Who We Are

Shan Shui Conservation Center (SSCC) is a Chinese NGO dedicated to species and ecosystem conservation to promote human-nature coexistence.

Our work focuses on endangered species like the snow leopard, giant panda, and the snub-nosed monkey in western China, and also urban ecosystems. We use innovative conservation practices, such as community involvement and citizen science research projects, to promote an ecologically balanced world.

Vision

Ecological-equality: sustainable interactions between nature and humans, traditional and modern culture, and bottom-up versus top-down decision making.

Mission

Using community-based conservation and citizen science, we protect species and natural habitats, promote positive human-nature interactions, and implement innovative practice in the field of nature conservation.
2020, A Year on Track as Any

When it struck China in the spring of 2020, COVID-19 was not expected to last this long, or as it is now, to evade any speculation about when it would end. Back in the days of home-quarantine, we kept mulling over two questions: What exactly can we do to live in harmony with the natural world? How should we deal with ourselves in lockdown? With tumultuous uncertainty, a lot of preconceptions about the world that we live in have been shattered. Consequently, change becomes irrefutable and inevitable. Innovation is needed more than ever. Self-limiting boundaries must be eliminated. This speaks true of organizations as well as individuals.

According to Mr. Zhang Wenhong, a well-known MD with the Infectious Disease Department of Huashan Hospital, Shanghai, “with more damage to ecological balance and biodiversity, we will come in close contact with wild animals.” The way our immune system responds to viruses and vice versa – even vaccination itself – sheds light on how humans reach new balances with nature. From the onset of the pandemic, we joined several other NGOs, including PKU Center for Nature and Society and Friends of Nature (FON), to offer a variety of online posts and live webinars about the use and monitoring of wildlife, wildlife legislation, and public health. We aimed to facilitate change in public preconception and policy-making. Exploring these issues was also part of what we needed to do to grow.

As COVID-19 control became a new normal, we kept on track with our community-based conservation and citizen science programs. We continued to drive our conservation and monitoring efforts with local communities in the Sanjiangyuan area, the Mountains of Southwest China, and some parts of Yunnan. We have reached further to the Yarlung Tsangpo Great Canyon, covering a more diverse range of ecosystems from grassland to forest and then to rainforest. We also began to incorporate more species, such as clouded leopards, golden cats, wolves, leopards, and otters, in addition to snow leopards, giant pandas, and black snub-nosed monkeys. Is there a way to protect the local people’s right to economic development while focusing on these charismatic species? That’s how we came to explore a concession-making mechanism along the Angsai Panda Valley in Sanjiangyuan National Park. It is our way to provide local communities with positive incentives: through nature tours; and this won us the Paulson Prize.

In 2020, we went further with our urban eco-restoration efforts, taking actions to recover biodiversity in Beijing’s Wild Duck Lake and Jingxi Forest Farm. We also carried out fun activities for citizen scientists to study mandarin ducks, squirrels, raccoon dogs, and the Jiangtan Wetlands. We’ve noticed less fear of wild animals among city people. Instead, they seem more interested in, concerned about, and even in love with the great out- doors that seems more authentic in its “natural state”.

The year 2020 was regarded as a “super year for biodiversity”, which has been given much attention as CBD COP15 draws near. At the end of 2020, we released a biodiversity impact assessment (BiA) app based on years of data collected through Nature Watch. We hope it will play a role in EPA and ESG and help bring biodiversity into the mainstream economy. As China beings to rein in its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, the carbon fixing capacity of ecosystems has also become one of our focal points. Our grassland and forest restoration efforts will inform Nature-based Solutions (NBS).

When it comes to teamwork, we were delighted to have new blood – research fellows who have helped expand our media presence to Bilibili and TikTok, Chinese equivalents of YouTube. We have also explored an exciting new way to do citizen science on Weibo, which we call “Species Intel.” In October, we rolled out a new monthly donation plan inviting you, our dear supporters, to stay with us. We can’t do without you. To pay you back, we will try our best to tighten our internal management and get ahead with our conservation practices.

The year 2020 is bound to be extraordinary, and the world may have changed forever. However, we remain resolute as ever to keep it up and grow more, so we can be better prepared to deal with a challenging and unknown future. Let’s make the world a little better together.

Zheng Yisheng, Board Chair, & Shi Xiangying, Executive Director
We use a participatory approach to restore ecological services or species in urban green spaces. We help local communities around natural habitats practice conservation as key actors. We use a participatory approach to restore ecological services or species in urban green spaces. We help local communities around natural habitats practice conservation as key actors. We run a Nature Watch database to inform policy-making and biodiversity mainstreaming.

Our Mission
Using community-based conservation and citizen science, we protect species and natural habitats, promote positive human-nature interactions, and implement innovative practice in the field of nature conservation.

Community-based natural resources management, baseline data collection, and management planning
Monitoring, patrol, and restorative practices against threats and gaps in data
Community-based monitoring against the distribution and dynamics of a given species, action-based research and publication
Nature-based tourism, eco-products and other income-generating livelihoods, capacity-building for climate change and human-wildlife conflict
Field work summaries, networking, and policy advocacy
Efforts to set up protected areas in and around Chinese megacities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Wuhan, and Nanjing as a biodiversity-restoring practice
A participatory approach to action-based monitoring; greater public attention and participation through using ecosystem services for education and recreation
Public-engaged data collection and research; heed and answer questions about biodiversity
An internal system for data management and processing. Use the BiA tool and trapping-based database, collect more sources of biodiversity and PA data
Case and policy studies for transboundary conservation using EPAs and ESGs; international cooperation and reporting

Partnership
More resources, collaborations, and innovation; greater diversity, flexibility, and stability in revenue
Publicity
Branding and international image building, with our principles, values, and knowledge products; greater awareness and participation
Operation
Better internal control, efficiency, capacity and benefits for staff; more enabling environment
Wildlife Actions amid COVID-19

January: The outbreak of COVID-19 prompted us to facilitate the process of the Wildlife Law amendment together with specialists as an Action Research Team (ART). In addition to the continued popular science promotion on wildlife use and public health, we had more than 20 articles published on Chinese and international periodicals, incl. Current Biology and Biodiversity.

The Gyatang Grassland
April: the 160 km² Gyatang Grassland launched on Ant Forest was easily accessed and supported in Cyberspace by 160 million people – one km² each. This success has been included in China’s position paper for the UN Summit on Biodiversity.

New Home for Raptors
Since May, we’ve been looking at the role of the 140 bird nests in the National Red List of Fauna (Exposure Draft). In reducing the mortality rates of raptors and their breeding, incl. upwards buzzards and saker falcons, in Longtiao and Gyatang.

Feedback to the National Red List of Fauna (Exposure Draft)
July: We submitted our proposals to the National Red List of Fauna (Exposure Draft) after thorough consultations with specialists and a review of all the threatened species in question.

Citizen Science in Hangzhou
August: We engaged 1,292 volunteers in an urban citizen science activity in Hangzhou to study small animals like mandarin ducks and squirrels, with Alibaba Foundation and Dreamland Nature Center.

A Collection of Yunnan’s Best Conservation Practices
We have prepared a collection of best conservation practices from the private sector in Yunnan as a contribution to COP15 with over 10 local NGOs, providing first-hand rich information for practitioners in the field.

The Chinese Honeybee Project
May: We took a close look at the dynamics of Chinese honeybee populations and nectariferous plants in Chaoyang Village, Shaanxi Province, with Guerlain’s support. By the end of 2020, 13 bee farms had been built.

Beijing Nature Watch Festival
September: We held the Beijing Nature Watch Festival 2020 in the Olympic Forest Park, where over 2,000 visitors had a range of activities from collecting things like fallen leaves and fruits to mapping the entire area and then to a public nature tour.

Human-Wildlife Conflict Fund in Suojia
October Backed by Alibaba and Amity Foundations, the 2020-2021 Humana-Wildlife Insurance Fund was established in Yaqu Village, Suojia Town to compensate for the losses of yaks or sheep to wild animal attacks not covered by insurance companies.

All for Giant Pandas
October: We joined the Sichuan and GanSu governments in a 43-km patrol along the northern range of the Minshan Mountains in the National Giant Panda Park. Ten traces of wildlife activity were identified and no human interferences were found. We were later awarded for panda conservation – so was Feng Jie, our Panda Project Director, individually.

Biodiversity Survey in Medog, Tibet
October: We found over 75 species of wildlife through cameras installed in the Yarlung Tsangpo Great Canyon National Nature Reserve, as commissioned by the Department of Natural Protected Areas Management, Forestry and Grassland Administration. China Central TV aired some of our footage on its popular programs.

The Big Cat Valley
By 2020, the Big Cat Valley in Sanjiangyuan National Park saw 406 visitors and an income of 1,304 million yuan. In October, our BCV Nature Tour Project won the Paulson Prize for Sustainability in the category of Nature Stewardship.

Ecological Access to ESG Investment Discussed
December: We released a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) tool and were joined by government officials, CAS and PKU scholars, investors, environmental NGOs, and representatives of manufacturing and financial industries to discuss the ecological environment access system for ESG investment in a “One Yangtze River” Sustainability Forum we held in Beijing with Huatai Securities, an event that aimed to promote exchanges between the capital market and conservationists.

Monthly Donors
October: We kicked off a second monthly donation project called “Shanshuiuer Plan” and have received a total of 193,657 yuan from 648 donors.

Nature Kunming
November: With GAC Toyota’s support, we joined our partners in Yunnan for a 4-day Bird Watching Festival in Jiaozishan National Nature Reserve. We also ran a series of activities called “Nature Kunming” to study birds, mammals, plants and other biological groups around the city.

Jingxi Protected Area
October: Huatai Securities and Ant Forest helped us launch a Jingxi Protected Area, covering 19 km² of the forest ecosystem around Beijing. The event engaged 19 million netizens.

Citizen Science for Public Health in Wuhan
June: We launched a citizen science project on biodiversity in Wuhan with Kering Group and Red Cross, in addition to marshland surveys with local NGOs like Leba Nature, informing popular science on wildlife and public health as well as habitat conservation.

New Talent
September: 11 research fellows of 2020 received an intensive capacity building course in Guantao on key fronts of conservation.

Nature Kunming
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By January 22, Prof. Lu Zhi had managed to get 19 CAS scholars’ signatures for a petition against illegal wildlife consumption and trade, a usual cause of public health crises. Since then, together with the PKU Center for Nature and Society, our consultants, experts, and groups have come together as an Action Research Team (ART) to solve the problems related to the use of wildlife, popularize these issues on a continuing basis, and promote the amendment of Wildlife Protection Law. We have had more than 20 papers published, with more articles released on People’s Daily, Xinhua News, and Guangming Daily, among other media.

On January 28, to provide reference for legislation and policy making, we conducted an online questionnaire-based survey across China and some Chinese communities overseas, with nearly 100,000 respondents, of which more than 90% were in favor of a total ban on eating and trading wildlife.

The next month on February 19, we endorsed the proposals for the amendment of Wildlife Protection Law with 9 other NGOs, including Friends of Nature (FON).

On February 24, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress issued the “Decision on Completely Prohibiting Illegal Wildlife Trade, Eliminating the Bad Habit of Overeating Wild Animals, and Effectively Safeguarding People’s Lives, Health and Safety”.

The next day we joined Guangming Daily, Life Week, The Paper, Weibo Philanthropic Page, and Yixin Huatai in launching the initiative of #SayNoToEatingWildAnimals, and nearly 20,000 people participated.

In June, With the support of Kering and in cooperation with Hubei Red Cross, we organized five lectures on “Biodiversity and Public Health”, which provided the public with relevant findings and knowledge on wildlife trade, wildlife conservation and public health. We rolled out citizen science activities in Wuhan, exploring topics about a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. In these events, we brought people closer to nature and led them to study wildlife on marshlands and wetlands.

In July, we officially submitted proposals to the National Red List of Fauna (Exposure Draft) based on expert opinion and a review of threatened species listed therein. The epidemic is far from over, and we still have a long way to go before we can hope to live in harmony with nature.

Special Action in the Face of COVID-19
Community-based Conservation

As an organization dedicated to promoting biodiversity conservation, SSCC believes that local communities, where livelihood and daily life are closely related to nature, are the most important force for conservation. Underneath the complexity of nature conservation we have generations-old practices and knowledge about the coexistence of wildlife and humans, from indigenous peoples. Over the past ten years, in Sanjiangyuan, Sichuan, Yunnan, Tibet, Shaanxi, Gansu and other places, we have been active in exploring a sustainable model of community-based conservation on fronts like monitoring, patrol, community development, and resource management, by integrating the traditional practice of community governance under the influences of market, policy, climate change, and modernization. Our aim is to refine conservation experience and knowledge, creating possibilities for harmonious co-existence between the human and natural worlds.

Sanjiangyuan is located on the Tibetan Plateau, the birthplace of the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, and the Lancang River, as well as the headwaters for fresh water resources in China. It is also an important ecological buffer. Its special geographical location and abundant natural resources provide habitats for a large number of endemic and endangered species in China. The region has the world’s largest snow leopard habitat as well as the most densely distributed predator species locally and even globally. We leverage local traditions and culture around interactions with the environment as a foundation, then use modern scientific methods to promote community-based conservation of species and habitats.

Since 2009, we have carried out conservation work in the Sanjiangyuan area. Part of our approach is to set up a trapping-based monitoring network to carry out wildlife research and conservation through cooperation with Peking University and local communities. In tandem we work with villages to carry out conservation practices in light of human-wildlife conflict, grassland degradation, habitat fragmentation and other issues. We explore conservation-compatible community development to ensure sustainability. In addition, we work with local governments and make recommendations for policy development.
The snow leopard and the leopard are the flagship species of the Sanjiangyuan ecosystem. In 2020, we continued to promote community-based monitoring, research and conservation for these species. We kept working at 9 long-term monitoring points with more than 500 camera traps, covering an area of more than 7,000 km² and engaging over 300 local pastoralists in monitoring duties. Throughout the year over 100,000 camera-days have been achieved. The number of attendances exceeded 500 in over 10 small-scale trainings and 5 larger workshops where we taught locals how to use camera traps and the map software.

In 2020, our team expanded our monitoring efforts in Yaqu Village of Suojia, first from the area of Qurirong Gagou, the second community of Yaqu Village, to all four communities of Yaqu. In addition, 35 pastoralists in Yaqu were trained in camera installation and maintenance. After the expansion, a total of 67 long-term camera traps were placed, and the monitoring area reached 1,000 km².

In August, 2020, we worked with the Suojia Stewardship of the National Park Administration in the Yangtze Headwater (Hoh Xil) Zone and the Suojia government to set up a 200,000 yuan compensation fund for human-wildlife conflict in Yaqu Village, Suojia, as a supplement to local commercial insurance of the same kind, so as to further reduce the losses suffered by local pastoralists as a result of wild carnivores preying on livestock. We set up a local team for fund management. Up to now, 44 claims of livestock loss have been on file, with wolves as the main attacker. These claims were subject to supervision by the township government and a third party such as SSCC.

In 2020, with the support of Sanjiangyuan Ecological Conservation Foundation, we summarized the monitoring work of Maco River Forest Farm in Golog. In the past two years, we have set up 73 camera traps at 7 stewardship stations along the Maco River, detected 18 species of animals and 4 species of birds, and captured first-time motion pictures of leopards and otters.

In a “species + PA” framework, we continued with otter conservation along the Batang River and Jiatang Protected Area in Yushu Prefecture of Qinghai Province, hoping to step up the efforts to conserve the grassland and wetland ecosystem while taking into account the community’s needs for sustainability.

Along the Batang River, our team carried out population monitoring and habitat restoration for otters, and set up 7 artificial nests. We reported a total of 1,320 camera-days, with 287 independent images of Eurasian otters, 77 red foxes and 36 leopard cats. Based on the collected data, activity rhythms of the Eurasian otter were analyzed, and the effectiveness of the trapping method was evaluated. The research results have been published in the academic journals Biodiversity and Zoological Research.

The Jiatang Grassland was incorporated into Alipay’s Ant Forest in April, using a paradigm that supports participation and contribution by all. More than 100 million people have taken part, and 56,000 tons of carbon emissions were reduced. With Zhenqin Second Village as the actor, the Jiatang Protected Area Co-management Committee was established, and community monitoring team members were elected; this bolstered our integrated approach to monitoring arrangement and discussions about the overall work plan. Community-based biodiversity monitoring was carried out continuously in the protected area, and the training of community monitoring team members was completed twice a year, with a total of 2,800 camera-days, and 266 independent images of the Chinese mountain cat were captured. The number of captures of the red fox, Tibetan fox, and the badger all exceeded 500; The black-necked cranes were investigated 82 times, at which the highest daily count was 800 individuals, and one breeding family was identified.

To address conflicts between State Grid establishments and raptor habitation, our team evaluated the utilization rate of artificial bird nests in Jiatang PA and Longbao National Nature Reserve and, based on 8 transect-line surveys, suggested actions to be taken. This led to the transformation of Yushu Prefecture Power Grid to meet the ecological requirements and reduced raptor collisions.

In December, we began to carry out volunteering activities in Jiatang Protected Area to increase public participation. Three volunteers played assisted with our transect-line survey for large and medium-sized animals, and assisted in setting up 25 camera traps.
For garbage disposal, we engaged local pastoralists in identifying refuse constituents. Five plastic-clearing campaigns were conducted across the grassland, engaging 126 pastoralists and village teachers and students. A total of 547.47 kg of garbage was cleared, classified and recycled.

To address the threat of grassland degradation, we explored barren patch treatment as well as long-term efforts against the damage that gypsy moth caterpillars and pika might cause following grass plantation with local pastoralists on two occasions. This will inform follow-up ecological restoration plans.

Sustainability is also one of our focal points. We have managed to both increase basic monitoring coverage and completed data collection for 58 groups of quadrats, and trained local pastoralists in adapting to the environment and exploring alternative livelihoods. From September to December, we used a participatory approach in our second training course – this time for 16 key leaders of 7 eco-livestock cooperatives, and including approximately 150,000 yuan to the community’s public fund. To present, the Angsai Valley of the Cats project has brought in more than 1.5 million yuan, and in 2020, we won the Paulson Prize for Sustainability. Visit our website to book a tour: https://www.valleyofthecats.org.cn/.

In 2020, we explored various possibilities to align conservation practices with community development goals as China continues to build a nature reserve system based on the national park paradigm. Nature watch tours and human-wildlife conflicts are a few things we continued to focus on. On the fronts of policy-making and public participation, we worked closely with the national park administration to play a part in building national parks.

The Angsai Valley of the Cats Nature Watch Project demonstrates how concession can be used to build China’s nature park centric system. As COVID-19 controls eased, the project resumed in September. By the end of 2020, we welcomed 34 groups and 106 visitors, with more than 340,000 yuan generated in benefits to the community, including approximately 150,000 yuan to the community’s public fund. To present, the Angsai Valley of the Cats project has brought in more than 1.5 million yuan, and in 2020, we won the Paulson Prize for Sustainability. Visit our website to book a tour: https://www.valleyofthecats.org.cn/.

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The giant panda is the flagship species of global biodiversity conservation as well as China’s national treasure. It has even been called “living fossil”. By the end of 2013, there were 1,864 wild individuals in the world. Their habitats were seriously fragmented, with more than 40 populations facing the risk of local extinction. Since 2007, SSCC has carried out community-based conservation of giant panda habitats, including monitoring and patrol in cooperation with surrounding communities, and exploring eco-friendly and sustainable community development programs. In addition, we also worked with local governments and nature reserves to provide optimization suggestions for conservation policies and project site management methods, and carried out institutional and systematic research and exploration around the construction of giant panda national parks. Meanwhile, we began to pay attention to the survival of snow leopards, clouded leopards, golden cats and other large and medium-sized carnivores, and promoted the sustainable development of communities around these habitats.

In 2020, we continued to work with the villages of Guanba, Jinfeng, and Heping (in Pingwu County, Mianyang City, Sichuan), Xionger Village (Lixian County, Aba Prefecture), Luoyigou Village (Qingchuan County, Guangyuan City, Sichuan), Liziba Village (Wenzian County, Longnan City, Gansu), and Chaoyang Village (Yangxian County, Hanzhong City, Shaanxi), with the villages of Xiaohe and Longchi (Pingwu County, Mianyang City, Sichuan) newly added to the list. These cover an effective conservation area of more than 300 km$^2$. We carried out system and mechanism research and pilot demonstration for giant panda national park establishment in cooperation with the Giant Panda National Park Administration and its Mianyang Office, Sichuan Provincial Forestry and Grassland Administration, Sichuan Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve, Gansu Baishuijiang National Nature Reserve, Shaanxi Changqing National Nature Reserve, and the Mupi Town government, among other partners.

In 2020, we supported Guanba, Liziba, Chaoyang, Heping, Jinfeng, and Xiaohe Community Protected Area (CPA) to carry out patrol and monitoring work. Among them, the CPAs of Guanba, Chaoyang, and Jinfeng, as well as Liziba Land Trust, have achieved grid monitoring. A total of 115 camera traps were set throughout the year, with 12,488 camera days, and coverage reaching 898.13 km$^2$. The villages of Heping and Jinfeng joined our patrol team, covering fully the 2,500 km$^2$ Minshan area, with 299 special patrols for forest areas, 14 surveying fish, and 108 as anti-poaching efforts. With regard to baseline checks and effectiveness evaluations, we completed biodiversity and socio-economic baseline surveys in Xiaohe Village.

In the same year, we held 15 trainings or inspection activities and trained more than 37,300 people in baseline surveying, nature education, Chinese honeybee breeding technology, and collective economic development. On two occasions, we helped the CPAs organize nature education and citizen science activities, generating more than 120,000 yuan for the community. In addition, we also supported communities in carrying out eco-beekeeping, cultivating nectariferous plants, plant pollution-free tea and understory Chinese medicinal herb plantation, stocking and farming native fish, and engaging in nature education, ecotourism and other eco-friendly industries.
In 2020, we worked with the Giant Panda National Park Administration and its adjacent offices, the giant panda reserves leadership and local governments to carry out institutional research and a pilot demonstration for giant panda conservation. We signed a five-year strategic cooperation agreement with the Giant Panda National Park Administration, carried out an event to solicit writings about giant panda stewards, and assisted its Resources Department in revising the texts of concession, the negative list, the nature education center and eco-tourism areas. We also contributed to the preparation of the Green Industry Development Project Plan for Communities at the Entrance of Giant Panda National Park (Sichuan), led by the Giant Panda National Park Administration Sichuan Office. In addition, we worked with Tangjiahe Nature Reserve to draft the Standard Research and Project Research Report: Suburban Communities Friendly to Giant Panda National Park (Sichuan).

We worked with Baishuijiang Nature Reserve to conduct a general survey of canine distemper in the community and take preventive measures; a pilot tea business under concession was rolled out in Liziba around the Baishuijiang Zone of Giant Panda National Park; in partnership with Xiahegou Nature Reserve, we explored leasing collective-owned forests and assisted in land screening, community training and program preparation; a pilot project of human-wildlife conflict management was carried out in Luoyigou Village.

In Changqing Nature Reserve, we carried out a conservation initiative for Chinese honeybees, helped beekeepers achieve level of sustainability in their beekeeping practices, and oversaw pilot efforts such as releasing Chinese honeybees to the wild and nature education. Special funds for the conservation of Chinese honeybee populations and black bears were established in Sichuan Province, with the latter used to insure beekeepers against black bear attacks.

After more than one year of continuous monitoring, snow leopard images were captured in the core zone of Sandagu Provincial Nature Reserve, Sichuan Province, filling the gaps of the Minshan area. In 2020, five camera traps were added to the project, and monitoring will be ensured with 27 existing traps in the reserve. While monitoring snow leopards, other rare wild animals such as jackals, leopards and golden cats were also investigated.

We continued to study the clouded leopard in Yibin, Sichuan. Fifteen camera traps have been set up in areas with animal signs in the counties of Xingwen, Jiang’an and Changning of Yibin.

In Maowan County, Sichuan Province, we kept supporting the Jiuding Mountain Friends of Wildlife Association for trapping, and captured images of large mammals such as the impala and the black bear.
4 Partnership and Networking

In May and October of 2020, we continued the united anti-poaching action and experience-sharing that we called for in 2019 across Sichuan and Gansu provinces (Pingwu County, Qingchuan County and Wensian County) within the Giant Panda National Park. Our work was highly commended by the Giant Panda National Park and our partners, and was expanded to Ju-zhaiqiu Wujiao Nature Reserve, Qingchuan Dongyanggou Nature Reserve, Fushou CPA, and the villages of Liziba and Xiaohe, among others.

In 2020, our support included five camera traps used to monitor large mammals with the Juding Mountain Friends of Wildlife Association, 15 camera traps used to monitor the clouded leopard with Yibin Xunmeng Yangtze River Conservation Association (plus a small grant of 15,000 yuan). In addition, we helped Zunyi River Basin Nature Conservation Center in Ch-ayong Village, Yangxian County, Shaanxi Province create a "Green Home Creation Plan" fund of 50,000 yuan and carry out team capacity building. We also supported "Nipporia Nippon Family" monitoring others with two camera traps, helped Guanba Basin Conservation Center of Pingwu County apply for financial support from the Investment Promotion Bureau, and improved their system and team capacity building.

In 2020, our team was commended by the Sichuan Provincial Forestry and Grassland Administration and the Personnel Department for our outstanding contributions to giant panda conservation in Sichuan Province. By Mianyang Branch of Giant Panda National Park Administration Mianyang Office, we were both collectively and individually awarded for coordinated community development.

As a global biodiversity hotspot, Yunnan Province boasts 30 ecosystems, 114 forest types, and a large number of rare and endemic species. However, with rapid social and economic development, forest fragmentation and land use changes have seriously threatened the ecological environment and the survival of endangered wildlife in Yunnan over the past 60 years.

Since 2017, SSCC has launched a multi-value forest restoration project in Yunlong Tianchi National Nature Reserve, focusing on four major aspects: burned area restoration, scientific research and monitoring, nature education, and community development. Meanwhile, sparked by the lack of conservation efforts we observed in Yunnan, we have carried out community-based species surveys, conservation actions and conservation surveys with public participation aiming to promote the establishment of CPAs in Menglian-Lafo and Deqin-Naren. We have also conducted research and work concerning forest ecosystem service functions, climate change, and cross-border conservation.

The mid- and upper-stream areas along the Yarlung Tsangpo River are most biodiverse in China and even in the world. Studies show that this region includes at least two thirds of known higher plant species, half of known mammals, four fifths of known insects and three fifths of known macrofungi in China. Since 2020, with the support of the Secret Eye Project of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), SSCC and Xizui River Ecological Conservancy have carried out a biodiversity survey and conservation program along the Yarlung Tsangpo River. This program aims to conduct baseline surveys within the Yarlung Tsangpo River National Nature Reserve, evaluate the status of conservation and threats, and employ targeted and proven conservation practices.
To help the community maximize its potential in eco-business, we started with Deng’s Ham, plus new products such as Bacillus and Auricularia, and set up a platform to link local villagers’ cooperatives with external resources. This is conducive for the cooperatives to improve their production quality control and market expansion.

In the Yunlong Tianchi National Nature Reserve we worked with local communities to restore burnt areas. Our project also included efforts to carry out species monitoring and scientific research, restore the integrity of the forest ecosystem, develop community livelihoods, and benefit both the wildlife and the human community.

In 2020, we provided vegetation maintenance training and took various measures to facilitate the renewal process over a restored area of 13 ha., including pruning and fertilizing. Meanwhile, we continued with our research and monitoring efforts for burned forestland, including our fourth 5-day science volunteer trip to Yunlong, where a variety of local wildlife was seen and recorded, including: 43 species of birds, 197 species of plants, 5 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 46 species of arthropods.

As of 2020, through the Nature Watch Festivals and Science Volunteer Events, 163 species of birds, 537 species of plants, 16 species of amphibians and reptiles, 8 species of mammals, and 98 species of arthropods were seen and photographed. To enhance the nature education system at the levels of nature reserves and communities, we organized parent and child activities for forest rangers. This boosted father-child bonds and helped rangers’ families understand what they through at work and what it means. Participants also practiced being forest guides.

The Heishan Mountain is located in Mengma Town, Menglian County, Pu’er City, Yunnan Province. It is a lush and emerald mountain forest bordering Myanmar. The ecosystem here is a primeval monsoon mid-montane evergreen broad-leaved forest with extremely rich biodiversity. Due to logging, artificial forestation, and other human activities, the forest here has been gradually fragmented. To protect this precious primitive forest and the traditional culture of ethnic minorities, since 2019, SSCC and the villagers of Lafu Village in Mengma Town have set up a local monitoring team to carry out biodiversity surveys in the area and explore the potential ecological value of the forest. Fifty cameras were set in place, with a total of 754 GB camera data collected. The data, compiled by our staff and volunteers, has by now been used to identify 38 species of birds and 15 species of mammals, including the national first-class endangered Zibet and 13 second class endangered species. Apart from biodiversity monitoring, this initiative also focused on local traditional ecological knowledge and the sustainability of forest resources. We worked to help the local community impart and pass on their traditions, all based on understanding the waters and mountains as “sacred.”
Naren and Sayong PAs

Part of Deqin County, Yunnan, the villages of Naren and Sayong are key Yunnan snub-nosed monkey habitats near Baima Snow Mountain Nature Reserve. In 2019, we worked with our partners – and the general public – to help the local community in Naren to protect habitats outside the nature reserve.

In 2020, the first villagers’ patrol team, along with 15 camera traps, was set up in Naren to keep track of any changes of wildlife and forest resources around the community. In addition, we worked with the communities to engage in various activities for conservation and community development, including ones designed to compile the history of the village, resource maps and traditional knowledge, list surrounding animals and plants, and explore the sustainable utilization of natural resources.

In addition, we helped with local attendance in several trainings and conferences, and nominated Naren as a private protected area in China. The villagers’ forest rangers have been awarded several times for their outstanding services, and these awards boosted the villagers’ morale as well as the popularity of the local communities.

Biodiversity Surveys along the Yarlung Tsangpo

In October 2020, the Department of Natural Protected Areas Management, Forestry and Grassland Administration, commissioned us to carry out trapping-based surveys in Yarlung Tsangpo Great Canyon National Nature Reserve in Tibet together with Xizi River Ecological Conservancy. We set up transect lines based on the distribution of resources to be conserved, habitats and altitudes in key biodiversity areas. This will be a long-term effort to fully understand how the key protected species are distributed, the sizes of their populations, and other baseline information.

To present, we have set up 80 camera traps in the counties of Bomi and Medog. Through videos from the first quarter alone, we have identified and recorded 32 species of mammals and 16 species of birds. According to the latest list of wild animals under state priority conservation, the first-class key protected animals identified with clear images include the Bhutan takin, clouded leopard, golden cat, zibet, jackal, Himalayan gazelle, impala and the Himalayan Monal. These have been covered by CCTV news and the popular show “The Secret Eye”. We hope that through continued surveys and monitoring, we will lay down a scientific basis for biodiversity conservation in this area, carry out community-based conservation, and demonstrate possibilities for a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature in the nature park paradigm.
A view of Medog
Urban Biodiversity & Citizen Science

As urbanization speeds up, more land in and around a city is affected by human activities. While promoting Nature Watch and citizen science, we found that densely populated cities and surrounding areas, such as North China Plain, Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta, are also potential biodiversity hotspots, with high value for conservation. These areas are part of the landscape of biodiversity conservation in China. Meanwhile, with continuing social developments, urban residents pay more attention to biodiversity and demand for healthy ecosystem services. In this light, we have begun to practice “compatibility conservation” in urban parks, factories and enterprises, farmlands and plantations, meaning that we do not keep biodiversity conservation as the only goal. Apart from recovering “near-human ecosystems”, we also work to provide positive interactions between urban ecosystems and urban residents. Toward this end, we encourage and engage the public in conservation practices through citizen science.

Pilot Urban Biodiversity Recovery Project

Since 2019, we have been working with the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscaping and Greening, as commissioned by the Beijing Forestry Carbon Sequestration Office, to pilot an urban biodiversity restoration and nature education project in Beijing (“Nature Beijing”), which aims to explore new approaches to human-nature coexistence and brings the general public closer to urban biodiversity practices. Backed by this and other projects, our team is responsible for biodiversity surveys, monitoring, and restoration on a continuing basis around green spaces, farmlands, and woodlands.

1 Biodiversity Around Urban Green

The 680-ha. Olympic Forest Park is Beijing’s impressive green space closest to the downtown area, serving as an excellent recreation venue for more than 10 million visitors each year. It also provides a rare way for urban residents to get close to and understand nature. In 2020, we helped bring some small changes to the park in response to the obvious needs for biodiversity enhancement in many green spaces across the capital: more shelter and food for animals by replanting understory shrubs and installing “insect hotels”; better management of wetland vegetation based on the habitation needs among birds; more fallen leaves and weeds left in specific areas to improve the soil and provide shelter for small animals to overwinter. In the future, we will keep monitoring the outcomes of these measures, continue to work with the park administrations to promote more biodiversity-friendly practices in urban green spaces, and give more citizens an opportunity to participate in conservation work.
Biodiversity on Farmlands and Wetlands

Yanqing Wild Duck Lake Wetland Nature Reserve is located northwest of Yanqing District, Beijing, covering the jurisdiction of the Guanting Reservoir and the inundated area around the lake. It has a large expanse of reed marshes and wetland meadows, and is an important bird habitat in Beijing. It is also a key supplementary feeding site and stopping place on the international bird migration route – “East Asia-Australasia route”. Around Guanting Reservoir is one of the important wintering areas of national second-class protected wild animals in China. From late 2019 to early 2020, more than 5,000 common cranes were found wintering here, along with some stopping-over or wintering national key protected animals, such as the hooded crane, white-naped crane and the great bustard.

In 2020, our biodiversity monitoring and restoration efforts across the Yanqing Wild Duck Lake Wetland Nature Reserve helped different species of birds find shelter. For the first time over the large reed-growing and open waters of the lake area, we found evidence of leopard cat reproduction using camera traps. We used different ways to create habitat diversity, including scheduled reed clearing and artificial floating island placement, while monitoring bird habitat use. Around the Wild Duck Lake Wetland, we worked with the local cooperative in Liuhaoying Village to plant 49 acres of “Birds’ Farmland”, which included corn, sorghum, soybean, millet, buckwheat and other crops to provide food sources for wintering migratory birds and explore the possibility of farmland as a compatible conservation area. Over the course of winter monitoring, more than 20 species of birds, including the common crane and bustard, were found, steadily with more than 100 common cranes using this food source.

In 2020, Jingxi Forest Farm is the largest municipal state-owned plantation in Beijing, juridically part of the Wutai branch of the Taihang Mountain System, spanning 120 km from the east to the west and 100 km from the north to the south across the districts of Mentougou and Fangshan, Beijing. The area includes 7 plantations: Da'anshan, Changgouyu, Zhuwo, Henantai and Erxoiejing, with an area of 11,640 hectares total, typical of the plantation ecosystem in Beijing’s mountainous areas. The main groups in need of protection are montane mammals and birds, with a significant lack of baseline biodiversity data. A local baseline survey recorded low biodiversity in some parts of the farm, where species are homogeneous, trees are densely planted, shrubby and herbaceous layers are scarce.

In 2020, we set off to enhance a homogeneous plantation in Beijing’s mountainous area. Specifically, we monitored the status of vegetation, birds, mammals, insects, etc., to garner baseline faunal and floral data; Meanwhile, thinning was simulated to various degrees, mimicking natural processes, with a focus on efforts to restore and conserve undergrowth vegetation. These are our measures taken to reactivate forest succession and increase habitat diversity. Currently, 200,000 m² of the plantation has been thinned. We hope that through our initiative the homogeneous-species artificial coniferous forest will be transformed into a species-diverse coniferous and broad-leaved mixed plantation with abundant brushwood.

In October 2020, under the leadership of COP15 Executive Committee and Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscaping and Greening, the 19 km² Jingxi Private Protected Area was officially launched the “Ant Forest” with the joint support of Huatai Securities. For this PA project, we partnered with China Environmental Protection Foundation (CEPF) and Beijing Jingxi Forest Farm. More than 19 million netizens participated in making this happen.
In 2020, our “Nature Beijing” project involved nature education and citizen science as well as biodiversity restoration across different community groups.

In September, the 2020 Beijing Nature Watch Festival was kicked off in the Olympic Forest Park with two modules: treasure hunt and nature guide. With 1,200 participants, the treasure hunt section was all about finding “natural relics”, such as fruits, fallen leaves, and animal traces in urban parks. The results include one map of traces of pine cones being eaten in OFP and four records of Tolei hare feces. These helped us further understand the distribution of small mammals in OFP. Teachers from several nature education institutions set up 6 fixed sighting sites, where they shared ideas behind biodiversity conservation and showed participants how to take Nature Watch notes, observe common wetland-inhabited species and birds in OFP, composite on Birds’ Farmland, and sketch autumn leaves, among other activities. More than 1,300 people were engaged in this event.

From November to December, about 40 citizens participated in the farmland observation activities across the Yeya Lake organized with the help of Naturewin.cn to understand the characteristics of the farmland ecosystem and its importance as a shelter for wintering migratory birds.

Meanwhile, about 20 citizens attended a workshop that introduced forest succession at Jingxi Forest Farm. This was a joint effort with Berger Education aiming for participants to understand the biodiversity of plants in Beijing’s mountainous areas and see how much of the biodiversity has been recovered across the plantation.

Our “Citizen Science” program uses a broad participatory approach to scientific research, aiming to inform data collection, raise public awareness, and call for action. Citizen science has become one of our main approaches, and has been increasingly applied throughout the field of conservation.

Badaling International Friendship Forest at the foot of Badaling Great Wall makes an outstanding case of efforts to restore forest cover in North China. BIFF Environmental Education Program aims to understand and improve the way biodiversity positively affects BIFF, and carry out environmental education campaigns through species surveys and public activities.

In 2020, due to COVID-19 complications, we carried out online sharing activities for birds, insects and plants, and watched the state of overwintering birds and plants. One of the results was a Handbook on Plant Wintering State. Other documents will also help boost BIFF’S role in nature education, and provide reference for further biodiversity recovery in artificial forests.
In Shanghai, we joined the Conservation Biology Research Team of Fudan University in our “Citizen Scientists in Cities” program to study and protect city animals, such as the raccoon dog, weasel and the hedgehog. This was how we found 8 mammalian species, including the civet and the raccoon dog, and more bird species, such as the Siberian thrush and the fairy pitta, with our volunteers and more than 80 camera traps set up in 7 parks and other green spaces, as well as 2 campuses, across Shanghai. Fun and engaging science volunteer activities like “Raccoon Dog Intel” gave us an opportunity to visit over 300 communities in Shanghai and understand how raccoon dogs and green spaces are distributed in 150 of them. We also conducted interviews with residents to learn how these animals live and what problems they might face.

In Hangzhou, with the support of Alibaba Foundation, we worked with Dreamland Nature Center to roll out the "Citizen Science for Urban Biodiversity Conservation" in 2020. This project aims to turn public attention to native species, collect native species data and establish a database, and promote harmonious coexistence between humans and nature in cities. The results included 31 land-based activities in Hangzhou, including squirrel surveys, trapping-based surveys, West Lake mandarin duck surveys and phenological observations against deciduous trees. Meanwhile, we held several webinars, as well as online trainings and citizen science activities for nature lovers all over the country, including gingko phenology and “squirrel intel” activities.
Wuhan

We rolled out Wuhan Biodiversity Citizen Science in 2020, and carried out a series of biodiversity citizen science activities along the banks of the Yangtze River. This project is jointly supported by Kering and Hubei Red Cross Foundation, and in collaboration with Wuhan Leba Nature. We also had five biodiversity and ecology experts on board to host a series of five webinars on the topic of “viewing and loving nature” with free access to the public and a focus on wildlife and human health, calling on everyone to reduce the illegal consumption and utilization of wildlife and support the regulation of illegal trade and consumption of wildlife.

Guangzhou

In Guangzhou, we worked with GAC Toyota to build an ecological park within the premise of the plants in 2018, aiming to protect the urban biological habitat and create a sustainable area where people live in harmony with nature. The plant staff participated in ecological park design, construction, maintenance and biodiversity monitoring, and residents of surrounding communities benefited from the park’s ecosystem services.

In 2020, this project was complete based on the works design and local biodiversity survey in which the local community and the staff participated. Those who were interested in this change came together as a volunteer team helping with continued monitoring and creation and maintenance of local biodiversity. Ecosystem health had recovered rapidly and many kinds of birds had returned. In November 2020, the ecological park officially opened to the public and, in the future, will be used for public environmental education as well as home to local animals and plants, benefiting the surrounding communities in the long run.

Nature Watch

In 2014, SSCC and a number of biodiversity conservation agencies jointly launched the “China Nature Watch” project, dedicated to improving species baseline data and increasing public participation in and mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation.

Through this project, we joined other NGOs, nature reserves, research institutes, nature education institutions, and other agencies to carry out targeted surveys of domestic biodiversity and to establish sharable biodiversity databases. Based on the data, we analyzed conservation status and gaps to guide our conservation action. By stacking EIA information, the impact of construction projects and programs on biodiversity was evaluated to facilitate the optimization of related policies.
We have established two nation-wide databases of nature reserves and species distribution, documented nearly 390,000 entries of 2,591 species, habitat simulation maps drawn for 315 species, and national nature area information collected, including 474 national nature reserves, 6 national parks, and the locations and boundaries of China’s world heritage sites.

In 2020, we added two new databases for civil works EIA and ecological “redlines”. Data for the first database were fed by our partner Green Data’s collection of EIA information disclosed for public review, including the locations, dates, sectors, and investments of more than 120,000 constructions since 2013. The other database of ecological redlines contains redline plans disclosed for public review – 17 terrestrial and 4 marine redline entries up to date. We have also found the right technology to digitize these plans.

The Nature Watch website (chinanaturewatch.org) and mobile phone app provide the public a visual representation of biodiversity data and allow for individual contributions. At present, the system has 6,339 registered users and 109 downloadable data and literature files.

From the FON vs. HydroChina/PowerChina case, in which our NGO partner Friends of Nature won the law suit against these two state-owned entities over a dam construction project across a habitat of the Yunna green peafowl, a VU species on the IUCN Red List, we can see how construction, development and site selection on wildlife habitats may cause ecological and socio-economic losses. Therefore, we work closely with environmental NGOs to promote the mainstream integration of biodiversity conservation in environmental policies such as environmental impact assessment and planning. With reference to EIA policies for construction and Nature Watch database applications, we tried to identify and warn of the possible biodiversity impact risks from construction projects by spatially superimposing species and protected areas with construction sites; And we also developed a data interactive query visualization tool – biodiversity impact assessment tool, BiA tool for short, including two versions: one is a WeChat app and the other a web site (https://bia.chinanaturewatch.org/), so that companies, EIA agencies, regulatory bodies and the public can conveniently gain access to specific biodiversity information for early warnings of ecological impact risks with construction projects.

This, we hope, will be a start to provide solutions for science-based decision-making concerning future civil works construction and planning, and identify occupations of protected areas and wildlife habitats at an early stage, including site selection and planning, to prevent and reduce biodiversity damage caused by unsustainable developments.
Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) & Green Financing

With green growth universally accepted as a sustainable approach to development, a financial industry aligned with ecosystem conservation has started to play an increasingly important role.

ESG, as a set of sustainable investment approaches and rating standards, has gained more attention in recent years. While focusing on financial benefits, ESG also pays attention to corporate responsibilities in environmental, social and corporate governance.

However, in the scene of China’s ESG investment, the disclosure of ecological and biodiversity information is often missing. To optimize the ESG evaluation system and promote mutual understanding between the financial and ecological sectors, we joined CEPF and Huatai Securities to convene a “One Yangtze River” forum on sustainable development on December 17, under the leadership of COP15 Executive Committee Office. Present in this event were representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), Shanghai Stock Exchange, Peking University (PKU), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and several environmental NGOs, as well as delegations of the manufacturing and financial sectors. Together we discussed the EIA systems to help promote green financing.

During this event, our BiA tool was also released as a contribution to evaluating biodiversity and financial risks in investment projects, thus providing references for investors to take biodiversity conservation into account while making decisions.

In community-based monitoring, it is difficult to manage, consolidate, and identify a huge amount of camera data. To overcome these problems, we have developed a “community-based camera trapping management system” and a “community-based monitoring app” to help improve our work efficiency.

This system uses the internet and cloud technology to facilitate camera management and the collection and uploading of data by field workers. It also uses automatic image recognition for camera captures and thereby speeds up time-consuming manual work. The system is provided with web and app terminals, the first of which can be used to help our staff manage cameras, monitoring team members and monitoring tasks, and standardize the process. Meanwhile, it is used to upload and group captures, saving time for data transmission and distribution; In addition, we use AI to automatically identify and distinguish whether there are real and valid captures, and empty shots are eliminated, thus reducing manual identification. The app helps the local pastoralist-turned-monitoring team members record and submit when and where they retrieve and return the cameras, and this eases the process of data collection and management.
Snow Leopard China (SLC) is a UNDP/GEF/SGP-supported network of SL conservation we initiated in partnership with Peking University at the first Yushu Snow Leopard Forum back in 2015.

In 2020, the membership base grew to 36 members, institutional and individual alike, plus three online and land-based trainings on snow leopard genetic sampling and trapping in April, August and November, targeting NGOs, communities and nature reserve staff in need of capacity enhancement. Among them, the two land-based trainings were carried out in Golog, Qinghai Province, and included two parts: indoor theoretical study and field practice, designed both to enrich the learning of principles and methods for SL investigation and to enable hands-on experience.

The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is expected to be held in Kunming, China in 2021. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC) was launched by eight foundations and NGOs engaged in the field, including SSCC, aiming to promote the participation and contribution of non-governmental forces to biodiversity conservation.

In 2020, the CSABC continued to activate its institution members in actions to popularize biodiversity conservation and prepare for the COP15 NGO Sideline Event. SSCC has continued to take an active role in the CSABC’s engagements and broadened public participation through a series of activities such as “Watching for Caring”, “Squirrel Intel”, “Lawn Intel” and “Checking on Those Birds Around”.

CBD-COP15 & Watching for Caring
Over the past year, we have continued to build links between frontline conservation and the public through multiple social media platforms. In order to better narrate our conservation efforts, we have adjusted our communication strategy dynamically including various means of communication within the team, our social media sharing, frontline data sharing systems, and staff communication capacity building, both online and offline.

In 2020, our WeChat Public Subscription Account kept updating weekly and published 94 original stories, about 20 of which discussed a range of hot topics in the field, including a ban on wildlife consumption and regulation. Each of these postings underwent an average of 3 to 4 weeks of polishing and editing. Parts of our in-depth content have been reprinted and quoted by sister local organizations and media. Our official Weibo outlet has grown more rapidly, with a total of more than 1,100 tweets over the past year, covering a long spectrum of content such as experience shares, camera caps, event posters, and inside hot topics. The number of followers grew from 780,000 early in the year to 820,000 by the end of the year. In addition, we hosted several live streams on Bilibili, a Chinese equivalent of YouTube, about harmony and personal experience with nature, camera training, and conservation efforts, among other themes, to draw the public closer to our work as a conservationist.

According to incomplete statistics, we were covered by more than 85 media outlets 140 times in the past year. Among them are 21 reports by printed magazines and 31 by People’s Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China Central TV, and Guangming Daily, among other state-owned media.
**Fund-raising Overview**

- **Clients (fees)**: 0.299 m (1.74%)
- **Small dons.**: 0.26 m (1.51%)
- **Major dons.**: 0.094 m (0.55%)
- **Board (Ind.)**: 0.5 m (2.9%)
- **Corporations**: 9.352 m (54.4%)
- **Government**: 3.46 m (20.3%)
- **Foundations**: 3.194 m (18.6%)

**TOTAL**: 17.179 m CNY

**Annual**:
- CNY 0.168 m
- CNY 0.026 m

**Monthly Donations**

- Lianquan: # of donors: 475
- Lingxi: # of donors: 173

**About Us**
Ms. Sun Shan  
Deputy Chair
Co-founder of Shan Shui Conservation Center. She also founded the Green Life Society, the first environmental group at her alma mater Peking University. She received her Master's degree in Environmental Studies and Public Policy from George Mason University in 1999 and spent five years studying bio-medicine and wildlife genetics. In 2002, she launched the CI China Program with Lu Zhi and has since been working to administer 6.5 million US dollars of the Critical Ecosystem Partner Fund in the Mountains of Southwest China. In 2010 she helped create LEAD & Beyond, a fellowship program designed to promote leadership for sustainable development.

Ms. Xu Jintao  
Board Member
Distinguished Professor in the Peking University Yabo Recruitment Program; vice dean of PKU National School of Development; director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research; doctoral supervisor of PKU College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering; Executive Director and Deputy Chair of China Forestry Economics Society (CFES). His interests of study include resource economics, climate change and pollution control policies for industrial companies.

Ms. Lu Yinghua  
Board Member
Stockholder and initiator of Shan Shui Partnership Co.; having sponsored and called for multiple fundraising dinners and activities over the long years of her support to SSCC.

Mr. Yang Rui  
Board Member
Mr. Yang is a professor with the Tsinghua Department of Landscape Architecture, which he co-founded and leads. He also heads Tsinghua University National Park Research Institute. Mr. Yang earned his Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Engineering (Urban Planning and Design) and Doctor of Engineering (Landscape Architecture) from Tsinghua University. He is also a GSD visiting scholar at Harvard University.

Mr. Xu Zhihong  
Senior Advisor
Professor of Peking University School of Life Sciences; president of Peking University School of Advanced Agricultural Sciences; researcher at the Shanghai Institute of Plant Physiology and Ecology, CAS; CAS and TWAS member; plant physiologist; former president of Peking University (Nov. 1999—2008). Currently Mr. Xu chairs the UNESCO’s China MAB National Committee and leads the Enforcement of Scientific Ethic Committee for the CAS Academic Division. A great contributor to plant sciences and nature reserves in China, Mr. Xu has a long pursuit of study in plant developmental biology, plant cell culture and genetic manipulation, and botanical bioengineering.

Ms. Marjorie Yang  
Honorary Chair
A CPPCC member since 2003, Ms. Yang chairs Esquel Group, a leading Hong Kong based textile and apparel manufacturer with operations throughout the world, while serving as Deputy Chairman of the Seoul International Business Advisory Council (SIBAC) and Honorary Chair of Shan Shui Conservation Center. Ms. Yang has found her passion to promote higher education and high/new technology and to share her experience with many renowned universities in the United States, mainland China, and Hong Kong SAR.

Ms. Chen Haiying  
Chief Supervisor
Ms. Chen obtained her BA in Economics from the Shangh hai University of International Business and Economics before she went on to work in the Personnel Department and the International Business Management Department of the Ministry of International Business and Economic Cooperation (now the Ministry of Commerce). She also served as vice-consul for business at the Chinese consulate-general in Vancouver, Canada, and then as deputy director for public affairs in Bombardier Inc. Beijing Office. She moved to Esquel Group Hong Kong in 2003 and currently works as the Chief Representative of its Beijing Office.

Mr. Zheng Yisheng  
Chair
Researcher at the CASS Institute of Quantitative & Technical Economics; deputy director of the Environmental Centre. His interests of study include sustainable development.

Ms. Lu Zhi  
Founding Board Member
Professor of PKU School of Life Sciences; executive director of PKU Center for Nature and Society; cofounder of Shan Shui Conservation Center; vice president of China Women Scientists Association; president of a global snow leopard conservation network. She is dedicated to longterm studies of the giant panda, snow leopard and other flagship species in the Mountains of Southwest China and on the Tibetan Plateau as well as studies of interspecific interactions and trophic cascades in Sanjiangyuan, a well-preserved grassland ecosystem. She has extended her attention to interactions between ecosystems and human socioeconomic systems and the effects of various policies and conservation practices on the ecosystems.

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Shan Shui Conservation Center (SSCC) is a non-governmental non-profit organization duly registered with the Beijing Haidian District Civil Affairs Bureau, operating under the Beijing Haidian District Administration of Technology, Science, and Economic Informatization.

To present, we have 24 employees, among whom 14 have Master's or doctoral degrees. We also work with 35 longstanding, non-resident consultants, one of whom specializes in organizational management, four in general areas, 18 in project leadership, and 12 as research fellows.

We are entitled to tax exemption against non-profit organizations in Haidian District between 2018 and 2022.

The Paulson Prize for Sustainability, Angsai Big Cat Valley project (2020)
Group awards for outstanding NGOs of Beijing (2017-2020)
The 2019 Public Service Project Award in the 9th China Public Service Festival
Ministry of Civil Affairs 5A rating for private organizations - Best Executive Agency (2013-2018)
“Model NGO for Internal Control Process Building in Beijing” (2017)

Awards as an Outstanding NGO of Haidian District, Beijing (2010-2017)
Second place in Haidian District Contest for NGO Public Service Project Innovation (2016)
The Pioneers Award (2013) and the Organizations Award (2017) in the Ford Environmental Awards.
The One Award with One Foundation (2010)
A finalist in the 3rd SEE-TNC Ecology Awards (2009)
A model organization in Lenovo's VC Program (2009)
Acknowledgments

Our work as stated herein very much depends on the concerted efforts of these partners
(In no particular order)

Business support

Ecological Conservation Department, MEE
Wildlife Conservation Department, NFGA
Department of Protected Areas Management, NFGA
COP15 Executive Committee
Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscape Greening
Beijing Water Authority
Beijing Haidian District Government
Beijing Haidian District Civil Affairs Bureau
Beijing Haidian District Administration of Science, Technology and Economic Informatization
Haidian Park Sub-committee of CPC Beijing Haidian District Committee
Qinghai Provincial Department of Ecology and Environment
Qinghai Provincial Forestry and Grassland Administration
Sanjiangyuan National Park Administration
Qilian Mountain National Park Qinghai Administration
CPC Qinghai Yushu Prefecture Committee
Qinghai Yushu Prefecture Administration
Qinghai Yushu County Government
Qinghai Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture Forest and Grassland Administration
Haikou Forest Farm, Kunming
Xishan Forest Farm, Kunming
Yunlong County Government, Yunnan
Yunlong Tianchi National Nature Reserve, Yunnan
Sichuan Xiaohegou Nature Reserve Administration
Sichuan Wanglang National Nature Reserve Administration
Sichuan Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve Administration
Shaanxi Changping National Nature Reserve Administration
Shaanxi Changping National Nature Reserve Administration
Beijing Olympic Forest Park
Beijing Badaling National Forest Park
Beijing Baishuijian National Nature Reserve Administration
Wenyu River Park, Chaoyang District, Beijing
Old Summer Palace, Haidian District, Beijing
Beijing Jinggu Forest Farm
Beijing Forestry Carbon Sink Management Office
Beijing Tianjian Park Administration
Yangqing Wild Duck Lake Wetland Nature Reserve
Gansu Baishuijian National Nature Reserve Administration
Mahe River Forestry Administration, Qinghai
Chengdu County Government, Qinghai
Nangqian County Government, Qinghai
Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture Forestry and Grassland Administration, Qinghai
Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture Administration of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
Yushu Municipal Government, Qinghai
Chengdu County Administration of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and Water Conservancy, Qinghai
Chengdu County Administration of Natural Resources, Qinghai
Zaduo County Government, Qinghai
Zhiduo County Government, Qinghai
Suji Stewardship Station, Zhiduo Administration, Yangtze River Head (Hoh Xil) National Park
Sanjiangyuan National Park Lancang River Head Zone Administrative Committee
Sanjiangyuan National Park Yangtze River Head Zone Qumalai Administration of Ecological Environment and Natural Resources
Shaanxi Changping National Nature Reserve Administration
Sichuan Sanqiao National Reserve Administration
Li County Forestry and Grassland Administration, ABA Prefecture, Sichuan
Pingwu County Forestry and Grassland Administration, Sichuan
Mupi Tibetan Town Government, Pingwu County, Sichuan
Sichuan Targilane National Nature Reserve Administration
Sichuan Wanglang National Nature Reserve Administration
Sichuan Xasha National Nature Reserve Administration
Fushuiyuan State-owned Forest Farm, Pingwu County, Sichuan
Ningxi Municipal Forestry and Grassland Administration, Tibet
Medog Municipal Forestry and Grassland Administration, Tibet
Dingqing County Government, Tibet
Dingqing County Forestry and Grassland Administration, Tibet
Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve, Yunnan
Menglian County Forestry and Grassland Administration, Yunnan
Yunnan Forest Nature Center
Yunlong Tianchi National Nature Reserve, Yunnan
Yunlong County Government, Yunnan
Xishan Forest Farm, Kunming
Haikou Forest Farm, Kunming

Connecting foundations

China Environmental Protection Foundation
China Green Foundation
China Green Carbon Foundation
Alibaba Foundation
Alibaba Technology Fund
Alibaba Cloud - GreenCode
Alipay Foundation
Amity Foundation
Conservation International
Beijing K2 Foundation
Tencent Foundation
Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme (GEP-SGP)
Didi Foundation
Red Cross Hubei
Sanjiangyuan Ecological Conservation Foundation
Shanghai Fosun Foundation
Shanghai United Foundation
Shenzhen Aiyou Future Foundation
Shenzhen Paradise International Foundation
Sichuan Green Foundation
Yunnan Green Environment Development Foundation
WWF Beijing Office
Partners
SEE Sanjiangyuan Project Center
SEE Sichuan Project Center
SEE Southwest Project Center
PKU Affiliated High School
Beijing Feiyu Volunteers
Canadian International School of Beijing
Beijing Shanshui Partners Cultural Development Co., Ltd
International School of Shunyi, Beijing
Berger Research Institute
Frozen Planet
PKU Green Life Society
Southeast Wilderness Conservation Alliance
L’Ambassadeur de France en Chine
Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation
Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE)
Ganja Environmental Volunteer Team
Guangzhou GreenData
Leba Nature
Earth Watch
Qinghan Nature School
Wildlife Conservation Society (USA) Beijing Office
Halwen & Partners
Wild Xinjiang (Wilderness Guardians Volunteer Service Sharing Platform)
Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden
Kumnning Xishan District In-situ Nature Education Center
Kumnning Daliba Food Co., Ltd
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Chinese Feld Conservation Alliance (CFCA)
Corporate Citizenship in Action (CCA)
Nyango Yutse Environmental Protection Association
Hinature Conservancy
Yunnan Kawagarbo Cultural Society
National Nature Education Network
Global Environmental Institute (GEI)
Sanjiangyuan Ecological Conservation Association
Guanba Basin Conservation Center, Pingwu, Sichuan
Zuozi River Basin Conservation Center, Chaoyang Village, Shaanxi
Judgingshan Friends of Wildlife Association, Maoyuan County, Sichuan
Sichuan Shan Shui Green Carbon Co., Ltd
Sichuan Chengpin Eco-agricultural Development Co., Ltd
Chengdu Zuolong Art Design Co., Ltd
Yibin Xumineng Yangtze River Conservation Association, Sichuan
Eco-Nanhui
Dreamland Conservation Center
Blue Earth
Xizi River Ecological Conservancy
Through Their Eyes
Oxam Hong Kong
Mueang-Nam Sustainable Development Services Centre
Gangri Neichog Research and Conservation Center
Wild China
Yuanliangbao Conservation Center
Yimu Nature Study
Zhaqiongcang Eco-cultural Exchange Center
Yushu Alpine Pastureland Research Center
Baima Snow Mountain Co-management Association, Deqin County
Yunnan Safari Park
Yunnan Institute of Forestry
Dali Yunlong Institute of Ecological Conservation and Sustainable Development
Yunshan Conservancy
Zhejiang Wild Birds Society
Zhejiang Natural Museum
Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens
China Bird Watching Society
China Bird Watching Joint Action Platform
Chinese Field Herbarium
Naturewin.cn
Friends of Nature
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Beijing Haoping Shengjin Cultural Tourism Cooperative
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Media
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People’s Daily Tibet Station
Xinhua News Agency Qinghai Station
Xinhua News Agency Sichuan Station
China Media Group, News Center, Social News Division
China Media Group, Beijing Station
China Media Group, Qinghai Station
China Media Group, Tibet Station
Guangming Daily
China Daily
China News Agency
China Green Times
China Environment News
China Natural Resources News
Financial News
Sichuan Daily
Xuesi.cn
Qinghai TV
Forest & Humankind
National Geographic
Sina Weibo Charity
Environmental Protection
Chinese National Geography Press
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IUCN
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We would like to thank you all for your support and trust, with which we will work harder to save our home planet!

(If we could express our thanks in Chinese alphabetic order)

One-timers (2,000+ yuan)

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Monthly Donors

We are very grateful to you all for your continuous support.

Personal Donors

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Who are Shanshuiers

A Shanshuier is one who donates to us monthly, supporting to protect Mother Nature together.

Why join in

We see a growing need for inputs and interdisciplinary efforts to mainstream biodiversity conservation.

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You’ll have small tokens of our gratitude.

Editors in Chief: Shi Xiangying, Zhao Xiang
Editor in Charge: Wang Shanwei
Proofreaders: Liu Xinnong, Li Yanzhen
Translator: Hu Jing
We thank all for supporting our growth
Hope more will join us
Let’s protect nature together

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