

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
China: Agricultural and Pastoral Landscapes in the Mountainous Districts of the Upper Watershed of the Yangtze River			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC); Kaoru Ichikawa (UNU-IAS), ed.			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Pastoralism, Yi people, agriculture			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		March 2012	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
China									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Sichuan Province									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.co.jp/maps/@27.6946954,101.5345445,8z?hl=en									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Anning River, a tributary of Yangtze River, runs through the central part of the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province from north to south, and its valley is surrounded by steep mountains. The prefecture has a steppe climate. The climate in the valley of the Anning is characterized by its remarkable vertical variation.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
The Yi have developed an agricultural and grazing system that combines grazing and cold-hardy crops suitable for high-elevation zones and have maintained agricultural and grazing landscapes even in steep mountains while preventing landslides. Yi agricultural and grazing landscapes, which combine cold-hardy crops and pasturage.									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	03/2012
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i>)			
This study was commissioned to be included in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia".			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i>)			
This chapter provides an overview of SEPLS practices in the highlands of Sichuan Province as an example of landscape-management practices in the region.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
The Chinese government is pressing forward with its "Returning Farmland to the Forests" policy, which is particularly important to the Yi's sphere of life in the steep mountainous districts. This policy involves turning the slopes that have been excessively cultivated back into forests in order to accelerate the implementation of afforestation policy. It is producing steady results by providing low-income farmers with food and paid work.			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
In the Yi society, the number of elderly persons living in mountainous and outlying places is on the rise, and for these people it is becoming difficult to cultivate land on the steep slopes. For this reason, fruit trees have come to be chosen as tree species that should be planted under this policy.			
Key messages			
The grazing of sheep and cattle is suitable for cool mountainous districts with vast stretches of grassland. The forestry bureau of Liangshan Prefecture actively recommends the planting of fruit trees, and in particular the planting of walnuts in the cool highlands has been well received. Another traditional technique to maintain the fertility of agricultural land in this cool climate is to leave the cultivated land fallow for some years after production.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia". *This Summary Sheet was produced by UNU-IAS alone.			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			
This study was commissioned by UNU-IAS.			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	■			■		■			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
■								●	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

	■							
		■			■			