





GEF Small Grant Programme China on China Weekly









Page 2: Preface –Sowing the seeds of consciousness from "The tragedy of the Commons" by Jiankun Yang, the chief editor of China Weekly

The first female winner of Nobel Prize in Economics in history- Ostrom, cutting in from small scale public resource in her world-known writing "*Governing the Commons*", launched a new theory for self-organization and public enterprise governance and paved a new road for people confronting "The tragedy of the commons".

Sowing the seeds of consciousness from "The tragedy of the commons"- Global Environment Facility is an international mechanism that consists of 183 countries and regions and have already provided over 12.5 billion dollars grant and leveraged over 58 billion dollars joint financing to 165 developing countries. Through Small Grants Programme, GEF has already offered over 20,000 sums of grant for CSOs' initiatives, with a total of 1 billion dollars.

Small Grants Programme, facilitates the community to constitute self-organization in governing public affairs regarding biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, sustainable forest management, and implements a series of prospective trials, by means of transforming energy structure in community production and living, reducing fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emission, improving heating and transportation efficiency, and increasing forest cover etc..

Develop a point to an area, is a well-known quote in China.

Though point seems to be a tiny unit with no actual amount, we still believe that an enormous area is comprised of countless points. We have faith in the soft power of the seeds. Though small as SGP GEF projects seem to be compared with immense flow of human activities in quantity or public recognition, we should strongly believe in the soft power of seeds.

Persist in sowing the seeds of consciousness from "The tragedy of the Commons" and we will have a vast harvest from these great seeds.



Page 26-27: Cover Story- Sowing the seeds of consciousness from "The tragedy of the Commons"

Quote from Mr. Guo Wensong, OFP of GEF in China, and Division director of Ministry of Finance

China has been facing complicated environmental problems and challenges of development. SGP comes to China at a critical time to support hundreds of growing CSOs for addressing biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemical pollutions and transboundary water issues in a bottom up pattern. It reaches the most vulnerable people and rarely touched areas by large conservation and development projects to solve the conflicts between development and conservation on the ground. Beyond a financial mechanism, SGP also serves as a nurturing center for the CSOs and local communities to develop their capacities for a sustainable livelihood and sound resource management. SGP also provides a platform for the CSOs, local communities and other stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned, to build partnerships, to exchange information, to support each other and to feel like a part of meaningful work. With small grants, SGP has leveraged additional resources to achieve its goals and has generated a profound and wide impact in China. The continuous upholding by CSOs and local communities, and the acknowledgement by government and other stakeholders that the SGP has received will undoubtedly inspire this programme to perform even better in China.

Page 28: The GEF Small Grants Programme in China

At the second floor in UNDP China Office in Beijing, the national coordinator of Small Grants Programme in China, Yi Liu, proficiently introduced the past and current SGP projects, at a map with over seventy projects spreading in China territory.







In 2009, Chinese government approved the implementation of Small Grants Programme in China. Yi Liu started to establish the National Steering Committee (NSC) in the first place. The National Steering Committee is composed of members from Ministry of Finance, State Forestry Administration, Ministry of Environmental Protection, NGO Research Center of Tsinghua University, College of Urban and Environmental Science of Peking University, China Environmental Protection Foundation, and China Association for NGO Cooperation etc.. As Yi Liu said, "Most of the members work for SGP since its beginning, they have been strongly supported and devoted to SGP for a long time, with consistent selflessness and dedication to public welfare." The working principle of Small Grants Programme has three pillars: first, is to support environmental protection and ecological conservation; second, to combine environment projects with the improvement of community livelihood, or poverty alleviation; third, to empower communities, in which SGP facilitates the communities to constitute the mechanism of selforganization and self-participation, so that the communities can design and management projects by themselves, and ultimately reach community self-development. In environmental protection, SGP realizes that the reason of a lot of destructive behaviors is to earn a living. Therefore, SGP promptly adjusts itself, to help these communities to identify a way that could develop a sustainable alternative livelihood without destroying the environment, which also matches the principle of Chinese government -take targeted measures to help people lift themselves out of poverty. For example, in one of SGP project sites at the source of Yangtze River, the project helped the local community to promote the yak hair handicrafts in all the key phases from inviting professional designers to design products, searching textile enterprises to produce, to market outreach.

Meanwhile, as the acquaintance society in Chinese rural communities, SGP projects arouse the enthusiasm of local communities, facilitate them in discussion, negotiation, carrying out solutions and implementing plans of their own. SGP China has successfully implemented this strategy in its rural projects and accomplished "community empowerment", such as in Diqing Prefecture, Yunnan Province, which abounds with endangered tricholoma matsutake, the community employed a sustainable tricholoma matsutake management plan through innercommunity negotiation and mutual supervision. This not only brings tricholoma matsutake harvesting to a sustainable pattern, but also unites the community with the principle they hold together.

This is also the main goal of SGP China: communities coordinate with their own situation, communities design and manage projects by themselves, and improve their own capacity. Besides, some projects also expand the vision and open the mind of local residents from the perspective of human development. For instance, in one community conserved area, with the support of SGP, local people formed a self-management mechanism that controls the usage of GPS, to project snow leopard from the track of the poachers.

Small Grants Programme has accomplished unprecedented results in improving the common sense of grass-root class and becomes the public image of GEF. Stakeholders including governmental institutions have praised SGP for its prompt and efficient mechanism of using GEF funding.





For the one world, we will always on the move.



Quotes from NSC members

Carsten Germer, Assistant Country Director of UNDP China

NGO's in China has a vehicle such as the GEF Small Grants Programme to address global environmental issues at local level is of tremendous importance. The ownership and engagement NGO's can provide towards addressing local challenges through cannot be underestimated. Providing targeted engagement for an on the ground impact is one of the strong suits of the SGP and the NGO community are the delivery mechanism for this. The SGP and the Chinese NGO's are true proponents for the well-known slogan "Think globally act locally"

Dr. Shen Zehao, Prof. of Peking University

By providing its valuable spirit, vision, methods and models, SGP acts as a kindling, or a seed of fire, to drive the dispersion of the idea of sustainable development and conservation of the nature. The approach followed by SGP provides a leverage effect or an amplification effect for this program. The efficiency and absolutely positive response of this programme rare and very impressive.

Dr. Jia Xijin, Vice director of NGO Research Center of Tsinghua University









SGP has clear prospects and transparent procedures, with small amount of grants to stimulate sustainable projects. It has a participatory way intending to involve grassroots NGOs and so, contributes to China's civil society.

Mr. Chen Qing, Former Director of South-North Institute for Sustainable Development

The SGP criteria for grantees and projects bring multiplying and amplifying effect to the grant.

Dr. Ran Dongya, Division director of State Forestry Administration

SGP provides small grants but brings big benefits. As a seed fund, it leverages local government and other stakeholders to invest in environmental protection, brings innovations in terms of idea and management mechanism, promotes local development and farmer's livelihoods.

Mr. Yu Lifeng, Deputy Director of FECO of Ministry of Environmental Protection

The uniqueness of SGP is its emphasis on project impacts. Although the project is small, project impacts and the radiation propagation idea of 'using the experience of a selected spot to promote the work in the entire area' are highly important and carried out when selecting and designing each project. This not only inspires participators' internal potential capacities, but also mobilizes external enthusiasm to disseminate project impacts and draw attention from other stakeholders, which creates the greatest benefits.

Dr. Huang Haoming, Chairman of board of directors, China Association for NGO Cooperation

The uniqueness of SGP is to support the standard and healthy development of civil society organizations in China. Through the implementation of SGP, the capacity of Chinese civil society organizations are improved; the communication, dialogue, interaction and cooperation between CSOs and other stakeholders are promoted.

Mr. Li Wei, Deputy Director of board of directors, China Environmental Protection Foundation

SGP has nurtured and improved the capacity of environmental NGOs, and has promoted the development of environmental protection causes through its principled guidance and operational practices, achieving great things with small grants.







Page 32-93: Case Stories

Page 32-39: Reborn of used computer, inspire the vitality for public benefits and environment protection



On October 11, 2016, "*Recycling and Environmentally Sound Disposal of Used Computers*" was awarded as the best project at "Workshop on Environmental Protection NGOs' Exchange and 2014-2016 Wrap-up Meeting for SGP China". According to their proposal, over 5 million computers were eliminated every year in China, half of which still could be utilized. However, more than 70% of these usable eliminated computers are under reckless trade and disposal, which could cause environmental pollution and impair public health. The project contains initiatives of public participating environment protection, public benefits, and circular economy that accord with the spirit of SGP.

As of May 2016, with the help of SGP, Zhonggu Charity has built 50 green computer classrooms across 19 provinces and autonomous regions in China, including Xinjiang, Tibet, Yunnan, Guizhou. Following the operation mechanism of social enterprises, Zhonggu Charity explored a self-sustaining mode. With the support of SGP, Zhonggu Charity built a platform of recycling used computers for the public. After specified test and repair, the used computers will be delivered to targeted schools in rural areas. Not only did this project reduced large amount of e-waste, but also provide the students in rural areas the first opportunity to use computers. They also offered a long-term partnership with the schools in telephone guide, remote test, and follow-up visit. This project also educates the public about the usage of recycled computer and let the children in the rural areas have an equal opportunity to receive advanced education. What SGP

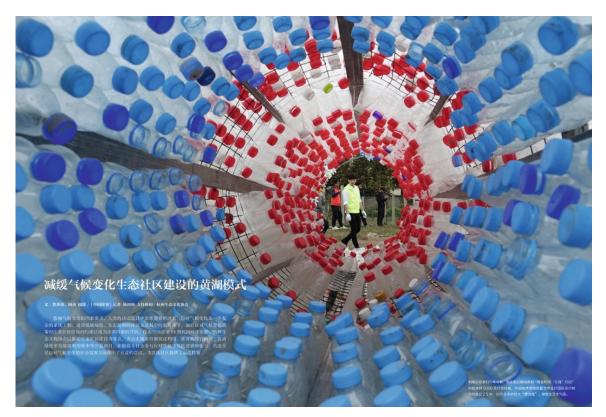






attracts Zhonggu Charity most is not the money but the platform, especially the opportunities of project promotion and cooperation with other CSOs, enterprises and foundations. Recently, with the recommendation by SGP, Zhonggu Charity has received grant from Aiyou Foundation. Zhonggu Charity plans to build 80-100 green computer classrooms per year in the coming future. Every year, thousands hundreds of computers are eliminated in China, however there are only few organizations are working on used computer recycling. Zhonggu Charity hopes their project mode could be replicated by more organizations in more places.

Page 40-47: Huanghu Pattern: Ecological community construction that slows down the climate change



Human activity is one of the major factors that caused climate change. To reduce the impacts from human beings, the construction of low-carbon, green, ecological community is an important way to mitigate climate change. Through *"Ecological Community Demonstration Project in Addressing Climate Change"*, Hangzhou Ecological Culture Association aims at promoting the construction of ecological community and implementing public benefit projects including optimized usage of water resource, comprehensive management of waste chemicals, and improving green coverage. Hangzhou Ecological Culture Association conducted several successful trials in promoting the public consciousness and capability of participating in the activities to relieve climate change, which also provided valuable demonstration for other communities.

With the grant support from Small Grants Programme, *Ecological Community Demonstration Project in Addressing Climate Change* is able to spread its activities to various







communities. To coordinate with the local community situation, the project has been holding environment protection workshop at least once a month, and assisted the community in building community volunteer team for ecological conservation, in which a lot of active participators are women and children. The project also established the long-term sustainable volunteer service system, built an exchange platform for community self-organizations and a governance platform for community participatory decision-making process. At the Huanghu demonstration site, the project practised a series of activities including vertical planting, rain water harvesting, micro solar power irrigation system, old things recycling and reusing, waste composting, ecological water pool and so on. The demonstration site provides a menu type of solutions in addressing climate change, which other communities can select and replicate. The Huanghu ecological community has received 12000 visitors during the project duration including Richard Louv, the author of *Last Child in the Woods* and Michael Spencer, the chair of the Global Alliance for Water Stewardship. It has become a model for other communities to address climate change.

Page 48-51: Bike Guangzhou: Public benefit exploration that advocates bicycling green mobility



Guangzhou public biking sharing system is designed to solve the "last mile" problem in the city. Constrained by the inefficient operation and road resource allocation, the utilization ratio of biking system is relatively low. "*Project on Promotion Bicycle Traffic in Guangzhou City*" hopes to promote bicycling through public media and initiatives for the government. With the support of Small Grants Programme, Bike Guangzhou released a report on bike mobility in central areas of Guangzhou City in 2015. The report shows that the ridership in Guangzhou has







decreased from 35% in 1984 to 7-8% in 2015, far behind other first-tier cities in China. The report drawn public attention from research institutes and governmental agencies and caused a heated discussion on media.

"Project on Promotion Bicycle Traffic in Guangzhou City" has successfully pushed the government to initiate bicycle friendly actives including renovation of Xiaozhou Temporary Bridge for bicycle users and setting up bike lanes on Gunagzhou Bridge. With the efforts from Bike Guangzhou, media, and people's congress deputies, 120-million-RMB fiscal budget has been assigned to public bicycling system upgrade. Starting from the beginning of 2016, over 130, 000 public-share bicycles will be available to the public, 13 times than before. At the same time, Guangzhou government also carried out implementation plan of setting up new bike share sites, renovating bike lanes, and optimizing information platforms for bikers.



Page 52-57: Building energy-efficient residence in rural areas of Beijing

Although the air quality of Beijing is getting better with the development of integration of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and regulations on energy-saving and emission reduction, the good air quality is still rare resource in Beijing. The city is facing several stubborn and serious problems. Over 3,000 communities still rely on coal as their major fuel. Around 2320 tons of primary pollutants of PM2.5 come from heating system in the surrounding rural areas of Beijing. Small Grants Programme assisted "*Beijing Rural Low Energy Consumption Houses Demonstration Project*" to build a two-floor demonstration rural residence in Shijiaying village, which aimed at improving energy efficiency and lowering the energy consumption in this



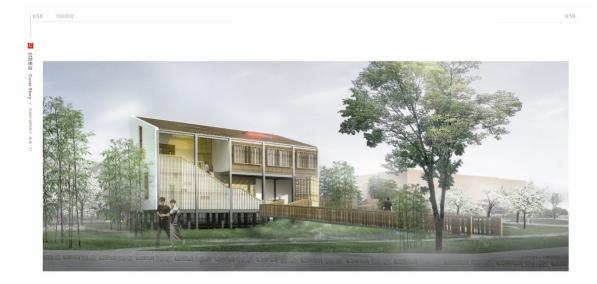




building. Several new technologies are adopted and integrated in this building, for example, installing an integrated grid shear wall with heat preservation structure to improve the wall's heat insulation, enhance its earthquake resistance and reduce transportation emission and cost; enhancing the density and insulation of the doors and windows; integrating solar, hydro and air source heat pumps to generate heat, and hot and cold water at the same time to maximize energy efficiency and ultimately dispense with coal-fired heating; installing solar PV panels to reduce the residents' reliance on grid power and the solar energy generated could be shared in the grid system to generate income for residents. These facilities could decrease the energy consumption of the building, increase energy efficiency, and help the residents cut down on their electricity and water bills. As a result, the energy cost of the demonstration residence is only 50%-70% of other similar buildings.

The project not only won the recognition from local community residents, but also attracted interest from private sectors in emerging new-type material firms. Apart from Beijing governmental agencies and initiatives, agencies from Britain, Germany, and the United States also expressed strong interests in the projects. Beijing Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and Iranian delegation also visited the project on site.

Page 58-63: Technology promotes the green innovation of ethnic traditional architecture



科技促进民族传统建筑的绿色创新 x/7%、eb kHUH/KHUH/KHUM/KHUA 在金融北部的停林杆器。——韩继元法施济的特础提现在举行继长之中。 前部的小长弦震荡地的行场。——《动物研书户:于南京市动画、基立市南部 ——作用土面积之全存于场面和长海市。 查证里代长路在市场运动圈,转 和能达局面的空机之学们,前途好作量成为有应的指定时的走场形式。 ——如而专习月。由"今场研究基本全体细胞过好如"支持。云南省竹像产金 协会与提思用工大学程会开现的"考试或能加好性经纪研究与示意" 與研 发行转着的态件或成份相当能与无处形式。







Dai bamboo folk dwelling is a notable symbol of Xinshuangbanna Prefecture, the only tropical municipality in Yunnan Province. In March 2010, supported by Small Grants Programme, Yunnan Bamboo and Rattan Industry Association implemented *Research and demonstrative project of new bamboo folk dwellings in Xishuangbanna* at Menghai County of Xishuangbanna.

Compared with other dwelling of the same area, each new-type bamboo building could reduce 25 tons of CO2 emission, 243 m3 of water, and efficiently relieve the impacts of climate change. Yunnan Bamboo and Rattan Industry Association held activities including research of new technology of bamboo structure, light bamboo heat insulation wall, design of new Aini ethnic group demonstration bamboo building, and workshops for green dwellings. One significant merit of bamboo is recyclable, easy to acquire, and requires a relative short term for construction. This project not only brings a sustainable income from bamboo materials, but also builds up the brand of folk architecture, which is an all-win to the community. The technology demonstrated by the project has included into recommended new technology of construction by the local government to reduce energy-inefficient construction materials such as steel bar, cement and wood.

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Page 64-69: Lighting up the sky of pastoral community

Zhuoni County, the emerald on Tao River, has an important ecological status and fragile ecological environment. The local residents spent more than 75% of a year in the pastoral area. The scattered distribution blocks 80% of the community from access to electricity. More than 90% of public roads, school district and community yards are not equipped with electricity either.







"Demonstration Project on Off-grid Zero Carbon Lighting and other Application at Farming and Pastoral Communities in Zhuoni County" proposed public lighting mode and solutions in farming and pastoral areas by promoting off-grid electricity system in local community, which effectively utilized the advantage of strong and constant illumination.

With the assistance of Small Grants Programme, Beijing SSL S&T Promotion Center installed 96 LED road lights, provided 135 LED portable lights, and 3 small LED power generation systems to reduce the usage of kerosene lights and improve quality of life for local herdsmen. Together with the physical renovation, the project also held several workshops to educate local residents about climate change to transform production and living habits of local community. The contribution in reducing climate change won the project recognition from local government and harvest precious experience for other projects. With the demonstration of the project, the local government has invested and installed 264 LED road lights after the project cycle.



Page 70-77: Biogas makes the giant panda habitats more prosperous

Baoxing County, Ya'an, Sichuan, is the place to first witness giant pandas and the core zone of panda habitats. On the one hand, the establishment of nature reserve protects endangered species; on the other hand, the long-lasting deforestation, reclamation, and cultivation break the ecological balance and threaten the existence of endangered species. The paradox between development and conservation become the major challenge for the local community.







In 2010, with the support of Small Grants Programme, the Global Environmental Institute launched "*Project on Renewable Energy Promotion and Ecological Agriculture in Baoxing Nature Reserve*" to promote biogas use in this area. Through setting up a demonstration project, Global Environmental Institute gradually have the community accept the biogas digesters. The organization also held technical training and user training workshops for the community. One 8 cube meters' biogas digester can reduce 50% of firewood usage of the local households, equal to the growth amount of 3-4 Mu (1 Mu= 0.0667 hectare) trees in one year. The project emphasized the importance of women and children in transforming living habits. *Project on Renewable Energy Promotion and Ecological Agriculture in Baoxing Nature Reserve* not only protect the natural environment, but also cut the living expense cost and increase the income from ecological agriculture. The mechanism of agricultural promotion could be introduced and copied to the rural communities in other developing countries.



Page 78-83: Activate the public consciousness of energy-saving and emission-reduction

Public unconsciousness is a major challenge for addressing environmental problems. In 2014, Small Grants Programme funded Chongqing Association of Refrigeration to launch "*The Participation of Chongqing Public in Energy Saving Actions*" to promote energy-saving and emission-reduction and advocate the public participation.

Chongqing is a city with over 30 million populations or 10 million households. Due to the hot summer and cold winter, air-condition using is very popular. However, improper usage can bring dramatically increasing of energy consumption. For example, one stand-by air-







condition can consume 10 kWh electricity per year; uncleaning air-condition can increase the energy consumption.

The project organized large-scale energy-saving activities at local communities and schools. Through data visualization and project presentation, community members acquired a better perception on energy-saving and emission-reduction. At a frequency of twice a week, Chongqing Association of Refrigeration held over 200 speeches on the topics varying from air conditioner filter cleaning to garbage classification that could efficiently reduce daily energy consumption. In two years, 8,000 people participated in the activities, saving over 500,000 kilowatt-hour electricity, 150,000 tons of coal consumption, and 400 tons of CO2 emission.

Page 84-89: Environment protection and ecological conservation chain in a northwestern community



Yanchi County, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region is well-known as tan-sheep production. This millennium pasture is confronting a conjuncture from global climate change and has suffered the most severe desertification in Ningxia Region. Over-grazing further hinders the environmental improvement.

Started in 2010, Small Grants Programme funded Ningxia Center for Environment and Poverty Alleviation to implement "*Environmental Sustainable Development Project in Yingxi Village*", in which community participatory methodology was introduced to facilitate community governance and management in prevention of desertification. 260 households has benefited from







the project. The project activities including artificial cultivation of forage grass to reduce livestock pressure to grassland, demonstration of energy-saving stoves, energy-saving heating system, biogas digesters and passive solar house to reduce energy consumption, cultivation of windproof and sand-fixation trees, awareness raising of local community on climate change and transforming living patterns. After one-year project, the new facilities could reduce 3 tons of coal consumption and 7.7 tons of CO2 emission for a family of five per year. *Environmental Sustainable Development Project in Yingxi Village* also provides ample experiences that have been replicated in other villages in this county and could be followed by other places in northwest China.

Page 90-93: Sancha Village: Solve the climate change challenge of forestry community



Forestry communities rely on forest for their livelihood. Deforestration reduces the carbon storage capacity of forest. How to raise community's will on forest protection, how to reduce the demanding of firewood, how to promote the growth of forest, how to transfer community's economic development pattern and how to enhance community's capacity to address climate change are questions the project will answer. Small Grants Programme funded Beijing Forestry Society in 2010 to implement project "*Capacity Development for Forestry Communities to Address Climate Change in the Miyun Reservoir Watershed*" at Sancha village, the suburb of Beijing. The project includes training on addressing climate change, renovation of low-efficiency stoves and heating system, forest management for carbon storage increasing and collection of firewood in a sustainable manner.







Through renovating low-efficiency facilities by installing energy-saving stoves and heating systems, the community is able to save 90 tons of firewood per year. Through forest management and sustainable firewood collection, the forest stand level is improved and the water and soil are conserved. The community then built a 1500-m trail by the forestry waste from tree pruning, which has become a must-see tourist site in the community. Beijing Forestry Society also helped the community to set up forest ranger team to take the responsibilities of fireproofing and guard against illegal logging. With the protected forest, the community has attracted lots of visitors and more and more villagers have improved their living standard through developing ecological tourism. The development mode in Sancha village has tackled several stubborn problems that forestry communities are facing under the situation of climate change.