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## *TRAFFIC promotes the sustainable use of traditional Chinese medicine in panda habitat*

The Minshan Mountains in China's Sichuan province, home to half of the world's pandas - is one of the world's most biologically rich areas. This area is the habitat of over 5,000 plant species – amounting to three-fourths of all of China's medicinal plant species – that are used



in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). The Minshan Mountains are one of WWF's top global priorities for biodiversity conservation.

The Minshan Mountains are also home to almost 300,000 people, many of whom live in poverty. The collection and sale of species used as traditional medicines is an important source of income. This collection can disturb panda habitat, however, and has also caused the extinction of local populations of some species of medicinal plants, such as Szechwan

Lovage Rhizome (*Rhizoma Chuanxiong*), Eucommia Bark (*Cortex Eucommiae*).



**Szechwan Lovage Rhizome (*Rhizoma Chuanxiong*)**  
© Sichuan Institute of Chinese Materia Medica



**Eucommia Bark (*Cortex Eucommiae*)**  
© Sichuan Institute of Chinese Materia Medica

The long-term conservation of the Minshan Mountains requires better management of the collection of species used as traditional medicine, protecting both biodiversity and local livelihoods. TRAFFIC East Asia, WWF China's Sichuan field office, and the Sichuan office of the China CITES Management Authority have joined forces to address this issue. A recent workshop addressing the topic resulted in an action plan to move forward with biodiversity

conservation in the Minshan Mountains. Key results include collecting the various opinion from stakeholders, analyzing the current conservation status of Minshan Mountains and providing the constructive solutions on the conflict of conservation and livelihood. Just as important, it furthered the exchange of information and stakeholder involvement the conservation and sustainable use of wild medicinal plants.

Combining forces is the most effective way of ensuring that biodiversity and people will peacefully co-exist in the Minshan Mountains.

### TRAFFIC-East Asia, China Programme-Update

- **Bulletin on China's illegal wildlife trade and TCM trade**

TRAFFIC East Asia's China Programme will publish its first bulletin in July 2005. This bulletin is aimed at Chinese-speaking audiences who are concerned about the effects of trade to wildlife, will help shed light on wild animals and plants that are endangered due to the illegal wildlife trade or use in traditional Chinese medicine. The first edition of the bulletin will contain information on the current status of and conservation measures for species such as *taxus* (yew), musk deer, rhino and freshwater turtles.

- **Textbook being developed for traditional Chinese medicine universities**

A new textbook focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of China's endangered and rare medicinal resources is being developed by experts from the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Second Military Medical University, the East China Normal University, the Shanghai Medical College, and Fudan University. This project is led by Xu Hongfa, TRAFFIC's China Wildlife Trade Programme Coordinator, and is supported by the Disney Conservation Fund. The textbook will improve the

awareness of teachers and students on who best to protect endangered species used in traditional Chinese medicines.

The book in both Chinese and English. The next step, to begin in July 2005, will be to have expert view before final publication.

- **TRAFFIC East Asia, China programme develops strategy for Minshan Mountains**

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005, the internal meeting of PPPP (Panda, People and Plants Project) was held in Beijing. TRAFFIC East Asia and WWF's Species and Forest programme attended the meeting and discussed the project schedule. A follow-up workshop to discuss strategies for the sustainable use and conservation of species collected as traditional medicine in the Minshan Mountains was held 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March, and sponsored by WWF Germany.

Numerous stakeholders joined in this discussion, including the Sichuan Forestry Bureau, the Sichuan Institute of Chinese Traditional Medicine, the Di'ao medicine group (a TCM company) and Conservation International. Presentations included background on the wealth of traditional medicine resources in the Minshan Mountains (by H.F. Xu, TRAFFIC East Asia), the potential to use international guidelines for the collection of

medicinal plants in the Minshan Mountains (by S. Honnef, WWF Germany), and the way in which conservation of traditional medicines fits into the broader conservation programme for the Minshan Mountains as a whole (by L. Ling, WWF China).

Workshop participants offered a diverse set of viewpoints. In the coming months, the workshop results will be synthesized into a comprehensive strategy on the conservation of species collected as traditional medicines in the Minshan Mountains, to be implemented by TRAFFIC East Asia, China programme.



PPPP workshop in Chengdu © TRAFFIC-East Asia

- **ETIS training finished successfully**

ETIS, the Elephant Trade Information System, helps protect elephants by providing customs officials with a centralized database about illegal trade. A training course given by TRAFFIC East Asia, China programme on ETIS was held in Nanning, Guangxi province on 14-15 March 2005. This was part of a larger meeting, organized by the China CITES Management Authority and including the Nanning (of Guangxi province) Customs Department and the Guangxi Forestry Bureau. TRAFFIC's Luan Xiaofeng then gave a presentation focused on the implementation of ETIS.

The aim of the ETIS training was to improve conservation awareness of customs staff and to strengthen their enforcement capacity, especially with regard to their identification and capacity to check for species listed in CITES Appendices.

Previous ETIS trainings were held in Beijing, Shanghai and Nanning in 2004 and early 2005.

### New Staff:

In March 2005, Luan Xiaofeng joined TRAFFIC East Asia's China Programme as a Wildlife Trade Enforcement Assistance Officer. Dr. Luan has recently completed post-graduate study in conservation biology at Chinese Academy of Forestry. He will work with China's CITES Management Authority and other partners, using trade monitoring and trade surveys as tools to effectively target law enforcement with regard to wildlife trade.

- **International investigation team surveys China's ivory trade**

An investigation team consisting of the CITES Secretariat, World Customs officials, and TRAFFIC's regional office for

East and Southern Africa was in Beijing on 6-12 March 2005, to survey China's enforcement of regulations concerning the trade in ivory.

The team conducted investigations in I

Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Guangzhou.

### Hot Topics

- **Regulation banning the use of rhino horn and tiger bone in medicine**

In 1993, China's State Council banned the rhino and tiger trades. It stipulated:

1. The prohibition of the import and export of anything that includes rhino horn and tiger bone.
2. The prohibition of the selling, purchasing, transportation, and shipping of rhino horn and tiger bone.
3. The prohibition of using rhino horn and tiger bone in medicine. It also encouraged research on the substitutions for of rhino horn and tiger bone, as well as the criminal prosecution of anyone breaking these new regulations.



In 2001, China's Ministry of Public Security issued a 'Notice on the cracking down of smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bone and Other Products' to

© WWF - KLEIN & HUBERT emphasize enforcement of the illicit trade of tiger bone products in China.

- **Illegal ivory products trade on the internet**

The internet has proven to be a new marketing channel for illegal ivory. This on-line trade is growing due to a lack of effective tracking measures and governmental management regulations. Research by TRAFFIC East Asia has found that eBay is the most used website

for the ivory products trade, both for English and Chinese websites.



Chinese  
Ancient Tusk  
Ivory Carving  
Pencil Holder  
Starting  
bid:USD558  
Item location:  
Shanghai, China  
Shipping to :  
Worldwide

eBay's English website has more than 1000 ivory products advertised per day for example. Among these, the goods were specified as antiques, art, jewelry and decorated items. Most sellers were in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Beijing, but the goods are sold worldwide. Sellers were also based in the US, UK, Japan and Canada. At the same time, Over 300 ivory products were advertised in eBay's Chinese website. Most products were made from African ivory.

Although some of this trade may be legal – such as ivory from mammoth tusks – a large portion is likely to be illegal for international trade. To address this problem, the China CITES Management Authority has recently prohibited the sale of ivory on websites in China. TRAFFIC East Asia will continue to monitor the situation of ivory and other wildlife traded on the internet through a grant recently received from the Rufford Foundation.

- **Five Governmental Departments Issued the Notice of Strengthening Musk Deer and Bear Conservation and Management of Using in Medicine**

On 23 December 2004, China's State Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Health, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the State Food

and Drug Administration, and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine issued a joint '*Notice for Strengthening Musk Deer and Bear Conservation and Use in Medicine.*' The notice stipulated that all products containing wild musk and bear gallbladder must be labeled with a stamp named the 'special label of China wild animals trade management' before entering into the market starting from 1 July 2005.

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C/O WWF China Office  
Room 1609  
Wen Hua Gong  
Beijing Working People's Culture Palace  
(Laodong Renmin Wenhua Gong Dongmen)  
100006  
Beijing, P.R. China

Editors: Wang Shasha, Xu Hongfa

Tel: 86-10-6522 7100 ext 3260

Fax: 86-10-6522 7300

E-mail: [teachina@wwfchina.org](mailto:teachina@wwfchina.org)

Website: [www.wwfchina.org/traffic](http://www.wwfchina.org/traffic)

[www.wwfchina.org/english](http://www.wwfchina.org/english)