activity was ended. Villagers therefore turned their attention to planting annuals, including vegetables and medicinal plants. The villagers' agriculture association planted 13 hectares of turnip and a small plot of a medicinal plant called 'caowu'. The turnips are now being sold and a contract for the 'caowu' has been signed. The Association also brought in 8 tonnes of potato seeds to follow the turnip crop.

Yunli village's animal husbandry association has been following up last year's introduction of new breeds with a micro-credit loan project. To date, 32 households taking part in 5 groups have made use of loans, and repayment rates have been 100%.

Community organization building: Looking back over the last three years, we have followed a gradual process, from beginning with project staff led activities to the formation of community management committees to the establishment of farmers' associations. After setting the overall direction of sustainable agriculture development in each village, we have set up the following associations: Organic Tea Association, Organic Vegetable Association and Rice Friends Association in Mengsong, and an Agriculture Association and Animal Husbandry Association in Yunli.

Resource governance studies and policy interventions

We have completed the following studies: (1) Sloped Farmland Conversion Program: By planting tea in Mengsong, we have provided the local government with an alternative to swidden agriculture which has been strongly supported by the local government as part of the sloped farmland conversion program there. (2) Rattan and forest resource management in Mengsong: In 1998, Mengsong's collective forest was designated as state forest and collection of wild rattan and other forest activities were banned. We have worked with the local government to help villagers to plant 27,000 rattan saplings, and the local government has recognized the use rights of the planters. (3) NTFP management: We did a survey of NTFP use in Jinduo Miao hamlet, which showed that this was a major livelihood activity. The main problem is that although clarifying forest tenure and setting management regulations would benefit NTFP production, the Miao villagers think that this would in fact restrict their access to NTFPs in forests owned by others and thus harm their livelihoods, so we have not followed up on this activity.

Support for women's livelihood development: We have set up two women's associations based on the needs of local women (the vegetable association in Mengsong and the animal husbandry association in Yunli). In order to promote women's development, we have provided organizational management training and technical training, mainly through study tours, experiments and exchange workshops. These activities not only enhance technical skills and incomes but also improve women's

management skills. Participatory mechanisms have gradually been formed such as the appointment by election of association leaders and seasonal planning by the women themselves. Finances are transparent.

Strengthen local learning of Indigenous Knowledge: Surveys and experiments by indigenous experts have led to the production of 6 VCD/DVDs, and 1000 copies of small booklets on wild vegetables and rattan. These materials will be used as teaching aids in schools and for distribution to other villagers.

Capacity building of stakeholders: In August 2005 we organized a workshop on participatory development, attended by partners from Liangshan, Jinhong, ICRAF, provincial agricultural departments and higher education institutions and our local partners as well as villagers. Other CBIK project staff also attended. We have also had visits from Shaanxi Women's Association, Action Aid Guizhou project and PCD Menghai project. Through two years of efforts our project has become one of the main promoters of PTD in China and we plan to gain support for establishing a network to further learning on the topic and gradually increase our impact.

Challenges faced in the PTD process:

(1) Participation of the very poor: Because technical experiments require some ability to record and communicate results, and to cope with the risks involved, some poor household who are illiterate, not trusted by others and vulnerable have not been participating in the PTD trials. Also, the household economy of the poor is often oriented more towards self-sufficiency, while the mainstream community is often more interested in cash crops.

(2) Participation of government: Although we think PTD is an effective way to promote technology development in the communities, government departments are often not interested in taking part.

(3) Farmer to farmer extension: Although experiments may be successful, we often find that momentum stops at the extension stage. Farmers living distant from each other rarely exchange experiences. We are seeing whether the associations can play this role.

(4) Cost of implementation and risks: At present all costs and risks are borne by CBIK, but who will bear these costs in the future is an issue.

(5) Sustainability of PTD: The sustainability of PTD is an issue cross-cutting the above issues. At present CBIK is taking two approaches to this issue: The Agro-pastoralist Livelihoods project is cooperating with the government in order to institutionalize PTD in the extension system, while the Upland Agriculture project is supporting farmers' associations to continue with the practice of PTD and ultimately to engage in self-development.

Future Plans:

- i. Organizational development of farmers' associations: Registration of associations, organizational management training and PTD.
- ii. Integration of PTD and farmer field schools for ecological agriculture: We plan to use the training center at Yunlong to shift the project staff's role from one of implementor to facilitator and trainer, with project activities implemented by grassroots staff.
- iii. Attempt project approaches led by the poor: We will learn from the experiences of Oxfam HK and Misereor with community development funds, linked to technical training to resolve livelihood problems for the poorest households.
- iv. Policy advocacy: We will hold many workshops participated in by community organizations and local government departments in order to promote the idea of participation by civil society and good governance.

Outcomes in relation to CBIK's strategic goals:

“Improve capabilities of local people for sustainable livelihoods and the well-being of human and non-human residents of mountain watersheds”:

- Through the ecological agriculture experiments and extension activities undertaken by the associations, we have developed technical skills in tea garden management, vegetable and medicinal plant cultivation and livestock raising.
- Through training and meetings we have raised the awareness of partners of participatory development and ecological agriculture.
- Through the establishment of associations we have improved participatory organizational management capacities.

“Generate environmentally sound and socio-culturally adapted knowledge for managing and conserving natural and cultural resources”:

- We have assisted indigenous experts to make 6 VCDs and 1000 copies of booklets on indigenous knowledge.
- Through PTD different communities have formed their own knowledge and technology systems for ecological agriculture.

“Enhance the capacity of committed researchers and development workers for interdisciplinary research, facilitation, documentation and dissemination in partnership with indigenous people”:

- Young project staff have published two papers and the project leader has completed 4 papers of which two have been published.
- Project partners have completed two papers.
- We held one large-scale workshop which enhanced the knowledge of researchers.

“Offer means and methods for bridging between knowledge systems, political systems and cultures to contribute to a society of intercultural, intersectoral and interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation”:

- We organized a large-scale workshop participated in by several agencies.
- We organized several site visits by government departments, project staff and villagers.

Construction of a Safe Bridge at Xuewadang Village, Dulongjiang

This project, supported by Misereor, began in 2004 and was completed in 2005. The project involved the construction of a 78 meter bridge across a tributary of the Dulongjiang River. The project originated in CBIK’s research in 1999 on ‘Threats to Biodiversity in NW Yunnan’. At that time, survey staff researching threats to biodiversity found that the existing bridge at Xuewadang Village was extremely dangerous and had already cost the lives of 5 people. In addition, villagers’ access to markets, schooling and

medical care was extremely poor and dangerous. In 2004-5 CBIK supported Gongshan County Transport Bureau to construct a safe bridge in order to resolve the above problems. Given that the bridge is the only route from Xuewadang to other villages, the construction of the bridge has made a major contribution to local people's capacity to engage in sustainable livelihoods and improved well-being.

Jisha Village Eco-tourism and Legal Aid Project

Project background:

Qianhushan, which lies behind Jisha village in Shangrila County, Diqing Prefecture, is an area of primary forest, grassland and alpine wetland lying within the bounds of the Three Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site. Jisha is a Tibetan village, with 94 households divided into Upper and Lower Jisha. Lives in Jisha are inextricably linked to Qianhushan: Some of the peaks and lakes in Qianhushan are sacred mountains and lakes; the grasslands are necessary for grazing livestock through which to produce butter and other daily necessities. Qianhushan is also the water source for the village. In recent years, as Shangrila's tourism has boomed and increasing numbers of tourists have come to Qianhushan which has shifted the structure of villagers' incomes away from total reliance on agriculture and animal husbandry, and improved their standards of living.

In 1999, a Yunnan-based private company – Yunnan Ziyuan Co. – started to get involved in tourism in Qianhushan. IN 2002 a local company – Qianhushan Development Co. – was set up, and without the prior knowledge of the villagers, an agreement was signed with the local township government concerning the development of natural resources in Qianhushan. Later that year, the development company – again without the prior consultation of the villagers – signed an agreement with 7 villagers in which it was stipulated that in the first three years the villagers would be given 50,000 RMB as funds for purchasing horses, and the villagers would help improve the logging road into Qianhushan.

CBIK started implementing a community-based eco-tourism project in Jisha in 2001 with the aim of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable livelihoods, so as to raise awareness of the notion of responsible and pro-poor tourism. The project mainly

involved building a community eco-tourism lodge, creating tourism products and training villagers in the management of tourism operations and marketing. This project has been funded by ICCO (The Netherlands).

Because of the clearly illegal activities of Ziyuan Company in Jisha and Qianhushan, their activities have had a strong impact on the implementation of the Eco-tourism project. In July 2004, CBIK's legal advisor visited Jisha and took part in a meeting of the villagers, the development company and the local government, in which he discovered that the company had plans to develop 40 square kilometers and invest 3 billion RMB, including building a cable car, but that permission for these huge investment projects had not been formally applied for, had had no environmental impact assessment conducted, and the requisition of land and forest had not gone through the required procedures for approval by the World Heritage Site management agency. Yet the company was attempting to secure control of these lands that year. At that time, CBIK's legal advisor – in the role of legal advisor to Jisha villagers – wrote a 5000 word statement regarding the legality of the development company's plans and compensation they had promised to the villagers. The statement was sent to the prefecture, county and towns governments and other related departments. Then in August 2004, the company signed a new agreement with the villagers which replaced the 2002 agreement. But the villagers were not aware of the contents of this new agreement. The new agreement stated that from 2005 when the company starts development activities, the villagers would no longer be allowed to lead horses for commercial purposes to Qianhushan. In April 2005, on the day that the company assigned an environmental impact assessment agency to submit a report to the provincial environmental protection agency for approval for the cable car system, the company had actually illegally begun construction.

This is the background to the CEPF-sponsored legal aid project. The idea to use legal mechanisms to protect the legal rights of Jisha villagers came from a strong awareness during the process of implementing the above activities that the villagers were not aware of their own rights as citizens. The first time CBIK's legal advisor went to Jisha revealed the value of such legal aid. The legal aid project began in March 2005, while the eco-tourism lodge sponsored by ICCO was completed in February 2005, and since then villagers have been acting as wardens until a way to transfer the property rights over the

lodge to an operator has been found.

Main activities in 2005:

Research on legal issues and procedures: In early 2005, CBIK's legal advisor, Li Qiyang, took part in a training on enforcement of environmental laws held by China Politics and Law University. In April 2005 Li Bo and Li Shuyang visited Zhou Litai, a legal expert on migrant workers' rights, and Prof. Lu Zhongmei, deputy head of Hubei Higher Court and professor and Southern China Finance University, to learn from their experiences and to seek aid in interpreting the resource conflict at Jisha. Prof. Lu's student, Ma Shaojia, then went to Jisha for more than 20 days to undertake surveys of the legal aspects of the situation.

Environmental issues in the development of western China are not on the main curriculum for Chinese law students and environmental law is not something that most students are familiar with. So aiding students in developing and understanding of these issues is of great significance. Following much communication, Carlos Da Rosa, visiting legal clinic professor at Zhongshan University, and a US environment lawyer, guided the legal clinic students to do surveys of the Jisha case. In June 2005, project staff also visited Dongfang Public Law Office together with staff of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Environmental Impact Assessment of Qianhushan Cable Car System: Through discussions with Deng Bing, graduate student in tourism planning at Beijing University, CBIK supported Deng to assist the villagers to make a tourism development plan so as to provide information on the villagers' ideas. Deng then obtained through her contacts the development plans of Ziyuan Company and assisted the villagers to make their own survey of the impacts and to synthesize their findings into a report. Cering Pingcuo took part in a training on public hearings regarding environmental impact assessments held by Global Village (Beijing) and the State Environmental Protection Agency, as well as discussions on Johannesburg +3. During the meeting, Cering Pingcuo provided the villagers' report to officials of the State Environmental Protection Agency, and on 19th April participated in the public hearing on the EIA of the Qianhushan cable car system held by Yunnan Environmental Protection Bureau, where he also presented the villagers'

statement.

Reporting the situation to government departments: After summarizing the EIA, the villagers' statement and various unfair contracts and agreements made by the development company, as well as the results of our discussions with the state environment agency, planning commission Legal Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the China Environmental Association, CBIK wrote a report on the illegal development of Qianhushan that was sent to the State Environmental Protection Agency, State Planning Commission, China World Heritage Site Management Commission, State Minority Affairs Commission, Yunnan Province Minority Affairs Commission, Yunnan Province Government, Diqing Prefecture and County governments and the China Environmental Association.

Survey by China Environmental Association: One result of the above activity was a visit by two lawyers of the Rights' Department of the China Environmental Association to Jisha in October 2005. They also held discussions with related government departments, including the provincial environmental protection bureau and the Three Parallel Rivers Office of the Provincial Construction Department. Although the two lawyers did not share their final report with CBIK, they orally expressed their view that if it were not for CBIK's work over recent years in Qianhushan, the development company's activities would probably already have begun without sufficient inspection of their plans. CBIK's actions had led government departments to pay significant attention to the development of Qianhushan, which had put approval of this development in the realm of legal approval. They said that they hoped that in the future if it was necessary they would become involved in the issue of environmental justice in Qianhushan, and cooperate with CBIK on the protection of environmental rights and biodiversity.

Future Plans:

The reaction of the government to public participation remains to be seen. In the last 8 months, regarding the protection of Jisha villagers' rights, apart from one face to face discussion in the offices of the State Environmental Protection Agency, CBIK and Jisha villagers have not had any oral or written statement from official sources at all. Fortunately, we have heard through other channels that these events in Jisha have led to

some reactions within the government system. However, it is difficult to appraise the level of attention and attitude of the government to such events. Such appraisal must await the next phase of how events develop. How much our project can do and whether our activities will lead to legal action cannot be stated at present. Everyone can by explore as the process goes along, appraising opportunities and threats. We must also consider the vulnerability of an NGO to potential events. So the only firm plan we have is to summarize our learnings from events to date, to provide lessons to those involved in other similar activities.

Jisha Eco-tourism project has three remaining activities: (1) to transfer the property rights over the lodge; (2) to pay warden fees to the villagers, and (3) the publication of the Jisha case in China's first Green Paper on the environment in March 2006, which will also include a special volume on the Jisha case.

Indigenous Knowledge Program

Community Based Education to Strengthen Biocultural Diversity Project

The goal of this project is through the production of school-based curricula materials to promote the recognition of communities and education departments of the importance of ethnic culture in school-based curricula, and to enhance the support from the education departments for such curricula. The project has been implemented in (1) Mengsong Primary School, Xishuangbanna, (2) Baisha Primary School in Lijiang, and (3) Nixi and Tangdui Primary Schools in Shangrila County. The main partners are Jinghong Education department, Menglong Township Primary School, Lijiang Education Department, the Dongba Culture Research Institute, Shangrila Education Department, and Baima Ethnic Culture Center. The project has been funded by Ford Foundation and ends in March 2006.

Main Activities in 2005:

Exchanges between project sites: Exchanges between the project sites and observation of classes and in March 2005 Mengsong and Tangdui project sites shared their experiences with the public at the 'Yun Zhi Nan' film event. In January and April,

exchanges were organized at Mengsong, Tangdui and Baisha. In January the theme was sharing experiences and observing classes, and discussions of problems and how to resolve them were held. In April, the theme was observation of classes and the writing of curricula.

Maths practicum: On the basis of the existing framework, teachers and community members in the three sites completed the teaching contents for the first and second semesters of 2005, and the teachers' experiences and teaching aids were written.

Writing of teaching materials: On the basis of teachers' experiences, as well as the suggestions of the local education bureaus, each site has written a school-based text book and teacher's guide on indigenous knowledge. The outputs from each site are all different as the contents reflect local ethnic minority culture and indigenous knowledge, but all outputs emphasize making the students go back to their own community to do surveys, which not only raises their understanding of their own culture but also enhances their skills.

Observation of classes: These were held as 'extension classes' to which teachers from other parts of the city or prefecture were invited. Teachers from Mengsong and Tangdui took part in each other's observation class.

Training: In the first exchange of experiences, teachers at Mengsong School said that they needed more training in the theory and methods of exploratory education, so these were arranged.

Project outputs: Physical outputs include school-based text books and teachers guides as well as accounts of the teachers' experiences, students' work, visual aids and articles, which will be published as a set of books. Intangible outputs include the integration of indigenous knowledge and its transmission in school-based education, the enhanced communication and survey skills of students, and the enhanced valuation of their own ethnic culture by community members. For ethnic minority cadres, this project has been beneficial for the transmission of ethnic culture and has also improved basic education. For other ethnic minority communities, by observing classes this has given them an idea of how local culture can be brought into the school. Before the project ends, the experiences of each project site over the last two or more years will be published, and in February 2006, a provincial-level meeting will be held to discuss the project's achievements.

Outcomes in relation to CBIK's strategic objectives:

“Generate environmentally sound and socio-culturally adapted knowledge for managing and conserving natural and cultural resources”:

- In the project activities and education process, we have emphasized environmental awareness throughout, as well as how to understand indigenous knowledge. We have emphasized having the students make surveys of knowledge related to local natural resource management. At present, some teachers have changed their attitudes towards local knowledge, local understandings of nature, and they have begun to see some of the scientific basis of traditional knowledge and view indigenous knowledge more objectively than before. In the process of education we have also supported them to guide the students with such an attitude and to foster a love of their homeplace and environmental awareness among the students.

“Enhance the capacity of committed researchers and development workers for interdisciplinary research, facilitation, documentation and dissemination in partnership with indigenous people”:

- In project activities, we have focused on enhancing students' and teachers' skills, including teachers' organizational skills and students' learning and communication skills. The improvement of these skills were obvious from the observation classes and were praised by the teachers who attended.

“Offer means and methods for bridging between knowledge systems, political systems and cultures to contribute to a society of intercultural, intersectoral and interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation”:

- In the design of activities we have cooperated with the government and the education departments. Community education is not just a concern of the school or community, but also of education departments and government. The good results of the observation classes held were also due to the support from the education departments and government. In the process of cooperation, we hope to change some things, such as the pressure on the teachers during the development of the curricula, because school-based curricula development is not in the appraisal criteria for teachers. We also hope to make use of the observation classes to promote the education bureaus

and government to gain a new insight into ethnic minority culture and new ideas on how to transmit culture through the formal education system. At present, the textbooks produced, such as 'Mengsong Seasons' or 'Return to Our Village', have all been highly praised by the relevant departments, especially for their contribution to developing the sense of pride of local people and ethnic minority cadres.

Handmade Paper Project

The goal of this project is to transmit the ethnic minority culture associated with hand made paper making, to improve techniques and product development, to help community-based paper makers resolve their livelihood needs. The project is funded by ICCO (The Netherlands).

Main Activities in 2005:

Organized meetings between paper makers and users: The main objective of the meetings was to provide paper makers with market and technology information, so as to support marketing and fair trade in the future. The meetings led to the inception of the 'Yunnan Ethnic Paper Making Association'. The meetings were attended by experts from Yunnan University, Yunnan Arts College, the Paper Making Research Institute, and the Institute of Botany. Paper makers came from Dai, Naxi and Bai communities, as well as paper salesmen.

Lead Paper Maker Representatives to Visit Thailand: The main contents of the visit included paper making techniques, product development, processing techniques and marketing, as well as processing in relation to the special needs of the market. Community-based paper makers were able to visit workshops and buy some products they were interested in to take back to their communities. The visit enlightened the paper makers and also made them realize the importance of collaboration. They were most interested in some specific elements of paper making and product processing, such as dyeing, product design, packaging and how to position a specific product in relation to market needs. They have begun to consider the links between production and marketing.

Published 'Map of Hand Made Paper in Yunnan': The full-colour Chinese-English bilingual book aims to document and promote ethnic minority paper making culture. It introduces 13 paper making sites of 7 ethnic groups, their production techniques, the uses

of paper, history of paper making and current situation.

Helped Xishuangbanna Paper Makers to Improve Production Techniques: Over 4 months, we helped paper makers in Manzhao Village to increase their productivity by 6 times, from 50 pages a day to 300 pages a day. In the past there were only 20 paper makers in the village, but now 178 of the 184 households make paper, and villagers from the ages of 16 through 70 are all involved. Management has been improved, with appointed individuals guiding production, monitoring quality and making links with salesmen and materials suppliers. The income from paper making in the village is now roughly equal to the income from agriculture.

Held exhibitions: In Xishuangbanna, we put on the Yunnan Ethnic Minority Paper Making Exhibition from 8th December 2005 to Spring 2006. At the Yunnan Minorities' Museum, we have put on a permanent display of ethnic minority paper making. Together with the Yunnan Oil Painting Association and Yunnan Minorities' Museum, we held 'Lost and Revived – Yunnan Handmade Paper Art Exhibition', including a competition for artworks done on hand made paper. 120 artworks were entered, which has done a great deal to promote the awareness of artists of hand made paper of the ethnic minorities.

Outcomes in relation to CBIK's strategic objectives:

“Generate environmentally sound and socio-culturally adapted knowledge for managing and conserving natural and cultural resources”:

- In Manzhao Village the improvement in production techniques demonstrates that traditional handmade paper can provide a good basis for a livelihood.

“Enhance the capacity of committed researchers and development workers for interdisciplinary research, facilitation, documentation and dissemination in partnership with indigenous people”:

- By holding meetings, we promoted the inception of a paper making association with the participation of various institutions, researchers, tradesmen and paper makers.

“Offer means and methods for bridging between knowledge systems, political systems and cultures to contribute to a society of intercultural, intersectoral and interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation”:

- The publication of 'Map of Hand Made Paper in Yunnan' calls on people to pay attention to the transmission of traditional knowledge associated with handmade paper and to respect the intellectual property rights of paper makers.

Watershed Management Program

Sustainable Management of Watersheds in the Mekong Watershed

This project aims to develop approaches to the integrated management of watersheds in the Mekong watershed, and thereby to promote sustainable livelihoods among ethnic minorities. This project, funded by Oxfam America, is implemented in the Nan-a Watershed in Xishuangbanna and in Deqin County. It began in January 2005.

Main Activities in 2005:

In the Nan-a watershed, activities this year have included (1) survey research on water resource utilization and tenure and traditional water resource and irrigation management); (2) creation of village level watershed management committees; (3) water quality monitoring by primary school students; (4) implementation of environmentally-friendly production activities, including vegetable cultivation demonstrations, training for plantation of tea gardens and design of water supply systems. In Deqin county, the main activities have been (1) choosing three villages as Mekong observation sites in which villagers have been documenting the links between their lives and water using cameras, so as to give voice to the issues about which they are concerned; (2) convening a project start-up workshop attended by the county religion, agriculture, animal husbandry, tourism, forestry, hydropower, land management, nature protection and trade bureaus and the planning commission. At the meeting, different views of the Mekong River were shared. Following this meeting, 17 research projects were approved to be undertaken by local officials, local NGOs, teachers and villagers.

Project outputs: The surveys in the Xishuangbanna site were shared at the MMSEA IV meeting in Vietnam in May 2005. Work is proceeding well in that site, where each village has set up a watershed management committee, and production activities are ongoing. Cooperation with the local government is extremely good, and it is planned in February 2006 to establish a watershed management committee for the whole watershed. In Deqin, the involvement of many actors in the 17 research projects has laid a very good basis for the development of future research activities.