

conservation agreements private partnership platform

# CHINA - Protecting critical panda habitat and water resources

CLOSED  
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Deprived of their main source of income after a logging ban went into effect, timber-dependent residents of Guanba valley turned to illegal hunting, logging and harvesting, often at the expense of giant panda habitat.

Located in Pingwu County in northwestern Sichuan, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) from the city of Chengdu, the forests of Guanba form an important migration path for endangered giant pandas and provide drinking water to 900 villagers. Since 2009, local environmental NGO Shanshui Nature Conservation Center has been using “conservation agreements” with villagers to develop less destructive livelihoods and take pressure off the valley’s ecosystem. From 2015-2017, CAPPP support helped Shan Shui strengthen the agreement by focusing on building small and medium-sized enterprises to promote long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

## 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:

- Conduct daily patrols to stop hunting and fishing by local and surrounding villagers in the conservation area
- Register and regulate people from other villages to ensure sustainable harvest of herbal plants
- Set up local systems for monitoring and protecting biodiversity
- Release native fish species to restore aquatic ecosystems

### IN RETURN FOR:

- Product marketing assistance
- Support for purchasing of native fish species
- Leadership trainings for head of village and cooperative leaders
- Ecotourism development, especially in product designing and marketing
- Financial support for patrolling

### INVESTMENT

CAPPP: \$37,800

Pingwu County Forest Bureau: \$62,878

Shanshui Partner Company: \$4,545

HSBC Water Programme: \$75,757

### IMPLEMENTERS

#### Shanshui Nature Conservation

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

**Pingwu County Forest Bureau** is a state-owned forest management authority that provided funding for patrolling activities.

### PARTNERS

#### Mupi Township government

- Supported the collective management of the forests and provided funding for conservation activities

#### Shanshui Partner Company

- Buyer of ecological products and technical trainer

#### Guanba River Basin Nature Conservation Center

- Local community authorized to manage 4,000 hectares of panda habitat in Guanba forests



## MONITORING

A team of 26 patrollers monitored human activities along the river and in the forest, looking for wildlife traps, stopping illegal fishing activities, and collecting data about wildlife species. Baseline data about average household income, environmental awareness and community participation was collected at the beginning of the project. A third-party institution was contracted for annual project evaluation. Compliance monitoring was conducted by the community through daily patrols. All non-compliance was recorded and reported to the local conservation organization, Guanba River Basin Nature Conservation Center.

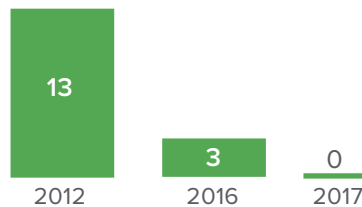
## RESULTS

**400** villagers receive benefits from sustainable businesses, such as beekeeping and ecotourism

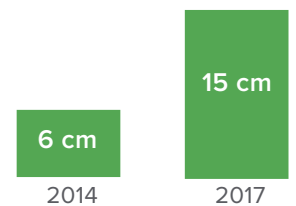
**4,000** hectares of panda and other wildlife habitat effectively protected

**\$100,000** of honey sold each year, 2015-2017

Traps found in the forest



Size of native fish



## PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

**Shanshui Partner Company**, a social enterprise concerned with ecological protection, purchased sustainable products, such as honey and medicinal plants, provided grant financing, and conducted technical trainings on beekeeping cooperatives development.

**HSBC Water Programme**, which focuses on preserving the Upper Yangtze River watershed through forest conservation, provided financial support to establish a community conservation fund in Guanba village.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The future plan is to cooperate with surrounding communities to continue to stop poaching, expand the scope of protection, connect with other enterprises, and help community organizations to access more government funding for conservation. Tauhaiyuan, a Chinese-based organization, has committed to fund at least five villages around Guanba to realize this vision.



## Contact

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