



EU-China Biodiversity Programme
中国—欧盟生物多样性项目

Field Project Summary

Sustainable Management of Threatened Mountain Peat Lands



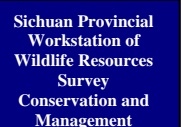
The Challenge

China has about 6 million ha. of mountain wetlands of which the largest majority is peat lands. In the peat lands dead plant materials accumulate over time to form layers of peat or organic soil up to 10-meter thickness. The layers function like a sponge consisting of more than 90% of water. The peat lands provide key habitats for endangered wildlife species such as black-necked cranes, rare fish, amphibian and plant species and they form major reservoirs of water to maintain water levels in streams, rivers and adjacent grasslands. The peat lands also provide important national and international eco-services in storing and sequestering huge amounts of carbon.

The peat lands, however, are negatively impacted by unsustainable farming practices (drainage, over-grazing), mining and infrastructure development and by climate change.

The Response

The project focuses on integrated management of mountain peat lands in Ruoergai Marshes on the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau and in the Altai Mountains in NW China. It will demonstrate practical ways in which biodiversity conservation and provision of ecosystem services can be supported by different economic sectors and local communities. After collation of available biodiversity and socio-economic information, conservation strategies will be prepared, approved by local governments and implemented. Part of the solution to the challenges will involve changes in infrastructure planning and grazing management, through adjustment of livelihoods. Techniques for restoring peat lands damaged by old drainage schemes will also be demonstrated and implemented.



At A Glance

Project Start Time: July 6, 2007
Project End Time: October 15, 2010
Project ID: 00057530
Cooperating Agency:
Wetlands International (WI)

Partners:

1. Global Environment Centre
2. Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University Greifswald
3. Gansu Wildlife Administration Bureau
4. Sichuan Provincial Workstation of Wildlife Resources Survey Conservation and Management
5. Xinjiang Altaishan Forestry Bureau

EU contribution:	US\$	1,618,910
Matching funds:	US\$	1,640,100
Total Budget:	US\$	3,259,010

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Project Focus

- Integrated management approaches to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services of mountain wetlands will be demonstrated, recognized and implemented by relevant sectors and stakeholders
- The key economic sectors and local communities are directly involved in the activities and will support the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services of the mountain peat lands in Ruoergai Plateau and Altai mountains



The EU-China Biodiversity Programme (ECBP) is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in close cooperation with Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). The field projects constitute a major component of the programme which supports a total of 18 field projects.

