



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

Field Project Summary

Sustainable Management of Traditional Medicinal Plants in Upper Yangtze Ecoregion



The Challenge

The mountain landscapes in the upper Yangtze River basin are recognized for their biodiversity values and are identified as high priority areas for biodiversity conservation in China. An estimated 75% of commercially harvested Traditional Chinese Medicinal (TCM) plant species are found in this region. Collection of wild medicinal plants provides a significant source of income for many Chinese households as well as being important for people's primary health care. However, much of the TCM collection and harvesting is unsustainable and undermines the integrity of mountain ecosystems. Thus there is an urgent need to promote sustainable management and conservation of medicinal plants while at the same time working to secure the livelihoods of local people.

At A Glance

Project Start Time: October 30, 2007
Project End Time: April 15, 2011
Project ID: 00058734
Cooperating Agency:
World Wide Fund for Nature-Beijing Office (WWF)

Partners:

1. TRAFFIC
2. IUCN-World Conservation Union
3. Sichuan Provincial Forestry Department
4. Gansu Provincial Forestry Department
5. Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department
6. Sichuan Administrative Bureau of Traditional Chinese Medicine
7. The Ecology Committee for Natural Resources of Chinese Meteria Medica

EU contribution:	US\$	1,756,854
Matching funds:	US\$	1,758,543
Total Budget:	US\$	3,515,397

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The Response

Bringing together important national and local authorities with international partners, the project will work to mitigate the degradation of key habitats and medicinal plant populations, as well as to secure the livelihoods of local medicinal plant collectors in key landscapes of the Upper Yangtze River ecoregion. The overall outcome of the project is to develop and implement a replicable strategic model for sustainable utilization and management of TCM plants.



Project Focus

- Analysis and enhancement of the policy and regulatory framework for medicinal plants
- Promotion of sustainable TCM use and conservation by establishing effective local TCM management and monitoring mechanisms in the pilot sites
- Raising awareness of the benefits of sustainable use of wild medicinal plants among key stakeholders
- Test of incentive based on mechanisms for sustainable production and conservation of wild populations of medicinal plants

Sichuan Provincial Forestry Department

Shanxi Provincial Forestry Department

Sichuan Administrative Bureau of Traditional Chinese Medicine

The Ecology Committee for Natural Resources of Chinese Meteria Medica

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.

