When all giant panda habitats are integrated into a whole network protected at landscape level, it will function like a beating green heart. In this green heart, forest and grassland are its muscles, rivers and lakes its blood, the songs of cicadas and frogs its rhythmic beats, and winds and rainbows its beautiful color. Let’s join hands to protect this beating green heart. By 2030, a viable giant panda population will live in the well-managed forests of the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, which in turn will provide ecological services to the people living further downstream.
What’s the importance for giant pandas in the next years?

The 4th national giant panda survey (hereafter referred as the 4th survey) is under planning. This news was informed from an informal workshop held by the State Forestry Administration, the People Republic of China. Fan Zhiyong, the former director of Species Programme of WWF China, attended the workshop.

China had three national giant panda surveys with a regular interval of 10 years between one another. It is the time for the 4th survey since the 3rd one in 1999 to 2002.

Each national giant panda survey is a critical important event for giant panda and its future since it may provide a very comprehensive data for decision-making and conservation and management strategies. The 4th national survey has a very important role in this function.

There are several key points on the 4th survey: survey methodology, an investigation of direct threats, particularly many types of infrastructures like dam and hydropower, mining and road, and integration of new technology.

WWF may have some very positive roles in the 4th survey in types of technical supports and/or funding through its collaborative network. WWF has already integrated an action to the 4th survey into its ambitious programme of phase II (2011-2013) of the Green Heart of China, an integrated landscape conservation and sustainable development in giant panda ranges in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.
Earthquake exerted far-reaching influences on the succession of faunas in hit areas

On January 26, 2010, the Assessment of the Impact of the Wenchuan Earthquake on Small Terrestrial Vertebrates was released after four-years committed efforts undertaken by WWF and Chengdu Institute of Biology of Chinese Academy of Sciences. The Assessment was compiled according to the contrast before and after the Wenchuan Earthquakes. The report says, the earthquake not only caused huge losses of life and property to the people, it also led to tremendous destruction to vegetation, and exerted far-reaching influences on the succession of faunas in hit areas.

After four-year monitoring in designed nature reserves, experts got data about species richness, what kind of rare species in specific areas, species relative abundance and habitats of arrested species. Results show that the Earthquake was related to the substantial decrease in the population of small terrestrial vertebrates. What’s more, under secondary disasters’ interference, obvious faunal succession has occurred on small terrestrial vertebrates.

“Green” reconstruction in Wolong

Wolong had suffered from great damages in the 5.12 Earthquake while its reconstruction work was now conducted tensely. By the time that construction was done for the goodness of rebuilding houses for people there, it not only produced large amounts of waste water, dust and garbage that affect health of local residents, but also generated noises that would interfere panda mating and leads to the shrinking of activity areas of other wildlife. Besides, projects on vegetation restoration by constructors would bring in alien species, thus posing a threat to the local ones. Among these potential threats, non-standard management talked above, will certainly result in vegetation and forests destruction, environmental pollution, disturbance of wildlife and its habitats, and even affect health of residents nearby.

Through communication and education activities provided by WWF and Wolong Nature Reserve for constructors and workers of engineering and projects, reconstruction management system was highly improved, which helped reduce the influence of projects under-construction had on surrounding environment, especially wild animals and plants as well as their habitats in the nature reserve, and meanwhile to control the negative impact that reconstruction had on the nature reserve.
Ranger station in Qinling ready for function

On January 19, 2010, twenty months after 5.12 Earthquake, WWF handed over the key of the reconstructed Changshaba ranger's station to Shaanxi Qingmuchuan Nature Reserve, the westernmost giant panda nature reserve within Qinling landscape and the most severely affected reserve in Shaanxi Province in the earthquake.

The construction period of Changshaba station was from September 2009 to Dec 2009. It adopts a light-steel, green style, with steel as the main construction material, very little use of timber and recycled materials from local site. The construction cost per square is only around 40% of the local market. The new station has two floors, an area of 288 m² in total, functional for 8-12 rangers' regular work & living as well as for conservation education to public. The whole process, however, turned to be a hard journey. It was initiated in early 2009 when the geological situation in the affected area was relatively stable and WWF started on-the-ground green reconstruction practices. Since then, numerous talks and discussions happened among WWF, Qingmuchuan Nature Reserve, local government and communities, as well as the architect. Over the time, local reconstruction and community relocation policy kept changing, and the construction cost kept arising, all of which has been big challenges to Qingmuchuan nature reserve and WWF. But under the joint efforts, in September 2009, a new building finally started to grow on the ruins of old Changshaba station.

They themselves recommended the building to the local government and presented their wish to copy this style for future construction of their relocated houses. The government has shown very interest as well, and have already had some discussions with the architect introduced by WWF on potential cooperation.
**Project Highlights**

**Contingency plan and management measures on wildlife epidemic diseases were unveiled**

Wildlife resources are abundant in Sichuan Province. Accordingly, the mission of protection wildlife safety is arduous. For a long time, the security of giant pandas and other rare wildlife have been severely threatened by epidemic diseases. In order to enhance the ability of dealing with wild diseases and strengthening management on disease-monitoring team, in March 2010, based on previous background investigation and related policies and measures of all government levels, the Primary Center of Forest Pests Control and Quarantine of Sichuan Province made further corrections on comments and suggestions from experts and major departments, and together with WWF formed the Sichuan Contingency Plan and Monitoring Management Measures on Epidemic Diseases of Terrestrial Wildlife that were afterwards issued for implementation throughout various regions. Both the Plan and Measures will become guidance for disease monitoring, which will not only effectively prevent the spread of wild diseases and promote healthy development of the protection cause, but also maintain the safety of ecology as well as public health.

**Monitoring work on giant panda habitats and GIS training in Xiaozhaizi and Piankou Nature Reserves**

Both Xiaozhaizi and Piankou Nature Reserves are located in the severely earthquake-hit area--Beichuan County. The earthquake had induced tremendous damages and losses to the personnel as well as their properties in the two nature reserves, which exerted direct results to the degradation of monitoring technology and management ability there. Since the beginning of reconstruction, in order to enrich the management and monitoring team, on Jan of 2010, by the support from WWF, the two nature reserves arranged training on monitoring and geographic information system (GIS) for the new monitoring members to improve their related management and monitoring ability.

**The 2009--2012 Jialing River Wetland Conservation Network Actions was framed**

On January 22, 2010, major departments and experts in charge of wetlands in Sichuan, Gansu and Shanxi provinces and Chongqing were invited by WWF to join the first conference on Jialing River wetland conservation network in Chengdu. The 2009--2012 Jialing River Wetland Conservation Network Actions was framed out during the conference, Related work will have been conducted by 2012 along the Jialing River Basin, including establishing coordination mechanisms and network monitoring systems, doing micro-fund projects, capacity building as well as improving wetland conservation consciousness. All these will help promote Jialing River wetland conservation network and thus will lay a firm foundation for wetland conservation along the upper reaches of Yangtze River.

**Experts hope to upgrade River Health Scorecard to an operation tool pack**

On March 19, 2010, River Health Scorecard project exchange meeting was held by WWF and Chengdu Urban Rivers Association. The meeting, on one hand, periodically summarized the project and on the other hand, masterminded the ways to promote and apply the scorecard. It is hoped that the scorecard would attract wilder public attention to protect the daily decreasing water resources. Experts had a common idea that the scorecard is very meaningful. The project in the past two years has paved the way to further promotion. Experts all hope that this project could go deeper to upgrade the scorecard to a kind of operation tool pack that used more widely.
**Project Highlights**

**Household artificial wetlands beautify homeland for villagers**

In February 2010, WWF and Chengdu Urban Rivers Association joined hands to practice sewage treatment technology----household artificial wetland pilot project in rural area of Tianyuan Village in Ande Town of Pi County. The pilot project is to realize reusing water resource through a whole process of waste water treatment and comprehensive utilization including sedimentation, filtration, plants absorption and microbial decomposition. This project deals rural water pollution effectively from its source, which not only explore a new path for achieving the goal of clean water in Chengdu, but also establish an example that other rural areas can follow in water conservation.

**Sichuan water resources protection agencies studies wetland management and protection in Hong Kong**

In order to improve the Yangtze River water resources protection agencies’ ability, deepen their understanding of wetland conservation and further promote local river basin protection and effective management, from March 23 to 29, WWF Chengdu programme Office organized representatives from Chengdu water affair and environmental protection departments, Huoxi River and Jialing River Basin stakeholders, water resource conservation pilot village and kangmei as a local NGO to visit Hong Kong and join Wetland Management Training Program and other exchange activities. In the seven days, delegates visited the Mi Pu Wetland Nature Reserve, the Hong Kong Environmental Education project sites, Wetland Park, and learn wetland protection and restoration experience and successful cases from the WWF Hk Kong.
Four pilot villages of Chinese Traditional Medicine visited Polyporus artificial plantation in Xunyangba Town

Daping Village in Pingwu County, Erma Village in Meigu County, Yangga Village in Wen County of Gansu as well as Dacigou Village in Ningshan County of Shaanxi were credited as polit villages in the TCM sustainable harvesting project. In the aspect of harvesting, marketing, self-management capacity and community development projects, each village adopted its own different modes, for example, Daping Village established its TCM Producers Association and Dacigou Village set up a village co-management committee. In order to learn from each other and exchange experience in the demonstration, WWF organized representatives from four villages to visit the Polyporus Artificial Plantation in Ningshan County of Shaanxi, providing a platform for them to promote mutual learning and sum up some experiences. Take one example: the ultimate goal of the establishment of a Cooperative is to gather products from households for sales with higher and more stable prices and improve add-value of product and thus reduce the risks of market volatility. Therefore, market-positioning and brand-building will become focus of research in the next phase.

Experts consultation on TCM Sustainable Management Project in Chengdu

On January 20, 2010, invited by WWF and Traditional Chinese Medicine Administrative Bureau, experts from Forestry Department of Sichuan Province, University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chengdu Biology of Chinese Academy of Sciences as well as Sichuan Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine summarized and shared preliminary project achievements with each other, analyzed problems in preliminary stage and brought up many feasible suggestions for future project implementation, for example, making use of project experiences and existing resources to establish a marketing platform and operating mechanism for TCM plantation; developing the existing Daping TCM Producers Association into a Cooperative and through capacity-building, helping establish a good operating mechanism aiming at enhancing add-value of products.
Workshop on impact assessment of Xi'an-Chengdu Hi-speed railway to Qinling giant panda and its habitat

On January 13, 2010, WWF participated the preliminary workshop on Impact assessment of Xi'an-Chengdu Hi-speed railway to Qinling giant panda and its habitat. This railway is planned to start its construction over next couple of years and will potentially cross giant panda habitat and some nature reserves within Qinling landscape. On this workshop WWF and relevant stakeholders including Shaanxi Forestry Department, nature reserves, responsible design agency, etc. discussed the likely impact of its construction and operation to wildlife and habitat, appropriate monitoring plan and mitigation strategy.

Luonan Count as pilot site for sustainable forest management

Luonan County, Shaanxi province was finally selected by WWF as the pilot site to develop sustainable forest management plan among Qinling landscape after intensive preliminary discussions with local forest management bureaus, Shaanxi Forestry Department, and provincial experts. Some of the new concepts such as county-level forest management planning will be incorporated at this pilot site.
SFM and HCVF study trip in Northeast China

In the end of March 2010, WWF organized the field visit to Jilin and Heilongjiang Province with participation of Shaanxi Forestry Department, local forest management bureaus and interesting partners, where WWF have had years of experience on sustainable forest management (SFM) and HCVF certification. This is one of the activities under WWF’s capacity building plan on HCVF and SFM targeted to relevant stakeholders within Qinling landscape, and has yielded favorable results indicating that acceptance of these concepts among the stakeholders is gradually arising.

World Wet World Wetland Day

On February 2, 2010, World Wetland Day, wetland conservation education activities were carried out in Sichuan, Chongqing and Shaanxi. Knowledge reached the public through interactive games and on-site lectures by experts. Awareness raising activities were organized onsite with local wetland management teams providing technical support by interacting with the audience.
A new year gift to the kids in Qinling

Hou Chao, the 11-year-old boy (middle) in Maoping Primary School, Yangxian County, never expected the casual chat with a stranger could bring a nature library to his school.

It was a Friday afternoon. He was waiting for his father to pick him up with motorcar. His home is in Jiuchi village, 10 km away from his boarding school. As the most remote village in the county, the road connecting the village and the outside is still the gravel road and only the motorcar fits the road condition. Like other kids, he left his home and began to live in the boarding school since he was 7 year old. The public leave for the school is once every two weeks and it was the happiest time to stay with parents.

The casual chat was about the old library in the school. “Very few interesting books could be found there and it is only open for an hour once a week. By the time it is our turn, any new and interesting ones have been lent out by the high grade students.” Hou Chao complained and defined borrowing books as “time and energy consuming”. Starting from the grade three, he and his friends no longer “waste” time to queue up for the library opening time. About how to spend the after-class time in the boarding school, he was reluctant to admit that it was all on the course book learning, and the day seems long and endless with every minute on the textbook and exercises. “We don’t have any other choices but to sit in the classroom learning and learning”. Hou Chao is one of the top students in his class but as a student from the deep mountains, he knows he cannot compete with those peers in the cities due to the entire teaching environment. “But my Dad says if I could pass the entrance exam for the good middle school he would do everything to support me.” He doesn’t want to migrate out and work like other kids once they complete the primary and middle stage education.

This stranger is a staff from WWF Xi’an Programme Office and the purpose of the visit was to find a suitable school for the nature library, which is to be funded by the Peduzzi family and their friends in memory of their daughter Jade Peduzzi. This library has two functions: one it to promote the nature conservation among the kids from their early age so that they stand supportive to the protection work in the future. The other is to diversify their after-class life and cultivate their interest for nature and reading, covering literature, science, stories, cartoons, auxiliary learning materials, etc so that they can enjoy the same interesting world of books as city kids.
This visit was to the Maoping Town, Yangxian County. This is the first out of 4 visits planned. Surrounded by the Qinling Mountains, it is the focal community in the Changing National Nature Reserve, which is the home to a variety of endangered species, including giant panda, crested ibis, golden monkeys, takins, etc. For Hou Chao and other villagers, they are neighbors. “No one has ever thought to hurt them. They live close to the village in winter after the snow. The takins sometimes could be seen near the road, and they walk away slowly without any fear before us.”

Maoping school, locating at the foot of the Qinling Mountains and facing a river, pictures a peaceful and serene life in the Mountains. As a boarding school, it serves the education need for 2 towns and 21 villages with 659 students. Over the years, the governments at different levels have invested a lot to improve the school environment, but mainly the facilities, the hardware, but not the software as the teaching and reading resources.

After four visits to identify the suitable schools, WWF finalized the Maoping School for the nature library after rounds of discussion with Maoping School and Changqing National Nature Reserve in November, 2009. The purchase of all the relevant materials then started by the WWF Xi’an Programme Office, which included the books, DVDs, desks, chairs, computers, printer, etc. It took three months for all the furniture, books to be in the right place and open to the kids and teachers in the school.

On Jan 18, 2010, the nature library is donated by WWF as a new year gift to the School. The donation includes 1616 books, 55 DVDs by BBC, Discovery, and National Geographic on a variety of themes, 2 computers, 1 printer, 28 desks, 56 chairs and other sports materials.

Hou Chao saw the stranger again in the donation ceremony and he was too shy to see any words, but his friend, a cute boy interrupted the conservation with a loud greeting: THANK YOU and ran away with Hou Chao.

This library was donated by the by the Peduzzi family and their friends in memory of their daughter Jade Peduzzi. This donation symbolizes the support to wild life conservation in China and also a special gift from the international world to the Giant Panda and its habitat conservation in Qinling. WWF expects this school can be a future environmental education site to cover all the communities nearby, which might have potential impact on the neighboring giant panda habitat. And also it will be an interactive platform for the students who will later act also more responsible in their daily life when getting close to nature and living in nature.
WWF invited as the only INGO in the Grand Qinling Celebration Ceremony

On January 15, 2010, WWF participated in the Grand Qinling Celebration Ceremony organized by Shaanxi Provincial Government. Dermot O’Gorman, Country Representative of WWF China, was invited for the ceremony interview and shared WWF’s work in Qinling on giant panda and its habitat conservation with the government officials and the general public.

Grand Qinling is a special documentary programme broadcasted on CCTV 10 at 21:25 from Jan 1 to 8, 2010, which is an government endeavor for the purpose of presenting a vivid Qinling with in-depth coverage on its culture, history, ecological aspect, etc to the public. It is produced by Shaanxi Provincial Government. The idea behind this programme goes beyond a simple introduction of the region, but shows the determination of the government to build the positive image of Shaanxi on culture and nature conservation. Nature conservation is a key component of this programme, and WWF Xi’an Programme Office facilitated the production by arranging the interview of Jim Leape and other thematic leaders during the April 2009 Yangtze Forum in Shanghai.

WWF is the only NGO invited in this ceremony for our conservation efforts in the past 8 years since we formally began to work in Qinling in 2002. Also, this year is the 30-year anniversary of WWF’s work in China. The ceremony became a perfect platform to strengthen WWF’s relations with the provincial government after cooperation on the Gift to Earth event in 2003.

Audience of this ceremony is the key decision-makers from the provincial, municipal level and delegates from the annual session of National People’s Congress and National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. Other distinguished guests include famous writers, researchers from China Academy of Sciences, etc.

WWF China Programme brochures and Qinling project brochures were distributed to the officials and other audience. The ceremony was broadcasted across Shaanxi, and the eight-episode programme was released in Shaanxi the second day.

Dermot was interviewed and shared WWF’s works with the audience in the Grand Qinling.
A wild giant panda’s visit in the village

By Gao Huakang

Inspired by the atmosphere of the early spring in 2010, one of the 24 solar terms of the Lunar New Year, a wild giant panda had a leisure stroll on the farm it used to visit, sending an elated spring message to the host. The family showed warm welcome and sent it back to nature in a healthy state after letting it eat and drink to its satisfaction.

February 4 of 2010 was Lichun in Chinese lunar calendar. Li Tingzhong’s house was full of happiness. He was from Dongsheng Village of Wulong County in Baoxing. The family, young and old, was meeting an important guest—the giant panda who has visited the family four times last year, now coming again. Then, Li’s family reported the issue to the County Forestry Bureau and the reserve. Upon this, staffs were sent to the scene. At about 6 pm, the giant panda went into the courtyard, and made some voice sounds like “mi...mi...” to the host and then directly walked into the hogpen. Because of the long journey, it would like to take a break and was not disrupted. After finishing their dinner, the hosts sent pig bones and rib meat to the panda. The moment the smell entered, it grabbed full mouthfuls to enjoy hosts’ gift, regardless of rests and fatigue and fell asleep after filling its stomach.

At 6 in the morning of February 6, under the family’s witness, the giant panda leisurely walked back to its nature home again.

According to the identification by the on-site staff, the giant panda is an adult one and weighs about 100kg, about 8 to 10 years old and healthy.

During the past years, WWF always pays attention in Qionglai Mountains about monitoring & Patrolling and nature reserve capacity building. Unified monitoring methodology has been applied in the four mountain ranges and trainings are provided to nature reserves regularly.
A giant panda was rescued after nine-hours being trapped in the cliff

By Heizhugou Nature Reserve

On February 5, 2010, in Heizhugou Nature Reserve of Ebian County, Sichuan Province, a giant panda was trapped in a fifty-meters-high cliff when looking for food. At eight o’clock, the panda, who then did not dare to move for it’s being trapped in the deep hillside, was first found by a villager from Jiagu Village of Duolewu County. Upon this, staffs of Forestry Bureau of the county, Animal Husbandry Bureau and Heizhugou Nature Reserve rushed to the scene to rescue the panda. Through visual inspection, they found it actually an adult giant panda, about 1 to 2m long, 0.6m tall and weighing around 100kgs. To prevent it from getting frightened, other people on-site were quickly evacuated. To save the panda in a secured and scientific way, staffs called through telephone and talked through QQ to consult with relevant experts while staffs climbed down the steep cliff to get close to the panda and guided it back to the reserve step by step by passing food. By 5 pm, the rescue turned out to be a success.

It was the second time that Heizhugou Nature Reserve got close contact with the giant panda in the community. The first took place about one kilometers outside experimental area, while the second time was 3 kilometers outside the area, much nearer to the the residency of the Jiawa community of Lewu county, a sign of pandas’ closer contact into people’s life circles. It is planned that more food will be deliveried into pandas’ hauntting points, providing timely supplementary diets to those going down mountains for food-seeking.

Sichuan Heizhugou Nature Reserve locates at the heart of the Liangshan Mountains of panda habitats. WWF has financed Heizhugou Nature Reserve projects like monitoring the wild giant pandas and their habitats, infra-red triggered camera monitoring, and beekeeping in surrounding communities and so on.
A giant panda was rescued on a rainy night

By Fengtongzhai Nature Reserve

At 6 p.m. of April 13, Fengtongzhai Nature Reserve Administrative Bureau received news from its Zhongba Protection Station that apparently, a sick and hungry giant panda was found on a tree near a villager’s house in Ziyun Village of Lingguan Town. And then the Administration Bureau arranged the station staff to on-site observe the panda, strengthen protection and immediately send personnel to rush to the scene and rescue regardless of the big rain. From on-site observation, it was a sub-adult and healthy giant panda with bright fur and a strong body, weighing about 80 kg.

Under the guidance of Mr. Dong Wei, Director of the Administrative Bureau, the station staff guarded the panda in the rainy night, evacuated the crowd around first, trying to minimize interference to giant pandas. They also provided bamboo-shoots that pandas love to restore its energy.

After a few-hours rest, at 0:30 on the 14th, the giant panda gathered its strength, and climbed down from the tree and walked back to the mountain.
Panda cities switch off for Earth Hour

On March 27, 2010, Xi’an and Chengdu as panda cities switched off lights between 8:30-9:30pm for WWF’s Earth Hour. Together with local governments and mayors from 33 cities throughout the country, both cities supported the global movement to raise awareness and call for action on climate change.

On March 10, by the time 24 “Earth Guardians” flying away 24 lanterns, the Chengdu City, on behalf of Asia, also lighted the wishes to our beloved Mother Earth.

During voting for landmark buildings in late March, an on-line activity organized by WWF and 56.com, Chengdu made a breakthrough of 1.2 million supporters, ranking first in China. Characteristics buildings like Kuanzhaixiangzi, Langqiao,etc turned their lights off in Earth Hour.

Mr. Ye Lang, Director from the Information Office of Chengdu Municipal Government, said “Chengdu’s participation in the Earth Hour event is to perform its obligation as a global citizen, and meanwhile, is a confirmation of the role it plays, just as some media have evaluated.”

“This is only China’s second year of Earth Hour and we’ve already seen a huge jump in participation and support from cities, companies and individuals compared to last year. This is a very positive sign that people are a lot more aware of environmental issues and eager to make energy-saving changes,” said Dermot O’Gorman, WWF China’s Country Representative.

On March 15, 2010, Mr. Qian Yin’an signed on the city government commitment letter, representing Xi’an is formally participating in the earth hour event on March 27, 2010. Since then a series of promotion activities were launched with the theme on low carbon life, involving government agencies, business, universities, and communities.
On the night of March 27, 2010, Big Goose Pagoda Square, Xi’an Bell Tower, Xi’an Drum Tower, City Wall as well as a number of government, business buildings turned off light for the event. Also, more than 22 universities in Xi’an participated in the Earth Hour event, and thousands of public joined in the government in switching off light, too.

In Beijing, the historic Forbidden City went dark along with iconic modern structures such as the Bird’s Nest, Water Cube, National Center for the Performing Arts and the Yintai Center. In Shanghai’s Pudong and Puxi areas, the Oriental Pearl Tower, the World Financial Center, Jin Mao Tower along with the trendy Xintiandi district also turned off its lights.

This is the first time for Xi’an to officially participate in this event and public support is very high and Xi’an Environmental Protection Bureau as the focal partner is committed to conduct a series of promotion and awareness raising activities across the city.

In Chengdu, Earth Hour Global Panda Ambassador Mei Lan led the city’s 13 million citizens to turn off lights from her home at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

In Nanjing, the country’s first Earth Hour branded subway train helped to promote low-carbon lifestyle tips to passengers. The city’s famous Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum along with 400 buildings also turned off lights.

Earth Hour’s Global Ambassador Li Bingbing said, “I hope everyone can keep up the Earth Hour spirit not just today, but for the rest of the year. Caring for the environment should be part our everyday life.”

This year, more than 3700 cities in 125 countries and regions are celebrating Earth Hour’s message of hope and action.
Communicators:
Chang Youde, Room 1609, Wen Hua Gong, Beijing Working People’s Culture Palace, Beijing, P.R. China. Post Code: 100006
Tel: +86 10 6511 6221, Fax: +86 10 6511 6222, Email: ydchang@wwfchina.org
Zhao Jinna, 4th Floor, Shaanxi Institute of Zoology, 88# Xingqing Road, Xi’an, Shaanxi, P.R.China. Post Code: 710032
Tel: +86 29 8781 8602, Fax: +86 29 8780 3597, Email: jnzhao@wwfchina.org
Luo Xingbi, Room 603, Wu Ding Yuan Shan Yang Zuo, No. 100 Bei Er Duan, Yi Huan Lu, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. Post Code: 610081
Tel: +86 28 6800 3625 Ext. 811, Fax: +86 28 8319 9466-808, Email: xblueo@wwfchina.org

Reviewers:
Zhu Chunquan, Conservation Director of Biodiversity, Room 1609, Wen Hua Gong, Beijing Working People’s Culture Palace, Beijing, P.R. China. Post Code: 100006
Tel: +86 10 6511 6266, Fax: +86 10 6511 6222, Email: chqzhu@wwfchina.org
Liu Xiaohai, Head of Xi’an Programme Office, 4th Floor, Shaanxi Institute of Zoology, 88# Xingqing Road, Xi’an, Shaanxi, P.R.China. Post Code: 710032
Tel: +86 29 8781 8602, Fax: +86 29 8780 3597, Email: xhliu@wwfchina.org
Ling Lin, Head of Chengdu Office, Room 603, Wu Ding Yuan Shan Yang Zuo, No. 100 Bei Er Duan, Yi Huan Lu, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. Post Code: 610081
Tel: +86 28 6800 3625 Ext. 811, Fax: +86 28 8319 9466-808, Email: lling@wwfchina.org

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