



WWF China

newsletter

April – June, 2008

Relief efforts strengthened for post-quake reconstruction

Two months after an earthquake of 8.0 magnitude struck southwest China on May 12, relief efforts are continuing but the focus is shifting towards post-quake reconstruction and restoration.

WWF has initiated a post-quake reconstruction plan to rebuild nature reserves and communities in three steps, namely rapid relief, impacts assessment and green reconstruction. The plan is being jointly refined by WWF and partners to guide the reconstruction work at three levels: landscapes, nature reserves and communities. It will kick off in five to eight selected nature reserves where WWF will build demonstration for other reserves and communities.



WWF supported to build temporary protection station at Sichuan Pengzhou Baishuihe Nature Reserve on July 3.

WWF has provided emergent relief and equipment like satellite phones, fax machines and printers to affected communities and nature reserves. On July 3, the WWF-supported construction of temporary protection stations started in Sichuan Pengzhou Baishuihe Nature Reserve. Already, more than 1 million yuan (US\$ 130,000) has been provided to the quake-affected areas. The committed cash donations from WWF-NL, WWF-UK, WWF-US, WWF International, WWF-Australia, WWF-Austria, WWF-Hong Kong, WWF-Japan and staff around the Network has reached over 3 million yuan (US\$ 430,000), and there are more to come.

More than 69,000 people were killed in the earthquake, and the country faces an economic loss of more than 1 trillion yuan (US\$143 billion). There have also been severe environmental impacts upon the ecosystems, pandas and nature reserves. 86 of the 110 projects WWF runs in the Minshan Landscape have been affected. According to the State Forestry Administration, one panda at Wolong center was killed and over 80 per cent of the wild panda and their habitat were affected.

New report shows China's ecological footprint doubled

Jointly commissioned by China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) and WWF, the Report on Ecological Footprint in China was released on June 10. It finds China's average ecological footprint has doubled since the 1960s and now demands more than two times what the country's ecosystems can sustainably supply.

According to the report, China now uses 15 per cent of the world's total biological capacity with average footprint at 1.6 global hectares per person in 2003 (the latest available figures). The figure is still lower than the world average of 2.2 global hectares per person, ranking

China the 69th of the 147 nations measured that year. But it nonetheless presents challenges, considering China's large population and the robust economic development.

Two general strategies are presented in the report for China to start with, the "easy" things and "slow" things that respectively refer to simple, cheap and popular steps like investing in clean technology and changing to energy-efficient bulbs and decisions that are made today but have future impacts. The report recommends a CIRCLE approach that highlights Compact urban development, Individual action, Reducing hidden waste flows, Carbon reduction strategies, Land management and Efficiency increases for China to achieve its sustainable goals.

"The report is an important first step for all of us," said WWF-China Country Representative Dermot O'Gorman. "With this report and the partnership with CCICED and Global Footprint Network, WWF will continue to work with key stakeholders to explore an innovative and sustainable development path in china."

WWF's earthquake relief efforts

WWF collaborates with provincial forest departments on post-disaster reconstruction plans

Representatives from WWF-China, forest departments and local nature reserves from Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces met in Beijing on June 3 and 4 to discuss reconstruction plan for affected panda reserves after the quake.

At the meeting, WWF and Sichuan Forest Department stressed the importance of understanding the scope of the catastrophe on the panda landscape in order to formulate a strategic, prioritized reconstruction plan. Both sides will work together to assess and record the quake impacts upon panda habitat. Similar discussion was held between WWF-China and Shaanxi Forest Department on June 4.

The earthquake has destroyed the buildings and equipments of 20 nature reserves in Qionglai and Minshan landscapes near the epicenter, having triggered multiple landslides which have dramatically altered the geographical landscape and destroyed monitoring and patrolling routes.

WWF announced at the meeting that it will be actively involved in the reconstruction of giant panda habitats and will continue working on the Green Heart of China project. Shaanxi Forest Department will work alongside WWF to survey and assess the damage done to the giant panda habitats. The data from these assessments will then help determine the appropriate actions to pursue and serve as a solid foundation for post reconstruction plans.

WWF mourns for quake victims



WWF'd like to extend our sincere condolences to the quake victims and their families.

We are deeply saddened by the news that an 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province at 14:28 on May 12, 2008 with devastating impacts that caused tragic loss of human lives and damages in cities and villages across the affected areas. As ...

Continue reading at <http://www.wwfchina.org/english/loca.php?loca=515>

WWF Network unveils post-disaster reconstruction plan

WWF-China and WWF-US Humanitarian Partnership Program conducted a two day workshop focused on WWF's response to the quake damage on June 21 and 22. The workshop was devoted to developing a comprehensive post-disaster reconstruction plan that would help restore local communities while minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

Representatives from Chengdu and Xi'an offices began the workshop by describing the current situation in Sichuan, Gansu, and Shaanxi provinces. The study result by Ouyan Zhiyun from the Institute of Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences showed that the earthquake has negatively affected 1,152,582 hectares of the giant panda habitats. He has been using macro-satellite photos to assess the ecological damage to giant panda nature reserves, forests, rivers, vegetation, and farmland.

The participants discussed the different activities and goals that should be incorporated into the six months reconstruction plan. Angie Woo and Frederica Sawyer, having previous post-disaster reconstruction experiences, facilitated the discussion incorporating lessons they learned during the Indonesia Tsunami reconstruction process.

WWF's relief actions in Shaanxi Province

The first batch of rescue materials including tents, generator, candles and medicines was delivered to Shaanxi Qingmuchuan Nature Reserve on May 21 by Xi'an Office staff, helping the staff and community villager to pass the most difficult period. After this, WWF sent another 100 tents, clothes, torches, etc to the other affected nature reserves in Qinling.



Rescue relief delivered to Qingmuchuan Nature Reserve

In addition, several meetings were held among WWF, Shaanxi Forestry Department, Shaanxi Zoology Institute and relevant stakeholders to discuss how to initiate and implement the impact study of earthquake on giant panda and its habitat in Qinling. All the participants agreed that it is very necessary to conduct such a study before the overall strategic rehabilitation action plan takes place.

The study will cover the impact of earthquake on the giant panda, other wild species and their habitat, as well as the socio-economic impact on the nature reserve and neighbouring communities. Shaanxi Forestry Department will take the lead with involvement of other relevant stakeholders such as road and water facilities sectors to make it a more comprehensive and in-depth report. Now the field survey has been completed and with the expert support from WWF network, the report is expected to deliver very soon.

Helping hand to local communities

Relief materials were sent to Longxi-Hongkou Nature Reserve and neighbouring communities by Chengdu Office staff.

The reserve is a longtime partner with WWF and used to be a summer escape for Chengdu citizens. It suffered serious damage due to the close location to the epicenter. The ever green mountains are full



of scars which are hard to recover. The ever-clean creek in the valley is blocked the collapsed rocks and becomes dreggy. All the homesteads along the creek were seriously damaged.

Two schools became rubbles just in a turn of a hand and is in desperate need of relief support. During the delivery of the relief materials, WWF also provided relief goods to the schools, such as tent, stationery, disinfectant and some daily articles for use.

Fresh relief for pandas

WWF has facilitated a special action to transport fresh bamboo to Wolong panda breeding center where the remaining pandas were faced with food shortage after the earthquake.

With Coca Cola company's support, the Sichuan Forest Department purchased the fresh bamboo in Baoxing County where peasants sold it at preferentially low prices. It takes at least 12 hours to transport the bamboo in trucks from Baoxing to Wolong and careful consideration was given to make the delivered bamboo as fresh as possible.



Weighing bamboo for the pandas

Construction of temporary protection building kicked off

The WWF-supported construction of temporary protection building began in Sichuan Pengzhou Baishuihe Nature Reserve on July 2, when Isabelle Louis, Dermot O’Gorman and local partners participated in the opening ceremony.

The nature reserve is the closest panda habitat to cities as it’s only 100 kilometers away from Chengdu. It suffered severe damage during the quake that leveled all the buildings and caused direct threats to the survival of over 30 wild pandas living there.

WWF has provided initial relief to the reserve and neighbouring communities. At the same time, WWF is offering support to the reconstruction planning of the reserve and the construction of the temporary protection building is the beginning of the efforts to help the reserve and local communities rebuild their future.



Isabelle Louis and Dermot O’Gorman helped reconstruction of the protection building.

In brief

Conference held to improve forest sustainability

More than 200 participants from China and abroad attended a conference jointly staged by the Rainforest Alliance, WWF-China, State Forestry Administration and the Chinese Academy of Forestry

on April 2 and 3. The participants discussed the market development of certified forest products in the construction, furniture, paper and packaging sectors. The conference provided an exchange platform for people to explore growing influence and role China

plays in terms of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forests, forest products and markets.

Delegation visits Africa for field understanding



An IUCN led delegation consisting representatives from WWF-China, SFA and MOFCOM visited Ghana and D.R.Congo in April and May gain understanding of China-African trade and forestry development in Africa, aiming to set up linkage with African offices to facilitate future SHIFT for China Network Initiative. The delegation had meetings with senior officials from environment and forestry departments of the African countries and visited timber factories. Both the officials and companies showed great interests in cooperating with Chinese on forestry development and enhance forest law enforcement.

Workshop studies palm oil chain in China

WWF-China hosted the first CSR training workshop in Beijing on June 12 and 13 to help major palm oil traders learn further about sustainable palm oil supply chain. Representatives from Cargill, Bunge, COFCO and other key players in the palm oil industry in China participated in the training that thoroughly elaborated the risks along palm oil supply chain and the solutions to ensure the legality and sustainability of palm oil production. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NDRC, embassies and certification bodies also attended the training.

Contact Han Zheng for above news, +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3217, zhhan@wwfchina.org

Environment flows workshop held in Zhengzhou



More than 70 representatives participated in the National Workshop on Environment Flows jointly held by WWF and Yellow River Conservancy Commission in Zhengzhou, Henan Province on June 15 and 16. The participants are from Ministry of Water Resource, Ministry of Environment Protection, State Forestry Administration and other organizations, and they discussed the experiences, problems and countermeasures of the environmental flow in China. An Expert Working Group for Environmental Flows within the National IRBM Expert Panel was set up with a focus on research and policy work in China's main large rivers in coming five years.

Reports on drinking water safety in China published

Two reports on the drinking water safety issues in China were published with the contribution and sponsor of WWF-China. Both reports focus on the areas of the policy development and research respectively. The first report calls to improve management systems, operation mechanisms and social service system to approach the issue while the second one summaries the findings and proceedings of stakeholders' engagement in the national policy development and implement.

Contact Wang Lei for above news, +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3909, lwang@wwfchina.org

Field patrolling and monitoring strengthened in reserves

The WWF-supported monitoring and patrolling was carried out in Shuimo Nature Reserve throughout April, during which rangers performed patrolling and monitoring of the wildlife along seven sample routes. They collected the information of key protected animal and plant for GIS data, and also made assessment of the impacts of snow disaster happened early in January. Moreover, a monitoring training supported by WWF was held for 60 rangers from 12 nature reserves in Lianshan-Xiangling was held from April 23 to 26.

Exchange visit to introduce solutions



In early May, WWF organized a diagnose tour taking eco-tour developers from Guangdong Province to communities in Minshan to help local practitioners solve their development problems. This exchange visit is a follow-up of a study tour held last year when WWF organized the local eco-tour operators to visit their successful counterparts in Guangdong to learn experiences and skills.

Contact Yang Ming for above news, +86 28 6800 3625, myang@wwfchina.org

Survey shows climate change impacts upon panda habitat

The Sichuan Climate Centre has concluded from a joint cooperative survey with WWF that panda habitat in Minshan, Qionglaihan, Liangshan, Daxiangling and Xiaoxiangling landscapes have become increasingly dry over the past 50 years. The survey showed that in all the observed landscapes, except Liangshan and Xiaoxiangling, the temperature has been increasing since 1990. It also noted a decrease in the average relative humidity as well as the number of sunlight hours. WWF plans to use the survey along with more climate change field monitoring data to help develop long term giant panda conservation strategies.

Evaluation held to improve the efficiency

WWF recently conducted a comprehensive evaluation of its monitoring and patrolling system in 10 nature reserves in 3 provinces in hopes of increasing the efficiency of the procedures. The extensive evaluation concluded that older nature reserves have more developed monitoring and patrolling systems than recently built nature reserves. It also identified a critical problem as the failure of information sharing and exchange among the reserves due to the varied geographical landscapes conditions. WWF hopes it will help standardize data processing and data collection as well as suggest better ways to allocate its field resources.

Panda website launched for further protection

A new website called China's Pandas was formally launched on April 27 with an aim to be a giant panda portal in China. In addition to having factual information about giant pandas and updates on current conservation efforts, the website also dedicated a special section to cover WWF's protection efforts with a focus on WWF's Green

Heart of China project as well as past projects in Qinling and Minshan landscapes.

Contact Chang Youde for above news, +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3221, ydchang@wwfchina.org

Study tour to boost understanding of trade relation between China and Africa

A study tour consisting representatives from Chinese Academy of International Trade & Economic Cooperation (CAITEC) of Ministry of Commerce and WWF visited Tanzania and Gabon from May 12 to 23 to learn the social and natural impacts of bilateral economic activities. The delegates had a series of meetings with governmental officials from departments of trade/investment and natural resources, Chinese companies, trade associations, and representatives from international organizations. With the facilitation of Chinese embassy, the delegate has also established contacts with main Chinese timber and mining companies in Gabon.

Contact Li Nan for above news, +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3283, lnli@wwfchina.org

WWF People
Comings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Zeng Yan joined Chengdu office as TCCC Programme Officer.* Yao Weike joined as DAM and Environmental Flows Programme officer in Beijing office.* Wang Lei joined as Freshwater Programme Coordinator in Beijing Office.* Christine Tam joined as the Natural Capital Project director.* Chen Min joined as Ecosystem Service China Project Manager.* Wan Hui joined as Programme Coordinator in Xi'an Office.* Shi Daoliang joined as Climate Change Adaptation Officers in Wuhan Office.* Lindsey Reed joined as an intern for Species Programme.
Goings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Li Lifeng has left Freshwater Programme for new work in Gland.* Bi Kejia has left Finance Department.* Caroline Liou has left TRAFFIC.* Zhang Xiujuan has left the office administration.* Guo Ran has left the Forest Programme.* Chu Ziying has left the Freshwater Programme.* Zhang Yan has left Beijing Office.

Published by Communications Department, WWF-China
Room 1609, Wen Hua Gong, Beijing
Working People's Culture Palace
(Laodong Renmin Wenhua Gong Dongmen), Beijing, P.R. China

Editor: Tan Rui

Tel: +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3813

E-mail: rtan@wwfchina.org