A Committed Partner in China’s Development

Winrock International is a nonprofit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity and sustain natural resources. By linking local individuals and communities with new ideas and technology, Winrock is increasing long-term productivity, equity and responsible resource management to benefit the poor and disadvantaged of the world.

In 1982, Winrock established an office on the campus of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing, and has continued that relationship for almost three decades. In that time, Winrock has implemented more than 30 development projects throughout the country, with funding from a variety of international donors. Winrock has carried out dozens of projects focused on women’s leadership, rural development and capacity building in agriculture, nature resources management, ecosystems services, carbon offset trading and renewable energy.

Developing Human Capacity & Leadership

The Agricultural Economics Research and Training Program, funded by the Ford Foundation, supported postgraduate degree fellowships, technical instruction, workshops and curriculum development in economics and rural finance.

The Upland Management, Research & Training Program focused on increasing the capacity of research institutions and government agencies in Yunnan Province to address causes of poverty in remote regions.

The Southwest China Participatory Upland Development Support (SPUR) project, funded by the Ford Foundation, promoted participatory upland development and built human and institutional capacity to address development needs in Sichuan and Guizhou provinces. In Phase I, 25 young professionals obtained master’s degrees in social forestry, environmental sciences and rural development management. Phase II raised the program to a new level, providing 20 additional study-abroad scholarships.

Strengthening Environmental NGOs in Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou Provinces (SEN). Since 2010, SEN has focused on building the capacity of environmental NGOs in three ecologically vulnerable Southwestern provinces so they are better equipped to support the government in areas of need, and complement them in developing and adopting solutions to local environmental problems.

Addressing Agricultural Production

Supported by the Starr Foundation, the Leading Economics and Agricultural Development into the

Improving Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide
21st Century (LEAD 21) project worked to increase understanding and participation in open-market economies. LEAD 21 expanded China’s existing Ph.D. programs in agricultural economics by strengthening coursework and applied research at participating institutions. Forty Chinese doctoral candidates studied under U.S.-based professors without leaving the country.

With support from World Wildlife Fund, Winrock implemented the China Agroforestry Research Program to support degree and non-degree training in upland natural resource management. Over a five-year period, 43 representatives from government and academic agencies obtained advanced degrees in a broad variety of natural resource-focused studies.

Since 2009, Tibetan Sustainable Environmental Resources for Increased Economic Growth (TSERING) has focused on preserving cultural traditions and promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation in Tibetan communities in China by bringing to bear experience in livelihoods, rural development, poverty alleviation, environmental conservation, cultural preservation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Pilot Carbon Offset Project. Winrock, The China Beijing Environmental Exchange (CBEEX) and BlueNext, (“BNX”), an environmental trading exchange, partnered in 2009 to establish the Panda Standard as a domestic Chinese voluntary carbon offset registry. Winrock joined the Panda Standard shortly thereafter as a “co-founder,” contributing its expertise in agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) standards and methodologies, existing projects and strong networks in China, and experience running the American Carbon Registry, the first private voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry in the U.S.

Powering Development with Renewable Energy

Funded by the Asian Development Bank, the China Renewable Energy project helped government agencies understand and apply renewable energy technologies to meet demand for reliable electric power. Senior national- and provincial-level government officials assessed policies and institutional frameworks necessary to develop commercial energy resources. The project also addressed financing mechanisms at consumer and industry levels and project evaluation to speed adoption of technologies to reduce fossil fuel dependence.

Preserving Natural Resources

The Yunnan Upland Management Program designed, managed and implemented a regional training program in natural resource management for researchers and educators at universities in the Philippines and Thailand, and short-term programs in environmental sciences, natural resource management, social forestry and land use planning.

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Building on Our Achievements

Winrock proposes collaboration in three areas where its capabilities complement the research foci and staff expertise of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences:

- Scientific research related to food security within the context of global climate change and natural resource scarcity.
- Payment for ecosystem services and other incentives for sustainable development.
- Assessing the economic potential of GHG emissions and removals at national, state or municipality scales, and the impact of specific policies and programs.