

conservation agreements private partnership platform

# CHINA - Alternative livelihoods to protect forests and water

CLOSED

Sept. 2017

The high mountains and dry valleys of China's Lixian County are home to the village of Xiong'er, a community of about 500 people. Forests account for more than 50 percent of the county's total area, providing fresh water, wild food products, and medicinal herbs, as well as critical habitat for the golden monkey and other species. The forests of Xiong'er alone provide water for 1,000 people.



The mountain forests, however, are threatened by unregulated logging fire, and in the valley, goats pose a threat to young tree seedlings. To empower communities to protect the forest and water source, Shanshui Nature Conservation Center set up a conservation agreement between Xiong'er and the Lixian Forestry Bureau in 2012. With additional support from the CAPPP between 2015-2017, Shanshui has helped the community establish alternative livelihoods, such as beekeeping and pig raising, to reduce pressures on the forest.

## What is a “conservation agreement”?

It is a deal between a community and a group or person funding a conservation project. In exchange for making specific conservation commitments, communities receive benefits from the funder.

## THE COMMUNITIES AGREE TO:

- No logging in the three designated patrol routes around the water source
- No logging or forest fires around the temple area
- Protect young trees by reducing the goat population

## IN RETURN FOR:

- Alternative livelihoods, such as honeybee-keeping and raising Tibetan pigs for meat, to replace goats that eat young trees
- Organized visits to other counties to learn about technology and management of ecological farming and cooperatives
- Small grants to support the patrolling and public affairs
- Opportunities for sharing communal forest management experiences to all forest patrollers in Lixian County
- Leadership training

## INVESTMENT

CAPPP: \$18,750

HSBC, Cargill China: \$65,625

Paradise Foundation: \$7,812

## IMPLEMENTERS

**Shanshui Nature Conservation Center** is a private nature conservation organization that works with partners to conduct field work in the still-preserved areas of western China and demonstrate a new model of ecological, economic and community balance.

**Lixian Forest Bureau** oversees sustainable forest management at the county level.

## PARTNERS

**Xiong'er Dongdong Co-operative**

- Helped to expand the honey market and provided trainings to bee and pig farmers

**Xiong'er Collective Forest Board**

- Oversees forest conservation, following Lixian Forest Bureau collective management policy



## MONITORING

A 4-member patrol team submitted reports every three months to the Lixian Forest Bureau, which analyzed the data, particularly logging, fire and goat population. Socio-economic baseline data was collected at the beginning of the project and a project evaluation assessment was conducted in September 2017 to evaluate the project and measure the results.

## RESULTS

### ENVIRONMENTAL

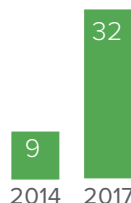
**775** hectares of forest protected

**0** logging or fire incidents between 2014-2018

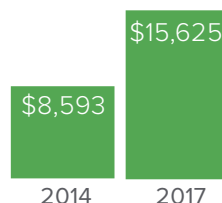
**200** goats, reduced from 1,600 to protect seedlings from overgrazing and allowing young trees to flourish

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC

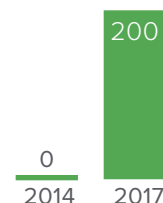
#### Bee farmers



#### Honey value



#### Tibetan pigs



## PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

**HSBC** water program provided grant financing to support the forest conservation, livelihoods development and capacity building of the communities.

**Xiong'er Dongdong Co-operative** purchased products and invited experts to deliver trainings for honeybee and pig farmers. With their successful brand and sales through social media, Dongdong helped to expand the honey market.

**Cargill Investments (China), Ltd.** provided a grant to support alternative livelihood and young tree restoration and also promoted the honey product to their employees.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Xiong'er Collective Forest Board will continue the conservation activities by themselves with financial support from China's National Forest Compensation Program, which will offer \$28,406/year through 2020. Additionally, the Xiong'er Dongdong co-operative will allocate 10 percent of profits to support conservation activities in the village.



## Contact

FITRI HASIBUAN | [hasibuan@conservation.org](mailto:hasibuan@conservation.org)  
[www.conservation.org/csp](http://www.conservation.org/csp)

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