Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30 April 2011

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	18-013
Project Title	Building capacity for wild felid conservation in China
Host Country/ies	China
UK contract holder institution	Department of Zoology, University of Oxford
Host country partner institutions	Beijing Forestry University
Other partner institutions	
Darwin Grant Value	£293,438
Start/end dates of project	April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2013
Reporting period (eg Apr 2010 – Mar 2011) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 Apr 2011 to 31 Mar 2012 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Dr Philip Riordan
Project website	www.chinacats.org; www.wildcru.org
Report authors, main contributors and date	Dr Philip Riordan and Dr Shi Kun 28 April 2012

2. Project Background

The purpose of this project is to strengthened national and local capacity applied to the monitoring and conservation of wild felid species throughout China. China remains one of the world's most biodiverse nations, with a vast array of ecosystems and species, including 13 of the world's 36 wild felid species. This three-year project will address China's lack of capacity and expertise to monitor and manage felid biodiversity within their expanding number of PAs. Wild felids are both particularly threatened and particularly good umbrella species, providing a charismatic model for conservation. By galvanizing interest in felids, benefits can cascade widely, and galvanize interest and expertise in biodiversity conservation in general. We aim to train approximately 800 people, from grassroots PA staff to SFA analysts in Beijing, leading to robust monitoring and informed management of wild felids and their ecosystems. These will be the first such data for many of these species and ecosystems.

3. Project Partnerships

The Wildlife Institute in Beijing Forestry University is our principal collaborator, responsible for managing project activities in China and ensuring robust links between in-country partners. The WI continues to further develop its excellent links to the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA), providing training to SFA staff and providing responsive research facilities. Dr Shi is now a key scientific advisor to SFA, accompanying senior officials to three international meetings on tiger conservation (two in India and one in Russia).

Developing and managing collaborations in China is a delicate and time-consuming endeavour. Our BFU team have made 17 separate visits to key provinces around China during the second year of this project, for both training delivery and for project management and continued development. Using our unusual capacity to develop collaborations with state and provincial government bodies, we have succeeded in establishing our training centres. However, it has become apparent that these centres cannot act in the way we had envisaged, i.e. being gravitational foci to which trainees stakeholders would come. Inter-province relations, and perceptions of relative status have often created obstacles. Our Chinese team have worked hard to overcome these as far as possible, but there has been a need to visit more provinces directly and bring them into the project.

In addition to project leaders, Dr Shi Kun and Dr Philip Riordan, our Project Advisory Panel has been vital to the success of getting support across China. Two members of our panel now also sit as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively on the newly created Cat Specialist Group of China: Prof Ma Jianzhang (NFU) and Prof Jiang Zhigang (Chinese Academy of Science). Furthermore, Dr Meng Sha, formerly Director of CITES China, has been appointed as Director General of the Protected Areas section of the State Forestry Administration. His support for our project in his new position is a significant boost and, following two formal meetings we anticipate further developments that will see our project used as a model for strategic planning by the PA Section for further capacity building and improved PA management in China.

As the representative expert appointed by State Forestry Administration (SFA), Dr Shi Kun attended the International Tiger Conservation Conference, organized by Global Tiger Initiative, World Bank in New Delhi, India in March 2011. Thereafter, SK was asked to participate in the joint meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam among tiger range countries in August 2011, and gave a speech on "Progress of Wild Tiger Conservation and Research in China".

One of the most critically important issues we are continuing to deal with is that surrounding the CBD Focal Point in China. For reasons unknown, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) is the the CBD focal point, but has no statutory responsibility for wildlife conservation in China. That role belongs to the State Forestry Administration (SFA), which lies outside of the CBD process. There are many instances where international organisations wishing to engage with conservation in China are prevented by their lack of knowledge about who to contact and the usual initial collaborations with MEP are not able to progress. We are assisting other international organisations (e.g. BfN, Germany; European Centre for Nature Conservation; Panthera, New York; IUCN) with the processes involved with gaining traction in China.

4. Project Progress

4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

2.3 Initiate and renew contacts with individuals to be bought into the CC network (throughout)

By forming the Cat Specialist Group in China, we have established an unprecedented critical focal point for wild felid conservation in China. The group is comprised of established recognised experts within China and the group brings them together under a unified purpose. In the coming year we will initiate collaborations between CSGC and the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), in particular the Cat Specialist Group, with PR already having contact with the joint Chairs (Urs & Christine Breitenmoser).

PR has presented this project to the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and has been co-opted onto WCPA, and is working with the WCPA Training Taskforce to ensure future PA capacity building initiatives in China are firmly linked to international strategies and that SFA have access to developments and information.

4.1 Training within RCs – classroom and field-based (Q1-4)

In the year from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 (Year 2 of the project), we undertook training sessions for protected staff in seven provinces: Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangxi, Henan, Hubei, Yunnan and Beijing, with attendees also coming from a further five provinces (Qinghai, Xinjiang, Zhejiang, Jilin, Shanxi). We have found that the regional centre model for the delivery of training has been less efficient than hoped. Whilst the provincial leaders associated with the regional centres are pleased and proud of their focus, we have found that the inter-provincial relationships are not always conducive to bringing people from outside of the host province.

During this reporting year we provided training to 356 people, ranging from field staff to senior managers and provincial coordinators. The majority of training sessions targeted at field level skills, with an advanced training session in Beijing addressing broader issues of monitoring strategies, data management, analysis and presentation.

4.2 Develop monitoring plans within RC as part of training activities (Q1-4)

The importance of conservation planning and the relationships between monitoring, research and planning are central underpinnings to much of our training. At the level of field staff it is important for them to realise the vitally important role their work plays at larger scales (often not apparent to many field workers) and for more senior levels there is often a lack of understanding about the principles of workflow and the logical step inherent within robust planning procedures. We therefore use role playing activities early in training, as means of engaging people in the process, placing them in the position of needing to develop plans and thereby highlighting key concepts that are worked on in more detail during the rest of the training session. While this is a useful, albeit, abstract exercise for less senior staff, we take these principles and develop them further with senior staff during follow-on advance training. We held an advanced training session in Beijing in December 2011, which was attended by 52 senior officials from xx provinces, as well as SFA.

4.3 Monitoring programmes implemented within each RC (Q1-4)

Monitoring programmes within protected areas, resulting from this project, are being developed in Jiangxi, Henan and Guangxi. Thus far, Jiangxi Province has purchased camera traps for the purpose of monitoring using skills taught through our project. Henan and Guangxi are seeking additional funding from State Government for equipment purchase, but in the meantime they are each using cameras loaned by our project to initiate and develop monitoring. Initial reporting has been received from Jiangxi, which indicates trap placement in two key areas: Wuyi Shan and Matou Shan.

Other provinces are expected to develop monitoring programmes in the coming year, with interest and enthusiasm coming particularly from the advanced training session held in Beijing in December 2011. We are scheduled to visit Qinghai, Shanxi and Xinjiang provinces in 2012 to provide further support for the establishment of monitoring.

4.4 Workshop assessments of monitoring progress and trouble-shooting (Q2 & 4)

As part of the Advanced Training course held in Beijing in December 2011, we held clinics with representatives from each province in attendance to identify pathways and obstacles for developing monitoring programmes. Most comment centred on equipment and further skills training and support. In particular, we observed many instances of key officials in relatively senior positions that were insufficiently aware of the concepts and requirements surrounding the needs for biodiversity assessment, monitoring and planning.

5.1 Analysis of wild felid populations from monitoring data (Q2 & 4)

Currently, data are too sparse to conduct a robust analysis of trends. As monitoring becomes more established, we hope to report on this in more detail. Many senior members of staff in PAs, provinces and SFA are increasingly interested in receiving training for analytical techniques and we have conducted advanced training sessions that include this component.

5.2 Assessments of impacts of current land-use and PA status on wild felid populations (Q4)

As with 5.1, we are waiting for the flow of data to increase before attempting robust analysis of these aspects. We are including elements of basic spatial analysis in our advanced training sessions and have been asked to provide more in depth training in Sichuan and Yunnan during 2012.

5.4 Maintaining and updating online databases (Q2-4)

Databases are currently held within Beijing Forestry University. We are negotiating with SFA to permit wider access to data emerging from this project and hope to establish a way forward, perhaps using the ProtectedPlanet approach.

4.2 Progress towards project outputs

Output 1: Capacity strengthened for wild felid monitoring and conservation
Indicators: Trained personnel undertaking felid surveys in protected areas; Training and workshop proceedings showing clear development; Chinese students successfully undertaking dissertation studies

Verification: Surveys established (transects, camera traps deployed); new data emerging; Training reports and educational materials. Workshop reports and follow-up outputs; Reports of biannual project meetings; High quality student theses

We have produced training programmes and material in Chinese, with training sessions delivered in all regional centres. Results from Year 1 trial training sessions identified critical training needs, particularly with regard to senior management teams and the development of sufficient knowledge to appreciate the project purpose and the importance of training their staff. Training at middle management levels in PAs and provinces has been carried out in parallel with field-based skills training for PA staff. We continue to have support from senior officials in state and local government, which gives us confidence that PA managers will have incentive to improve.

During 2011/12 we have engaged a further 69 protected areas across China, giving a total PA reach of 178 (Table 1). The majority of PAs engaged with the project remain in the NW region, which is the largest region and also has larger land area given over to protection.

Table 1. Combined number of protected areas engaged with the project by region

Region	*2010/11*	*2011/12*	*Total*
NW	34	17	51
NE	17	6	23
Central	13	21	34
SE	18	14	32
SW	27	11	38
Total	109	69	178

Monitoring programmes are being developed with our support in Jiangxi and Guangxi provinces. Other provinces with greater access to existing skilled and trained personnel within the Forestry Offices, particularly Sichuan, Yunnan and Jilin, are also developing monitoring programmes, and have asked for more advanced training to address particular technical issues, including use of GIS and statistical analysis. We are developing bespoke training packages for these needs, which will also be used for other provinces and national managers in SFA.

Output 2. Information about wild felid species status across China produced and disseminated
Indicators: Scientific and popular publications; Media exposure highlighting wild cat conservation and the established network; Annual reports; Website content and accessibility; International conference to be held by the end of year 3.

Verification: Publications and reports; Coverage on TV, radio and popular news publications; Functioning and frequently accessed website; Conference proceedings.

We continue to receive good national and local media coverage in China. SK was interviewed and appeared on Beijing Television (BTV) on 21st July and 2nd October 2011 in relation to conservation needs and action in China, during which the Darwin Project was highlighted on both occasions. On December 12th, 2011 PR and SK were interviewed by reporters from CCTV. Extracts from the interview were aired on CCTV3 on 14th December, which drew reference to the Darwin project.

Our project website domain has been registered in both UK and China (www.chinacats.org). Given internet law and restrictions in China, we are unable to develop interactive content at this stage. We hope to provide data updates during 2012. Within China, our QQ[1] group is expanding to more than 300 members, mostly alumni from the training programme. This group is actively used as a discussion forum

[1] QQ is an online networking and micro-blogging website within China that mimics elements of Facebook and Linked-In. As neither of these sites are accessible in China, use of these 'home-grown' equivalents are extensive with millions of users in China.

for monitoring techniques and also as a means of providing updates on monitoring. We will to include update feeds from this group to the project website.

PR was invited to attend meetings in Germany, organised by BfN, to present our training and monitoring programmes. SK has attended meetings in India, Laos and Vietnam to highlight our work and develop transboundary approaches that will incorporate elements from this project and establish a broader legacy. Much of the focus of these meetings has been tigers, and we are pleased to have been asked by SFA to organise a workshop for transboundary conservation in SW China. We anticipate this being held in late 2012 or early 2013.

Output 3. Pathways collectively identified for conservation action plan developments for wild felid species in China
Indicators: Preliminary action plan documents compiled and presented to government; Project reports showing clear strategic directions for conservation plan developments; Conference and workshop outputs showing clear commitment to process by participants

Verification: Preliminary action plan documents; Project reports; Conference and workshop outputs

PR has developed relationships with key international organisations to assist with planning and ensure alignment with developing directions. In particular, links have been formed with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and the Species Survival Commission's subtask force on Species Planning.

Output 4. Participatory consultation process to elevate status of key Protected Areas
Indicators: Nomination documents and key information compiled from within network

Verification: Documentation presented to policy makers within SFA to be championed at higher governmental levels

SK and PR have made good progress with SFA's Protected Areas Section and are engaged in on-going discussions about the future development of the PA network in China. Aligned with IUCN WCPA, we see this as a strong position and are optimistic about the role of PA's in China. SK and PR continue to undertake academic projects on the role of top predators in ecosystems and the importance of PAs for the conservation of keystone species.

4.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification	0	3		3	3	6
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications	1	2		3	2	4
4A	Number of undergraduate students to receive training	6	10		16	10	20
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	15	20		35	20	50
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	4	5		9	3	10

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	15	20		35	20	50
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training	53	356		409	350	800
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	20	30		50	30	80
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country						
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	12	12		24	10	35
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	0	0		0	0	5
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	1	1		2	1	3
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0	0		0	0	5
12A	Number of computer based databases to be **established** and handed over to host country	0	0		0	0	27
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be **organised** to present/disseminate findings	12	12		24	15	50
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops **attended** at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	5	4		9	3	10
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	4	5		9	3	10
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	0	10		10	10	30
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	1	1		2	1	4
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	0	0		0	0	4
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	0	0		0	0	5

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	0	0		0	0	1000
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	0	0		0	0	200
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be **established**	2	1		3	2	4
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	2	4		6	2	5
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	4	0		4	4	10
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	1	0		1	0	2
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	1	0		1	1	2
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	5	4		9	7	20
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	£50k	£250k		£300k	£0	£100k

4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Thus far we are achieving our goals and anticipate no major obstacles to delivery. Our approach remains unchanged and our measureable indicators are appropriate, within reasonable bounds. In this second year we have built upon our previous year's groundwork, establishing pathways for future development beyond the end of this project. We have had many successes and continue to receive support from national and local government, from conservation groups and from the academic community.

4.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

Too early to comment. We are pleased with the underpinning foundations that we are establishing to deliver impact and anticipate being able to provide comment on progress following year 3.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

We have stated that one of our key challenges within the project has been to highlight the importance of monitoring and evaluation with teams and we continue to develop protocols that can be agreed upon by all concerned and therefore achievable. Our principal measures of success for training programmes remain participant evaluations and the uptake and deployment of skills leant in field monitoring. It remains a problem that attendees are often reluctant to offer critical responses to evaluation questions and most, including higher-level managers will tend towards positive responses. Our Chinese team are working hard to work around these tendencies, with most progress coming from approaches that develop

trust and value within the project. We have identified common cultural themes that may obscure trends, however now that monitoring programmes are coming online, we can identify deficiencies in our approach from more practical and tangible measure, rather than just opinions. Our web-based forum for discussion and trouble-shooting has received more honest comments in relation to post-training development. It is an apparent modern artefact that people are more willing to offer honesty (particularly criticism) online, rather than in person. This makes obvious sense and recent web-based outcries have been seen in China in relation to issues of alleged corruption and other socially important topics. We are working to enhance our web presence in China, which we see as a vital means of honest appraisal.

6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

8. Sustainability

With the inception of the Cat Specialist Group of China (CSGC), which includes many high-profile cat biologists, advisors and policy makers (e.g. Prof Ma Jianzhang from Northeast Forestry University; Prof Jian Zhigang from Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences), we have created a focal point for conservation in China. The group has already become active in coordinating tiger conservation efforts with Chinese State Government. WI-BFU held the First Symposium for China Cats Specialist Group (CCSG) at Beijing Xijiao Hotel on **26th Feb. 2012**, with the supports from DI and China Cats Conservation and Monitoring Network (CCCM-Net), gathering all foremost specialists, experts and professors in wild felid conservation field in China, draws upon their experiences to discuss numerous issues associated with wild felids conservation.

We are further working with IUCN WCPA and SFA to develop continuing approaches to improving PA management in China. Several meetings with Dr Meng Sha (Secretary General for Protected Area Management Division, SFA) have identified routes for progress. We will take these forward in 2012 to develop formally approved plans that will be a direct outcome from this project.

9. Dissemination

In combination with CSGC, WCPA, SFA and the continued involvement of WI-BFU and University of Oxford we see this project as a step along a path towards improved conservation efforts for wild felids and their ecosystems in China. The mechanisms being developed will see the continued dissemination of outputs from this project at key levels of government and non-governmental structures. These steps are necessary for the achievement of our long-term goals.

10. Project Expenditure

Table 3 project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012)

Item	**Budget** (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project application or annual grant offer letter)	**Expenditure**	**Variance/ Comments**
Staff costs specified by individual P Riordan Shi Kun Project Assistant			
Overhead costs			
Travel and subsistence			
Operating costs			
Capital items/equipment (specify)	0		
Others: Consultancy	0		
Others (please specify)			
TOTAL			

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2011-2012

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
Goal: *To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve* ⇒ The conservation of biological diversity, ⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and ⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources		(report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity eg steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits)	
Purpose Strengthened national and local capacity for conservation and monitoring of wild felid species throughout China	An engaged and committed network for wild felid conservation and related issues, gathering and collating information Monitoring programmes established in protected areas across China and data collated in centralised databases Access to centralised database permitted to relevant stakeholders and data used to inform species management plans Protected areas managers and staff report improvements in effectiveness and efficiency of conservation efforts for wild cats and ecosystems. Our approach is applied to other species and/or habitats	Cat Specialist Group of China formally instituted with Zoological Society of China to enable network function and legacy. Growing online network of participants and other interested people on China's QQ online network (current membership 534 people). Training and monitoring protocols agreed in most regions, management teams enabled and training progressing according to plan. Advanced training with planning and implementation and management focus held in Beijing Data management training undertaken in Beijing and databases being specified in alignment with SFA system development Staff from PAs in which we work remain enthusiastic and no obstacles to delivery yet encountered, other than further training for mid-level management. Network members also engaged with other species, such as bears and pheasants.	Continue to develop and target training and monitoring protocols. Consolidate programmes in each region across Provinces and PAs. Management level training remains a priority for many provinces and PAs, and we will undertake this swiftly to ensure goals are fully understood at all levels. Fully engage training programme at all levels and enable monitoring in key areas for key species. Use good links with SFA Protected Areas division and World Commission on Protected Areas to align approaches within China and internationally. With SFA and WCPA, develop legacy programmes that are based on approaches and lessons from this project. Working with SFA to develop web-based databases, with access testing from different regions.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
Output 1. Capacity strengthened for wild felid monitoring and conservation	Trained personnel undertaking felid surveys in protected areas Training and workshop proceedings showing clear development Chinese students successfully undertaking dissertation studies	We are making good progress on these indicators, with increasing survey effort becoming apparent in many protected areas. More critically for the future, we are providing advise and input to the SFA's current PA strategy development, which leans heavily on the work being carried out as part of this project. Workshops and training are consistently getting good evaluation and feedback, which we are using to tailor training appropriately. We are pleased and proud that a number of students are now developing work alongside this project. Specifically, we have two PhD students studying tiger and leopard respectively, who are using data generated from monitoring emerging from this project.	
Activity 2.3. Initiate and renew contacts with individuals to be bought into the CC network		PR and SK have now formally involved IUCN WCPA and are aligning approaches with international groups.	
Activity 4.1. Training within RCs – classroom and field-based		On-going and maintaining target levels.	
Activity 4.2. Develop monitoring plans within RC as part of training activities		On-going, with good progress through advance training sessions with senior personnel.	
Activity 4.3. Monitoring programmes implemented within each RC		SE and SW RCs are beginning monitoring programmes, though the details are still being discussed with our team in an on-going trouble-shooting capacity.	
Activity 4.4. Workshop assessments of monitoring progress and trouble-shooting		As above, these are on going and will develop fully in year 3.	
Output 2. Information about wild felid species status across China produced and disseminated	Scientific and popular publications Media exposure highlighting wild cat conservation and the established network Annual reports Website content and accessibility International conference to be held by the end of year 3.	On-going. Website (www.chinacats.org) content being continually developed accordance with Chinese Internet laws. PR & SK presented the project at meetings related to PA management and flagship species conservation (particularly tiger) with UN CBD in India and Montreal and with CBD partners in Germany (BfN), in relation to linking with projects to combine biodiversity in PAs with additional ecosystem services.	
Activity 5.1 Analysis of wild felid populations from monitoring data		On-going. Data are too sparse to develop robust models, but we aim to develop this more in year 3.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
Output 3. Pathways collectively identified for conservation action plan developments for wild felid species in China	Preliminary action plan documents compiled and presented to government Project reports showing clear strategic directions for conservation plan developments Conference and workshop outputs showing clear commitment to process by participants	This is on-going and no specific progress other than that reported.	
Output 4. Participatory consultation process to elevate status of key Protected Areas	Nomination documents and key information compiled from within network	This is on-going and no specific progress other than that reported.	
Activity 4.1. Training within RCs – classroom and field-based		On-going. Training now covers most provinces and impacts directly on 178 PAs.	

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.			
Sub-Goal: Effective conservation requirements identified and actions initiated for wild felid species throughout China.	Functioning network for felid conservation, with participants trained to deliver robust information in support of wild felid conservation and management Initial baseline status information for wild felids in China. Preliminary policy and management plans developed	Trained and engaged team of conservationist working across China Mutual exchange of information and ideas as indicated from activity on web-based network portal Data collated from monitoring programmes initiated within protected areas across China Status reports and management plans generated from network	
Purpose Strengthened national and local capacity for conservation and monitoring of wild felid species throughout China	An engaged and committed network for wild felid conservation and related issues, gathering and collating information Monitoring programmes established in protected areas across China and data collated in centralised databases Access to centralised database permitted to relevant stakeholders and data used to inform species management plans	Active network participation by conservation professionals throughout China Information flow from protected areas and database population Stakeholders report good access to database resources and demonstrable application to species management within PAs Local measures identified through monitoring process put in place by PA management and staff to improve wild cat conservation	National government policies remain supportive Provincial government and local Protected Area teams remain supportive Data access via internet protocols remains viable within China Inter-ethnic relations within regions of China remain peaceful

	Protected areas managers and staff report improvements in effectiveness and efficiency of conservation efforts for wild cats and ecosystems. Our approach is applied to other species and/or habitats	Conservation plans emerge that use our project outputs and would have been impossible or less effective with out it	
Outputs (add or delete rows as necessary) 1. Capacity strengthened for wild felid monitoring and conservation	Trained personnel undertaking felid surveys in protected areas Training and workshop proceedings showing clear development Chinese students successfully undertaking dissertation studies	Surveys established (transects, camera traps deployed); new data emerging Training reports and educational materials. Workshop reports and follow-up outputs Reports of biannual project meetings High quality student theses	Individuals participating in training and workshops remain in position and maintain commitment to project and goals Dissertation options sufficiently attractive to high calibre students
2. Information about wild felid species status across China produced and disseminated	Scientific and popular publications Media exposure highlighting wild cat conservation and the established network Annual reports Website content and accessibility International conference to be held by the end of year 3.	Publications and reports Coverage on TV, radio and popular news publications Functioning and frequently accessed website Conference proceedings.	Adequate species-specific data can be collected for sufficient species of wild felid Media interest can be developed and maintained Web access remains permissible within China

3. Pathways collectively identified for conservation action plan developments for wild felid species in China	Preliminary action plan documents compiled and presented to government Project reports showing clear strategic directions for conservation plan developments Conference and workshop outputs showing clear commitment to process by participants	Preliminary action plan documents Project reports Conference and workshop outputs	Clear consensus can be arrived at for conservation plans Government continue to be supportive of future conservation plan developments Key champions within SFA remain supportive of project
4. Participatory consultation process to elevate status of key Protected Areas	Nomination documents and key information compiled from within network	Documentation presented to policy makers within SFA to be championed at higher governmental levels	Policy makers remain committed to project and goals; and national policies remain supportive

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Name: Advanced QQ Group of China Felids Conservation

QQ group number: 199368448

Description:

The members are from 15 provinces and regions of China: Beijing, Qinghai, Tibet, Xinjiang, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Shanxi, Hebei, Hubei, Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan and Guangdong, including managers of provincial or regional wildlife conservation departments, and staff from different nature reserves for each province.

Examples

The QQ group is a good communication platform for the managers and ground staff who have been involved in the Darwin project.

1) Survey design.

   Jia Zenghui, a staff of Zixi South China Tiger Office, Jiangxi Province, asked some questions about survey design through the QQ group after basic training in Jiangxi. Zixi nature reserve is the experimental area for reintroduction of South China tigers. They want to conduct a wildlife survey within the tiger reintroduction experimental area (about 20 square kilometers). The contents of the survey include:

   (1) To understand species, abundance and distribution of wildlife within that area;
   (2) Surveying the main types and distribution of habitat;
   (3) To clarify the locations of water points within the area.

   They wanted to know how many camera traps were necessary, and asked for suggestions of the survey design.

   After discussion, we replied here as follows:

   (1) First of all, to access resources they need to clarify the species they are interested in and decide how precisely they want to assess their populations.
   (2) Undertake a pilot survey, using 20 camera stations (single cameras) combined with sign surveys. Cameras should be set for four weeks within each major habitat type. If they can validate the sign surveys, then these could be used more widely and the cameras can be used in more inaccessible areas. For assessing populations more precisely, we suggest they use 60 camera stations, set for 30 days during dry seasons in each area of interest. These stations can be repositioned during the same season and the data combined to provide population estimates in more than one area.
   (3) If possible, the habitats should be assessed from remote sensing or other sources of knowledge initially. A broad subjective assessment of 'type' (e.g. Broadleaf dense forest; coniferous dense forest; broadleaf open forest; scrub; grassland etc) would be a start and they can use vegetation surveys to determine more precise differences between habitat at a later stage.
   (4) To clarify the water point locations, they would need hydrological surveys. Topographic maps would provide initial indicators of likely water flows and habitat will also indicate difference hydrologies.

2) Camera trap settings

   Many trainees showed great interest in camera trapping during the trainings. Some nature reserves started to use the technique after the trainings. Although we had a specific section about camera trapping, the staff still had some problems in the field. For example, the flowing three pictures came from a nature reserve in Jiangxi. They set cameras in the field, and some of them did not work very well. According to the photos we can tell the camera was not properly set: (1) The location of camera: In the visual field of the camera, there was no animal trail, water point or other types of environment which have higher probabilities to photo capture wildlife. (2) Vegetation in front of the camera should be cleared. (3) The camera was facing to the sun, which can trigger the camera by mistake.

Here is another example. The photos of a silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*) taken by a camera trap were a little fuzzy. In the "Photo Size" setting, they used "**12MP**", which is the best possible resolution. Higher resolution produces better quality photos, but creates larger files that take up more of the SD card capacity. Besides that, larger files require a longer time to write to the SD card, which will slightly slow the shutter speed. That could be the reason for the blurred photos. We recommended using **5MP** photo size to them.

3) Survey results sharing

Many nature reserves have conducted surveys using the techniques introduced in the training. The QQ group is an excellent platform to release the survey results. In December 2011, a wildlife survey was conducted in Guanshan Nature Reserve, Jiangxi. They used camera traps, and captured eight species including silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*), Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Crab-eating Mongoose (*Herpestes urva*), Red Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel (T*amiops swinhoei*) and other rodents.

Camera trapping photos from Guanshan Nature Reserve, Jiangxi province.

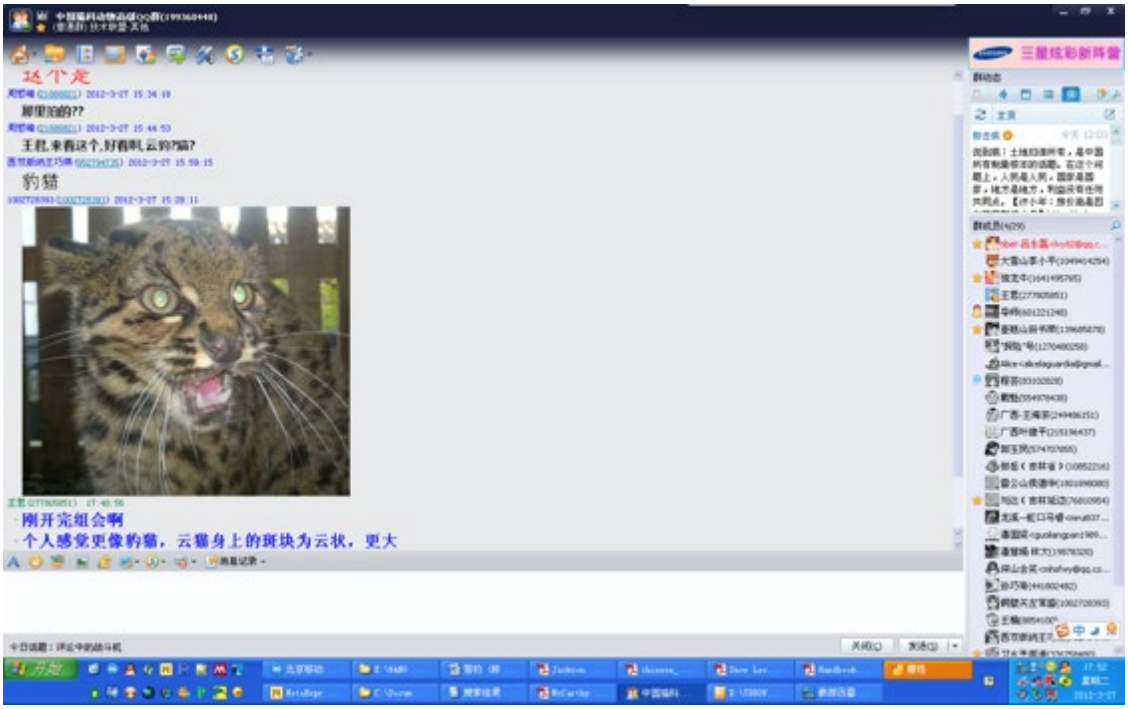
Besides Jiangxi province, nature reserves in Qinghai, Shanxi, Jilin and Sichuan also released their camera trapping photos through the QQ group. Group members are sometimes eager to get help from others in identifying species and sometimes just excited to share a sighting.

Camera trapping photos from Shanxi province.

Camera trapping photos from Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve, Qinghai province.

Camera trapping photos from Hunchun Nature Reserve, Jilin province.

Camera trapping photos from Sichuan province.



People are identifying the species based on a photo from Yunnan province in the QQ group.

Figure A3.1. Camera trap photo of leopard in Shaanxi Province, taken as part of initial monitoring programme.

Report on the first symposium of China Cats Specialist Group (CCSG)

（Reported by Shi Kun, Chen Ying and Wang Jun, 23rd April, 2012）

In recent years, research and practice of conservation on wild cats is becoming critically and actively, especially after Wen Jiabao, the Prime Minister of the State Council China, attended the “Global Tiger Conservation Summit” held in St. Petersburg in November 2010, and represented China government putting forward the conservation goal of realizing the obvious increasing of wild tiger population and large expansion of their habitat range till to 2022, the next China tiger year. Furthermore “Recovery Plan of Wild Tiger Population in China“has already been replied by the State Council and announced by State Forestry Administration (SFA) to start its implementation. Under these favorable situation and well supported background from home and aboard, branch society for Mammalogy of China Zoological Society authorized the establishment of China Cats Specialist Group (CCSG) and gave strong support

convening the first symposium. Therefore, with the support and assistance from Darwin Initiative (DI), China Cats Conservation and Monitoring Network (CCCM-Net) and Wild Felids Research Center in Northeast Forestry University, Wildlife Institute at Beijing Forestry University (WI, BFU) held the first symposium at **Beijing Xijiao Hotel on 26th Feb 2012**, gathering all foremost specialists, experts and professors in wild felid conservation field in China, draws upon their experiences to discuss numerous issues associated with wild felids conservation.

People attending the conference are from diverse backgrounds, there are officers from government authorities (SFA, China) and non-government organizations (WWF, WCS and IUCN); researchers from different institutes and professors from diverse universities and colleges. Different roles combination made the discussion afterwards more integrative, comprehensive and efficient. Moreover, journalists from mass medium participated and wrote general and detailed professional reports in multiple perspectives, sending out news timely and expanded its meaningful effects to the public.

- **Officers from Government authority and non-government organizations**

Wang Weisheng, Division Director at the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve management, SFA; Zhou Zhihua, Executive Deputy Director at the Department of Endangered Species Management Office;
Li Qingwen, Deputy Secretary-General of China Wildlife Conservation Association; Zhu Chunquan, General Project Director of IUCN China and Fan Zhiyong, Species Project Officer of China Office, World Wide Fund for Nature .

- **Professors and Researchers from universities and research institutes**

Ma Jianzhang, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, Professor at Northeast Forestry University, China;
Jiang Zhigang, Professor of Zoology Institute in China Academy of Sciences
Shi Kun, Director of the Wildlife Institute, BFU;
Li Ming, Researcher of Zoology Institute in China Academy of Sciences, secretary-general of China Therology Society;
Lu Jun and Jin Kun, Senior Researchers from Forest Ecology Research Institute of China Academy of Forestry
Luo Youqing, Professor, Deputy Headmaster of BFU;
Lei Guangchun, Professor, Dean of School of Nature Conservation, BFU;
Bao Weidong, Guo Yumin, Wang Nan and Pan Huijuan, Senior Researcher at the Wildlife Institutein BFU;
Jiang Guangshun, Liu Zhensheng and Zhang Minghai, professors in College of Wildlife Resources in Northeast Forestry University.

- **Journalists from mass media**

Qi Xianfeng, Journalist from Time in China
Zhang Yinuo, Journalist of China Green Times
Pan Xu, Journalist of Beijing TV
Dong Yan & Dong Baozhong, Journalists of Dragon TV

There are several valuable presentations on various topics relating to wild felids conservation at CSGC meeting, detailed information is as follows:

1. A Review of the Felid Conservation and Research History in China. Presented by Jianzhang Ma, academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, Professor at Northeast Forestry University, China
2. Priority of monitoring and research on wild cats in China. Presented by Weisheng Wang, Division Director at the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve management, SFA China
3. Approaches to the Felid Study in China. Presented by Zhigang Jiang, Professor at Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Executive Deputy Director of China Endangered Species Science and Management Department.
4. Monitoring and network of wild population of Amur tigers. Presented by Haiyi Sun, Professor and Deputy Director, the Wildlife Institute of Heilongjiang Province, China
5. Snow leopard research in northwest plateaus of China. Reported by Kun Shi, Director of the Wildlife Institute at Beijing Forestry University and Philip Riordan, Postdoctoral Researcher at WildCRU, University of Oxford
6. Ecological research on wild population of Eurasian lynx. Presented by Weidong Bao, Senior Researcher of the Wildlife Institute, Beijing Forestry University, China
7. Advance in wild Amur tiger landscape conservation strategy project in China. Presented by Guangshun Jiang, Senior Officer of Tiger and Leopard Project, Northeast Office of WWF China

Lively and heated discussions followed after the brilliant presentations, eventually the specialist group had the first batch of " China Felids Specialist Group" formal employed members fixed and all agreed to have the secretary office set up in WI-BFU, besides that, arriving at conclusions as follows.

- **The orientation and objectives of the specialist group**

Organize academic activities, conduct scientific research, and provide policy consultation opportunities, technological services and technological demonstrations to promote the application of research achievements and public awareness of wild felid conservation.

Objectives of the work In 2012

1. Write a letter to National Natural Science Foundation in the name of the Cat Specialist Group, trying for a greater focus and favorable policy support on wild felid research.
2. Establish the necessary contacts with IUCN Cat Specialist Group as efficiently as possible, promote academic exchange and cooperation with international research institutes positively.
3. Submit a report to the Conservation Division, SFA to suggest undertaking projects in wild felid research and technological consultation, and following that, organizing the review and appraisal of the related projects.
4. Make well preparations holding the annual academic conference of specialist group in 2012.
5. Sporadically publish online “Feline Forum of China” in Chinese and English versions according to the necessity.

Utilizing the platform provided by the symposium, CCSG mastered the research direction and situation of wild felids conservation at home and aboard in macroscopic aspects, analyzed the status, features of wild felids resources in China and current issues faced with their conservation, concluded work had been done and achievements that have been arrived at and made scientific and feasible development plan after detailed and further discussion.

Through by holding activities such as organizing and undertaking academic seminars, carrying out technical consultation and organizing international communication and cooperation, CCSG devote itself to having academia’s indispensable and significant roles fully played in the career of wild felids conservation and research in China. With the enthusiasm of doing these, CCSG hope to promote the unceasing development of wild felids conservation and research field efficiently.

Photos of the conference

Attendances and presentations

News afterwards

Several media, websites and newspapers included, have reported it afterwards immediately.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【字体：大 中 小】
中国绿色时报2月28日报道（记者 张一诺） 2月26日，中国动物学会兽类学分会批准猫科动物专家组成立，并在北京组织召开首次会议。会上，专家组分析了我国猫科动物的资源现状、特点和猫科动物保护面临的问题，讨论制定了科学可行的发展规划，以有效促进猫科动物保护与研究领域的不断发展。
近年来，我国猫科动物保护与研究活动日趋活跃。国务院总理温家宝2010年出席了圣彼得堡“全球虎保护峰会”，并代表中国政府提出了到下一个虎年实现野生虎种群总量增长及其栖息地范围大幅扩展的目标。《中国野生虎恢复计划》已经国务院批复并由国家林业局宣布启动实施。在此背景下，中国动物学会兽类学分会将支持专家组通过组织和承办学术研讨会、开展科技咨询、组织国际交流与合作等活动，充分发挥学术界在我国猫科动物研究与保护事业中的重要作用。
中国猫科动物专家组主任为中国工程院院士、东北林业大学野生动物资源学院教授马建章。
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中国猫科动物专家组成立
2012-02-28 09:56:22 | 发表最热回 已有0人参与
摘自中国绿色时报
中国绿色时报2月28日报道（记者张一诺）2月26日，中国动物学会兽类学分会批准猫科动物专家组成立，并在北京组织召开首次会议。会上，专家组分析了我国猫科动物的资源现状、特点和猫科动物保护面临的问题，讨论制定了科学可行的发展规划，以有效促进猫科动物保护与研究领域的不断发展。近年来，我国猫科动物保护与研究活动日趋活跃。国务院总理温家宝2010年出席了圣彼得堡“全球虎保护峰会”...

Figure A3.2. Brochure for identification and differentiation of felid and canid sign in Southern China (adapted and translated with kind permission of Dr Jan Kamler, WWF Bhutan)

常见足迹及粪便识别

犬科动物

足迹特点

• 足迹长度常大于宽度 • 与足部肉垫相比中间两脚趾相对较大 • 趾甲通常可见 • 通过尺寸可鉴别物种，但物种间存在重叠

大型

豺 *Cuon alpinus*

足迹：长 6-7 cm，宽 5-6 cm。粪便：长度各异，宽度 1.7-3.7 cm • 内容物通常包括偶蹄类毛发、皮肤和大型骨头 • 通常在人类使用的小道或在其聚集排粪地发现 2-12 具有相同新鲜程度和内容物的粪便 • 群居并且成组排便

中型

亚洲胡狼 *Canis aureus*

足迹：长 4-6 cm，宽 3-4 cm。粪便：长度各异，宽 2.0-2.5 cm • 内容物通常包含啮齿类动物毛发 • 通常发现于人类使用的小道以及岩石和灌丛等突起物之上 • 小组群生活，单独排便

小型

赤狐 *Vulpes vulpes* 以及孟加拉狐 *Vulpes bengalensis*

足迹：长 3-4 cm，宽 2-3 cm。粪便：长度不一，宽 1.5-2.5 cm • 通常单独出现并由两条或更多粪块组成 • 通常包含啮齿类毛发 • 通在人类使用的小道及小型岩石或灌丛等突起物之上 • 可能与猫科动物和胡狼粪便混淆 • 赤狐栖息地海拔比孟加拉狐栖息地高。

猫科动物

足迹特点

• 较犬科动物足迹更圆 • 中间两脚趾指向不同方向 • 与足部肉垫相比脚趾较小 • 趾甲通常不可见 • 通过尺寸可鉴别物种，但物种间存在重叠

大型

虎 *Panthera tigris*

足迹：长 12-15 cm，宽 10-14 cm。粪便长度不一（>30 cm），宽 >4 cm • 内容物通常包含偶蹄类动物毛发及骨头。

豹 *Panthera pardus*

足迹：长 7-9 cm，宽 6-8 cm 粪便长度不一，宽 2.5-3.5 cm • 内容物通常包含偶蹄类动物毛发及较小的骨头。

雪豹 *Panthera uncia*

足迹：比豹足迹稍大。粪便大小与豹相当 • 内容物包含偶蹄类，由其是岩羊 • 生存区域海拔比豹高。

中型

云豹 *Neofelis nebulosa*

足迹：比金猫稍大。粪便：比金猫稍大 • 内容物包括偶蹄类、灵长类和较少数量的小型哺乳动物毛发。

金猫 *Catopuma temminckii*

足迹：长 6-7 cm，宽 5-6 cm。粪便：长度不一，宽 1.8-2.8 cm • 内容物通常包括啮齿类毛发及鸟羽 • 通常沿人类使用的小道以及排粪地发现 2-3 份不同时期的粪便 • 单独活动并在固定地点排便 • 栖息地海拔高于云豹。

小型

丛林猫 *Felis chaus*

足迹：大小与金猫相似。粪便：与金猫相似 • 内容物通常包含啮齿类毛发及鸟羽。

云猫 *Pardofelis marmorata*

足迹：比金猫稍小。粪便：比金猫稍小 • 内容物包括小型兽类及鸟羽。

豹猫 *Prionailurus bengalensis*

足迹：长 3-5 cm，宽 2-4 cm 粪便：长度不一，宽 1.4-2.2 cm • 内容物常包括啮齿类毛发及鸟羽 • 通常沿人类使用小路发现。

因为大多数物种的食性及粪便大小有重叠，因此通常需要通过 DNA 分析鉴定物种。

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	x
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	x
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	x
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