



WWF China

newsletter

October - December, 2006

WWF Conferred GtE Award to Recognize Panda Protection in China

WWF has recognized the efforts of China's Sichuan and Gansu provinces to preserve giant panda habitat in the Minshan Mountains as a "Gift to the Earth", the global conservation organization's highest accolade for significant conservation achievements on October 25, 2006 in Beijing.

Thanks to the commitment, more than 700 giant pandas in Minshan – almost half the total surviving in the wild will receive enhanced protection to become interconnected population in almost 1.6 million hectares of new Protected Areas in this southwest region of China, which helps ensure the future health and survival of this iconic species.



James Leape (third from left), Director General of WWF, posed for a picture with Zhao Xuemin (second from left), deputy director of State Forestry Administration and governors of Sichuan and Gansu provinces at the GtE ceremony

"The presentation of Gift to the Earth certificate to Sichuan and Gansu provinces is WWF's recognition of both provinces' longtime cooperative contribution to the biodiversity protection in Minshan," said WWF International Director General, James Leape.

According to China's third national panda survey, it is estimates that 1,600 panda survive in the wild, with the populations in Minshan accounting for 44.4 per cent of the total population.

The commitment by the two provincial governments involves creation of new Protected Areas, improved management of existing areas, creation of linking corridors, cessation of logging, bamboo forest restoration and co-management for panda conservation with other management agencies. The two provincial governments have also committed to establish, by 2010, a further 900,000 hectares of Protected Areas for other wildlife.

"This commitment to panda conservation is of global importance," added WWF China Country Representative Dermot O'Gorman. "We hope that China will continue its conservation work to create a bright future in which humans live in harmony with nature."

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WWF's Report Shows Human Footprint Too Big for Nature

A successful launch conference was held on October 24, 2006 when WWF, the global conservation organization, released its Living Planet Report 2006 that shows the world's

natural ecosystems are being degraded at a rate unprecedented in human history.

The group's biennial statement on the state of the natural world, says that on current projections humanity will be using two planets' worth of natural resources by 2050 – if those resources have not run out by then. It also confirms the trend of biodiversity loss seen in previous Living Planet reports.



Jonathan Loh, one of the report's authors at the launch conference in Beijing

The report shows that vertebrate species populations have declined by about one-third in the 33 years from 1970 to 2003. At the same time, humanity's Ecological Footprint – the demand people place upon the natural world – has exceeded biocapacity by 25 per cent in 2003 to reach the point where the Earth is unable to keep up in the struggle to regenerate. The carbon dioxide footprint, from the use of fossil fuels, was the fastest growing component of our global footprint, increasing more than ninefold from 1961 to 2003.

"We are in serious ecological overshoot, consuming resources faster than the Earth can replace them," WWF's Director General, James Leape, said. "The consequences of this are predictable and dire. It is time to make some vital choices."

The Living Planet Report 2006, launched in Beijing, China, pulls together various data to compile two indicators of the Living Planet Index and the Ecological Footprint that portrays the Earth's well-being. Countries of over a million people with the largest footprint, in global hectares per person, are the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Finland, Canada, Kuwait, Australia, Estonia, Sweden, New Zealand and Norway. China comes mid-way in world rankings, at number 69, but its growing economy and rapid development mean it has a key role in keeping the world on the path to sustainability.

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Lake Hong Won Best Conservation Practice Award

Lake Hong — one of WWF's key demonstration sites in China — became one of the first two winners of the "Best Conservation Practice of World Living Lakes" award at the 11th International Living Lakes Conference that was closed on November 2, 2006 in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. China's Poyang Lake in Jiangxi Province also won the prize.

WWF's practice on restoring the Lake Hong through wetlands restoration and sustainable fishery was highly commended by Marion Hammerl, president of GNF, who called it a very successful case in China and a good model for other countries to learn from.

"The breakthrough of restoration in Lake Hong's wetland eco-system should be attributed to the support from all related parties and especially that from the WWF-HSBC Yangtze Programme and that from the Hubei Provincial government," Zhang Heping, Director General of the Management Bureau of the Lake Hong Wetland Nature Reserve.

In 2003, WWF selected the Yang-chai Lake in the southwest part of the lake to launch the Lake Hong Wetland Protection and Restoration Project along with the State Forestry Administration (SFA) and WWF-HSBC Yangtze Programme to restore and protect the Lake Hong, which has suffered severe ecological degradation and economic crisis due to overexploitation and pollution in recent years. The successes in Lake Hong have attracted the

attention of the Hubei provincial government, which has later committed 73 million yuan (US\$ 9.1 million) and established the Lake Hong Wetland Nature Reserve Administrative Bureau for overall protection of the Lake Hong.

"The 20-year history of the lake Hong is a good reflection of the overall conservation and utilization of freshwater lakes in the Yangtze River basin." said Lei Gang, WWF-HSBC Yangtze Program Officer, "we sincerely hope that the experience at the Lake Hong can be magnified to many other lakes in the future."

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WWF Vows to Continue Its Support to CCICED and SEPA

The cooperation between WWF and China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) and State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) will be broadened as promised by James Leape, Director General of WWF during his visit to SEPA on October 25, 2006.

Accompanied by Dermot O'Gorman, WWF China country representative and Li Lifeng, director of WWF China's Freshwater Programme, Leape met Zhu Guangyao, vice minister of SEPA and Secretary General of CCICED, Xu Qinghua, Director General of SEPA's Department of International Cooperation and Deputy Secretary General of CCICED and Guo Jing, director of CCICED Secretariat during his visit, confirming both institutionally and personally that WWF Network and himself will continue supporting CCICED and SEPA.



James Leape (third from left), Dermot O'Gorman (second from left) and Li Lifeng (left) posed with Zhu Guangyao (fourth from left) and SEPA officials

The vice minister sincerely expressed his appreciation of WWF's support to CCICED after reviewing appraisingly WWF's 26 years of work in China, particularly on the conservation of giant panda. He also mentioned the contribution to CCICED by Claude Martin, former Director General of WWF, in CCICED's past three phases, saying the WWF-supported CCICED Task Force on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) has proposed successfully to promote the IRBM and restore China's living rivers. Zhu said that the Chinese government has approved to continue the fourth phase of CCICED after being reassured by a series of accomplishments including the establishment of the Yangtze Forum in 2005 and he hopes WWF will continue its support to CCICED.

Echoing Zhu's words, Leape briefed WWF's history and the current work in China as he called such programmes are important part of the WWF Network, not because WWF uses the giant panda as her logo, but the fact that China owns such rich biodiversity that makes conservation in China more crucial to the earth. Leape also pointed out that China is facing the enormous pressure from fast development such as the increasing demands on energy, timber and freshwater and promised to offer continuous support to WWF's counterparts in China. He also invited Zhu to take part in the fourth phase of CCICED and WWF's Annual Conference to be held in Beijing in 2007.

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Organic Mandarins from WWF's Alternative Livelihoods Exported

A special harvest ceremony was held in Xipanshanzhou Polder of Chishan Island, Yuanjiang in Hunan Province on October 28 to celebrate the first ever exportation of China-produced organic mandarin to the United States and Canada. With a preferential price four times higher than the normal price, the exportation makes farmers in Xipanshanzhou Polder earn income more than 10,000 yuan (US\$ 1,250).

The Xipanshanzhou Polder is a demo site of WWF's Partnership for a Living Yangtze Programme, which proved as a convincing example the "win-win" model for wetland protection and economy growth. It has become an exciting incentive to other places as Yuemingtan Juyuan Village of Hanshou County is anxious to follow the experience of Xipanshanzhou Polder.



Organic mandarins purchaser handed over the check to farmers' representative

"Xipanshanzhou Polder's 'win-win' model has great value to be learned and WWF will put more efforts to magnify this model to wider area," emphasized Rob Soutter, the global special campaign officer of WWF International at the ceremony.

Ni Hongxin, director of Agriculture Trade Promotion Center in China's Agriculture Ministry, highly praised Xipanshanzhou Polder's experience. He was echoed by Xiong Zhewen, vice governor of Yuanjiang City, who appreciated WWF's efforts in Xipanshanzhou Polder and expressed his hope that "in five years, the whole Chishan Island covering an area of 130 square kilometers could become an Organic Island,"

Xipanshanzhou Polder has been the earliest demo site established by WWF Yangtze Programme in 1999. Two years later, WWF helped the local farmers develop the organic agriculture that was authorized by OFDC as organic products in 2004. Moreover, Xipanshanzhou Organic Agriculture Association has also obtained the organic certificates from NOP of USA and OCIA.

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Leaders for a Living Planet Awarded in Jilin Province

WWF's first Leaders for a Living Planet award was presented to Wang Min, Governor of Jilin Province and Liu Yanchun, Director General of Jilin Provincial Forestry Department on November 7, 2006 as recognition of the province's decade-long achievements and determination for conservation.

On receiving the award, the Jilin Provincial Government announced that it will extend the comprehensive hunting ban, strengthen the management of nature reserves and establish 12 new nature reserves covering an increased area of 280,000 hectares by 2020. It will



Dermot O'Gorman (left) presents the LLP certificate to governor Wang Min of Jilin Province

continue cooperation with WWF and other international conservation organizations to carry out community-based capacity building education, trans-border protection of endangered species like the Amur tigers and the forest certificate.

"The decision to carry on the hunting ban will enable the Amur tigers living in the bordering area between China and Russia to enjoy effective protection. With the establishment of WWF's Harbin office, WWF will cooperate on a wider basis with Jilin Provincial Government to further promote the conservation cause in Jilin," said Dermot O'Gorman, WWF-China country representative.

To halt the deterioration of wildlife and the environment, the Standing Committee of the Ninth Jilin Provincial People's Congress passed the "Provision on Five-year Ban on Terrestrial Wildlife Hunting" on January 26, 1996 and extended it for another five years when it expired in 2000. Meanwhile, a total of nine nature reserves covering an area of 597,000 hectares have been established since the hunting ban. By now, there are altogether 28 nature reserves totaling 2,232,600 hectares established, covering 11.9% of the province's size.

"Jilin Province will integrate the wildlife and wetland protection with the overall course of sustainable social economic development and harmonious coexistence between man and nature in the future. Jilin will uphold the Hunting Ban as a long-term task that will be strictly implemented throughout the province," stated the provincial governor Wang Min at the ceremony.

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Growing with Green China

WWF China's longtime HSBC and Carrefour became the first winners of WWF China Conservation Awards at the 2006 WWF China Corporate Partners Appreciation Dinner held in Shanghai on November 28, 2006, receiving the Outstanding Conservation Partner Award and the Merit Conservation Supporter Award respectively in front of over 50 high-level participants from WWF International, WWF China, Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau (SEPB), and leading global companies such as HSBC, Coca Cola, Carrefour, Ikea, Lafarge, Swarovski, Sony and Tetra Pak.



Group photo of high-ranking delegates from WWF China and participating companies

"We are very grateful to see that many companies, such as HSBC, Lafarge and Nokia, have embarked on a global partnership with WWF and have been dedicated to the engagement of sustainability," said Paul Steele, WWF Chief Operating Officer.

"Along the way of the 26-year development in China, WWF has conducted lots of important conservation projects in the region with exciting achievements. However, we clearly understand that we cannot do it all without our many corporate partners' support, such as Vodafone, Zegna, Novozymes, BP and Ogilvy, and the support from all levels of government in China as well," echoed Dermot O'Gorman, WWF China country representative.

Sharing the common vision of "For a living planet," WWF has constructed corporate partnerships with a wide range of companies, which has generated influential impacts on the

business sustainability of our corporate partners. In 2002, WWF began a partnership with HSBC, and launched a programme called Restoring the Web of Life in the Yangtze River.

“HSBC believes that the long-term success of an enterprise depends on managing its business in a sustainable way. And sustainable development depends on conserving the environment,” said Richard Yorke, CEO of HSBC China. “On behalf of HSBC, we are very grateful for the opportunity to work closely with WWF. Our partnership has provided my company and me with an enriching experience of giving back to the community.”

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Empty Search for Baiji Dolphin Signaled Warning for Finless Porpoise

Following the resultless Baiji dolphin search expedition ended on December 13, 2006, WWF has called more conservation efforts for the Yangtze finless porpoise in fear that the species might suffer the same fate of the unsighted Baiji dolphin if current conditions remain unchanged. The international search found no Baiji in the 1,667 kilometers river course between Yichang, Hubei Province and Shanghai, but spotted only about 700 to 900 finless porpoises, which has an estimated population of 1,200 to 1,400 currently, almost half of its population in 1991.



Searching the Baiji dolphins

“No spotting of Baiji dolphin in this expedition does not necessarily mean that the species is extinct or ‘effectively extinct’ because the search was conducted in a relatively short period of time over a large area of the river,” said Wang Limin, director of WWF-China’s Wuhan office. “However, WWF is extremely concerned by the search results that indicate how degraded the freshwater environment is in the Yangtze, and will never give up the efforts to conserve the Baiji dolphin that is seriously endangered.”

“ The search has observed the dramatic decrease in finless porpoise’s population, which may follow the same fate of Baiji dolphin in the near future if no drastic conservation action is taken,” cautioned Wang.

As the only subspecies living in the freshwater, the Yangtze finless porpoise has suffered a sharp decrease from about 2,700 in 1993 to 2,000 in 1997. In Balijiang section of the river, the population of finless porpoise had declined at an approximate rate of 7.3 per cent annually from 1989 to 1999 as a victim of the degraded freshwater environment caused by growing human activities in the Yangtze River.

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WWF’s Alternative Livelihoods Programme Gets Spiced up

Over 400 kilograms of Sichuan pepper from WWF’s alternative livelihoods programme in Minshan Landscape were sold out in a week-long special fair launched throughout Carrefour’s nine chains in Beijing and Shanghai on November 17.

The fair was organized on the basis of the sound cooperation between WWF and Carrefour since 2004. Under the partnership, environmentally-friendly products such as Sichuan pepper, mushrooms, honey and walnuts by local farmers were channeled to Carrefour's stores in Chengdu and Chongqing Municipality and popularly received by the market. It has proved that WWF's alternative livelihoods programme in Minshan had initially succeeded protecting the biodiversity while promoting sustainable development that is expected to directly benefit the conservation of panda habitats in the landscape.

To protect Minshan's biodiversity and promote sustainable development, WWF has been working with local farmers to develop environmentally-friendly products such as Sichuan Pepper, mushrooms, honey and walnuts, with involvement of important partners like Carrefour. This fruitful cooperation has already benefited 209 farming households, helping them increase their revenue by 5 to 10 per cent. Carrefour and WWF hope to pursue and strengthen their cooperation in future years by extending the project to more cities in China.

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WWF China's volunteer helps sell the Sichuan pepper from Minshan in Carrefour in Shanghai

TCM Experts Speak against Captive Breeding of Tigers

Over 40 traditional Chinese medicine experts from China's top universities, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and traditional medicine associations spoke out against the captive breeding of tigers as a means of conservation at a TRAFFIC-supported discussion held at the East China Normal University in Shanghai, centering particular focus on the possible re-opening of the domestic tiger trade in China after the Chinese government has banned such trade in 1993. Conservationists believe that such a move could cause a catastrophic increase in poaching of wild tigers.



The participating experts are unanimous to think that conserving wild animals by captive breeding is not possible, pointing out that captive breeding centers such as the Hengdao River Breeding Center, established in 1986, were set up for commercial purposes originally but claimed a change to conservation when the Chinese government banned trade of tigers in 1993. They also feared that the possible re-opening could stimulate more poaching of wild tigers, and result in devastating consequences for the world's remaining wild tiger population. In addition, Professor Zhou Caiquan of West China Normal University said that he believes that the use of tiger bone is not necessary as TCM practitioners have found that bones from sailong, a kind of mole found in the Tibetan Plateau, is more effective than tiger bones. This effective substitute could make the TCM tiger trade obsolete.

At the meeting, TCM experts and wildlife scientists made similar cases against the captive breeding of musk deer as well as freshwater turtles, two other endangered species widely used in TCM.

“An open dialogue and active participation of Chinese medicine practitioners in conservation helps dispel the myth that TCM is contradictory to conservation.” said Professor Xu Hongfa, Director of TRAFFIC East Asia’s China program, “With this kind of leadership, TCM can play a role in promoting a healthy ecosystem, and not contribute to species extinction and illegal wildlife trade.”

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New Chinese Law Aimed at Curbing Tiger Trade

A new law aimed at combating illegal wildlife trade in China went into effect on September 1, 2006, which according to TRAFFIC, WWF and other environmental groups will enhance China’s ability to combat the import and export of endangered wildlife species.

The new law is aimed at complimenting an already existing domestic ban in China on the trade in endangered wildlife species including tiger parts and their derivatives. Since the country’s 1993 ban, tiger bone, for example, has been removed from the list of ingredients in official Chinese pharmacopoeia, all legal manufacturing of medicines containing tiger bone has been stopped, and all stocks of existing medicines containing tiger bone have been locked away under government seal. Reputable traditional Chinese medicine experts support this ban and use substitute ingredients that meet the medical needs of their patients.

Environmental groups hope that as China’s new wildlife law comes into effect, the tiger trade ban will also remain in place.

“Any resumption in legal domestic trade of tiger parts could be the final act that drives the tiger towards extinction,” says Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF’s Global Species Programme. “That is why we call upon the Chinese government to retain and reinforce its important trade ban.”

“If the ban were lifted, it would undo all the excellent work the Chinese government has done over the past 12 years,” Lieberman added.

WWF, together with TRAFFIC, Conservation International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Save the Tiger Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society, have sent an open letter to China’s Premier Wen Jiabao to ensure that the ban remains in place.

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The 2nd Anniversary of WWF’s CFTN Celebrated

The 2nd anniversary of China Forest and Trade Network (CFTN), the China’s chapter of WWF’s Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN), was celebrated at its first Annual Members Meeting held during the China Wood International Flooring Import and Export Conference in Shanghai on November 9, 2007 when CFTN welcomed four new members to join the network that is collectively producing or trading almost 2 million cubic meters of raw material per year sourced from across China, Russia, South Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and South America.



The workshop celebration

“Our membership now includes a broad range of companies including forest bureaus, flooring, ply mills, furniture manufactures and retailers,” said Jin Zhonghao, Manager of CFTN. “With nine applicants that source over 1.5 million cubic meters of timber waiting to join, the CFTN will continue growing through 2007.”

The four new members include three flooring companies, Dalian Huade Wood Product Co., Ltd., Chinafloors Timber (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. and Krono Senhua Flooring Co., Ltd. and one plywood manufacturer, Dehua TB New Decoration Material Co., Ltd. All of these companies' exportation goes to environmentally-sensitive markets in Europe and North America and some have trading relationships with the existing GFTN participants across the globe.

Since the launch of the CFTN in 2005, GFTN companies have already established 20 trading relationships with CFTN participants with a combined value of over 20 million dollars. With a strict application requirement, the CFTN provides technical support and guidance to help companies become responsible purchasers of forest products.

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Briefs

New approached eco-tourism training held

The second training on sustainable eco-tourism and management was held by WWF between October 23 to 28 with participation of over 20 people from nature reserves where eco-tourism is being operated or planned. The training, lectured by three experts, introduced a participatory approach that enabled the participants to learn the latest concept, basic principles, standards and related policies and regulations through independent thinking and team work as well, which helped the decision makers better comprehend the eco-tourism vision by considering biodiversity conservation, culture heritage protection and sustainable community development.

Construction of Laoxiancheng EE center in progress

The resumed construction of the Bamboo Lodge with an Environmental Education (EE) Centre by WWF in cooperation with Laoxiancheng Nature Reserve and Zhouzhi County has been progressing smoothly after a temporary halt due to the cold weather in late November. Started in July 2006, the construction is expected to be completed by coming spring when the center will be put in use to enact its functions to educate tourists, serve as a platform to train and build the capacity of the nature reserve and local community and create more job opportunities.

Conservation class held for school kids

An interesting class on wildlife conservation was organized by WWF and Guanyinshan Nature Reserve in Longcaoping Primary School in the Qinling Mountains on November 3, 2006. The one-and-half-hour class aimed at preparing the school children with the conservation knowledge of wildlife, especially the panda and thus passing such influence to their families and relative. In addition, a small book donation ceremony was also held along with an award presentation to kids who took part in a contest after the class.

CPO financial training held in Xi'an

The financial department of WWF China Programme Office was away in Xi'an for a training held on November 6 and 7, 2006. Given by Elma Krijgsman from WWF NL and Billy Wu from WWF International, the training focused on topics include project cycle management and project cycle budget management, WWF NL's financial requirements, contractual compliance, 3rd party contract management, contract preparation procedure & budget negotiation, preparation of cost effective budget, and key areas for program finance review and etc..

Volunteer exhibition inspired more

A tour photo exhibition by volunteers in Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in four universities in Shaanxi Province in July 2006 successfully inspired more college students to get involved in the community-based conservation work. The photo exhibition was consisted of two parts featuring WWF's work in the Qinling Mountains and volunteers' participation in the community work.

Volunteers awarded

On December 26, 2006, WWF and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University jointly held an awarding ceremony to recognize the volunteer students who attained remarkable achievements in WWF Qinling Giant Panda Habitat and Neighboring Communities Economic Development Project. Launched in July, the project is important in mitigating the conflict between conservation and development and finding realistic multi-win approaches to realize sustainable development of the communities. A total of 20 student volunteer groups have conducted a series of investigations and submitted more than 60 proposals throughout the project.

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Monitoring skill competition held for rangers

A special competition pitting the rangers' monitoring skill was held by WWF and Sichuan Forestry Department in Tangjiahe Nature Reserve from September 11 to 13, 2006, with participation of 26 rangers from 26 nature reserves in Minshan Mountains. The match was divided into competition of animal track and plant identification in the field, data analysis with computer and PPT presentation. Cheng Wanli from Tangjiahe Nature Reserve and Xu Chi from Xuebaoding Nature Reserve got the championship and runner-up respectively.

Credit workshop held in Chengdu Office

A workshop for small credit sponsored by WWF was held in Chengdu Office on September 27, 2006 with an aim to improve the capacity of local NGO and volunteers through small credit from 400 to 1,000 yuan distributed to the farmers living in the communities neighboring nature reserve to help them develop sustainable livelihood to reduce the resource pressure to nature reserve. Ling Lin, WWF Minshan Initiative leader and representatives from local NGO and universities took part in.

New initiative for Liangshan-Xiangling constituted

A two-day workshop was held in Xichang on December 13 and 14, 2006 when participants held serious discussion to perceive a 5-10 years conservation strategy for pandas in Liangshan-Xiangling Mountains. Liangshan – Xiangling is a traditional living place for Yi nationality as well as the south pole of giant panda's habitat where circa 161 wild panda exist today. At the workshop, endangered species, the reasons and corresponding solution were initially defined with a common understanding of short-term action plan, goals and vision for Liangshan – Xiangling area was also reached.

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Conservation foundation laid

A workshop attended by over 20 Chinese experts and decision makers ended with the foundation of new and comprehensive WWF/TRAFFIC strategy being laid to benefit the conservation of tigers and leopards both within China's borders and globally. Participants agreed that urgent measures are needed in China to protect wild tigers and leopards in China and beyond, identifying major conservation issues of Asian big cats were identified and laying the foundation for establishing a comprehensive network on Asian big cat conservation in China — both for fieldwork and on wildlife trade issues.

Law enforcement capacity strengthened

The "CITES enforcement workshop for Kunming customs officers" was jointly organized by TRAFFIC, the China CITES Management Authority Kunming Office (Yunnan Province) and the Kunming Customs Bureau on September 11-12, 2006. James Compton and Pat Cheng of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia gave a presentation on CITES, permit management, identification, and the status of wildlife trade in Southeast Asia. Professor Xu Hongfa of TRAFFIC East Asia China Programme presented on CITES Appendix I & II and the status of endangered species in China. The director of the China CITES Management Authority Kunming office gave presentations on CITES enforcement in China and import and export regulations on wildlife trade, followed by a species identification course and a field visit to the Kunming Zoological Institute Museum.

TRAFFIC-WWF/IUCN Wildlife Trade Meeting held

TRAFFIC's Annual Conference was held in Beijing on September 4-7, 2006. In addition to strengthening the delivery of the TRAFFIC Programme worldwide, the challenges and opportunities at a global scale of China's wildlife trade was highlighted at the conference. Over 50 members of the global TRAFFIC network, along with participants from WWF, IUCN and Beijing-based NGOs, took part.

Shark fin trade talked

On November 7-8, 2006, Shelley Clarke, fisheries consultant for TRAFFIC East Asia, took part in the "International Shark Dialogue," a meeting in Beijing on the shark fin trade, co-sponsored by WildAid and the China Fisheries Administration. Other members of the panel included Sarah Fowler (IUCN) and John Stevens (CSIRO, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation).

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PV development promoted

To support and advance the national solar PV development, WWF has supported Institute of Electric Engineering, Chinese Academy of Science through the demonstration project of grid-connected roof-top solar PV system on Olympic Gymnasiums to break through the policy and technical barriers for grid-connection. A working group composed of representatives from Olympic Committee, electric grid company, solar PV company, architecture design institute and construction company has been established. The project has finished the baseline study, assembled the international and domestic standards related to grid-connected PV system and set up the framework of the grid-connected PV system standard for China.

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Publicity calendars and posters released

In order to compel people to stop buying, selling, and consuming Asian big cats (ABC) products, WWF China's Lhasa Office and the Tibet Forestry Bureau have teamed up to publish a calendar and a series of posters highlighting threats to ABC species and other endangered wildlife in Tibet. These materials have been printed in three languages, Chinese, Tibetan, and English, and distributed freely to schools, hotels, restaurants and the general public in Lhasa, and other major cities and market towns in Tibet.

Human-wildlife conflicts adverted

In order to gain international support for resolving the human-wildlife conflicts, WWF presented its research findings on this issue at the 11th symposium of the International Association of Tibetan Studies in Bonn, Germany in September 2006, as well at the conference on "Change in the Tibetan Autonomous Region: Progress and Emerging Issues from an Insider Perspective" held at Harvard University in the United States in December of 2006. According to WWF's research, human-wildlife conflicts have worsened at a surging pace in Chang Tang region in addition to the illegal poaching and mining that used to be the major threats.

Article on Tibetan antelope republished as textbook

Invited by the Textbook Editorial Bureau for the Tibetan Cultural Region, Dawa Tsering, director of WWF China's Lhasa Office revised his article on Tibetan antelope in December for a republishing for school textbook. The article was previously contained in a Tibetan language book entitled Tibetan Traditional Culture and Nature Conservation published in 2004. The new textbook will be used in Tibetan language schools throughout the five provinces of the Tibetan Cultural Region, namely the Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu.

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Feature

Beating Around the Forest for Panda Protection in Minshan

The sun crests over the mountain, casting beams through the cold and smoky air upon the frosted tents scattered around the flaming camp fire. The quiet camp becomes alive again as rangers creep out of their tents.

"Sleep well? Good weather, isn't it?" The yawning people greet each other and gradually gather around the fire, beginning the day with a joking chat and a relatively satisfying breakfast prepared by an early riser. "Better have some more," a ranger reminds his friend kindly. "It will give you more strength to cope with the hours of patrol on the mountain."

This is a typical scene before a WWF-funded joint anti-poaching patrol takes place. With WWF's support for past nine years, patrols involving rangers from adjacent nature reserves have been organized twice a year in the Minshan Mountains in Sichuan Province to mitigate the pressure on the giant panda and general environmental well-being of the reserves caused by the threatening activities such as illegal poaching and herbal collecting. **Read more at** <http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=426>