

Placement and Displacement: Establishment and Expansion of Protected Areas in Yunnan, Southwest China

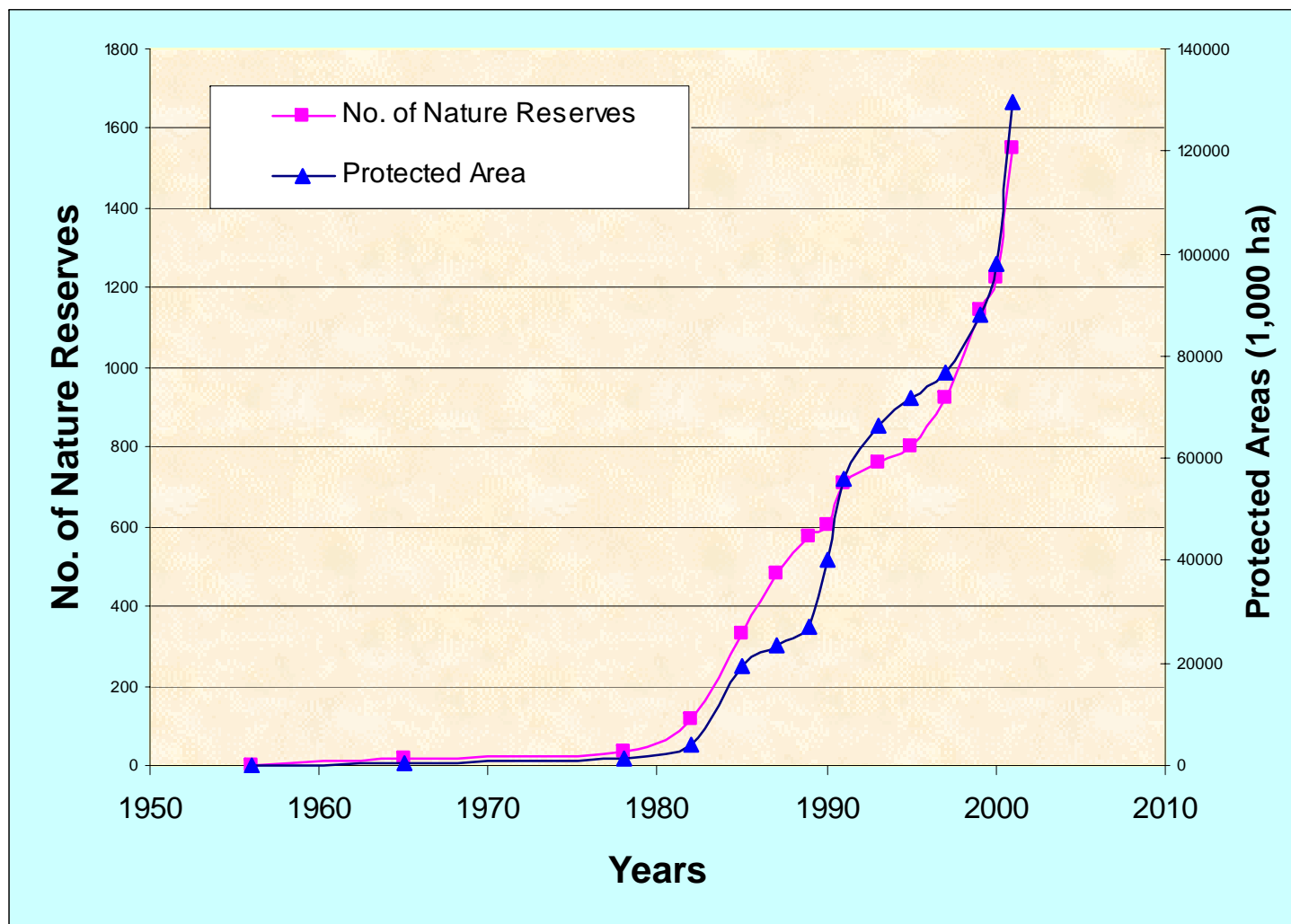
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Outline of Presentation

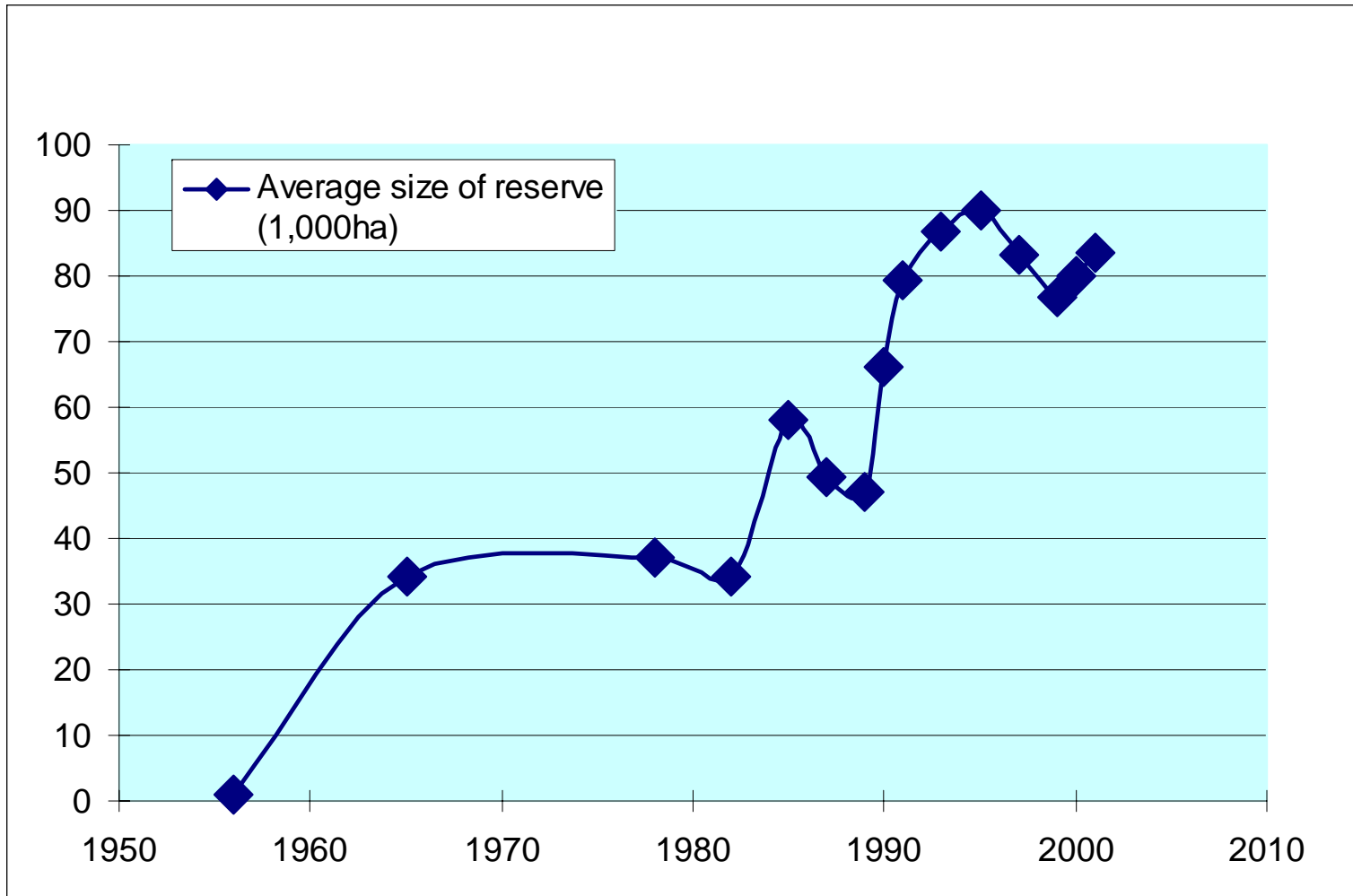
- National trends in protection
- Protection in Yunnan Province
- Identification of biodiversity and its conservation
- Conclusion

Expansion of Nature Reserves in China



Liu, et al. 2003

Average Size of Nature Reserves



National Nature Reserves Plan

| | No | Present size (ha) | Proposed size (ha) | Area Difference (ha) |
|--|----|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Extension of existing national nature reserves | 22 | 4,736,079 | 6,331,464 | 1,595,384 |
| Upgrading to national nature reserves | 35 | 37,369,391 | 38,938,301 | 1,568,910 |
| New sites for national nature reserves | 26 | | | 5,150,207 |
| Total | | 42,105,470 | 45,269,765 | 8,314,501 |



Dilemma for Establishment of Reserves

- Nature reserves are a new institution on a landscape already crowded with stakeholders.
- Indigenous people experience the establishment of a reserve as a sudden expropriation of land and resource rights, generally without compensation.
- In extreme cases, local families or communities are resettled outside of reserve boundaries. More often they remain, but with highly constrained access to natural resources.
- The populations in and around the newly protected areas can be very large (about 30 million in 1997)

国家级自然保护区分布图



National Nature Reserves in China



Placement and Displacement: A state approach for conservation

- Placement and displacement refers to the ways in which official efforts to ‘fix’ populations in space [their residence, their movement, their classification, their property] encounter an inevitable flux of movement and identities that cannot ever be firmly codified ([Sahlins](#) & [Scott](#) 2001)
- Examples: protected areas, biodiversity “hotspots”, resettlement, land and forest allocation, demarcation and mapping, etc.

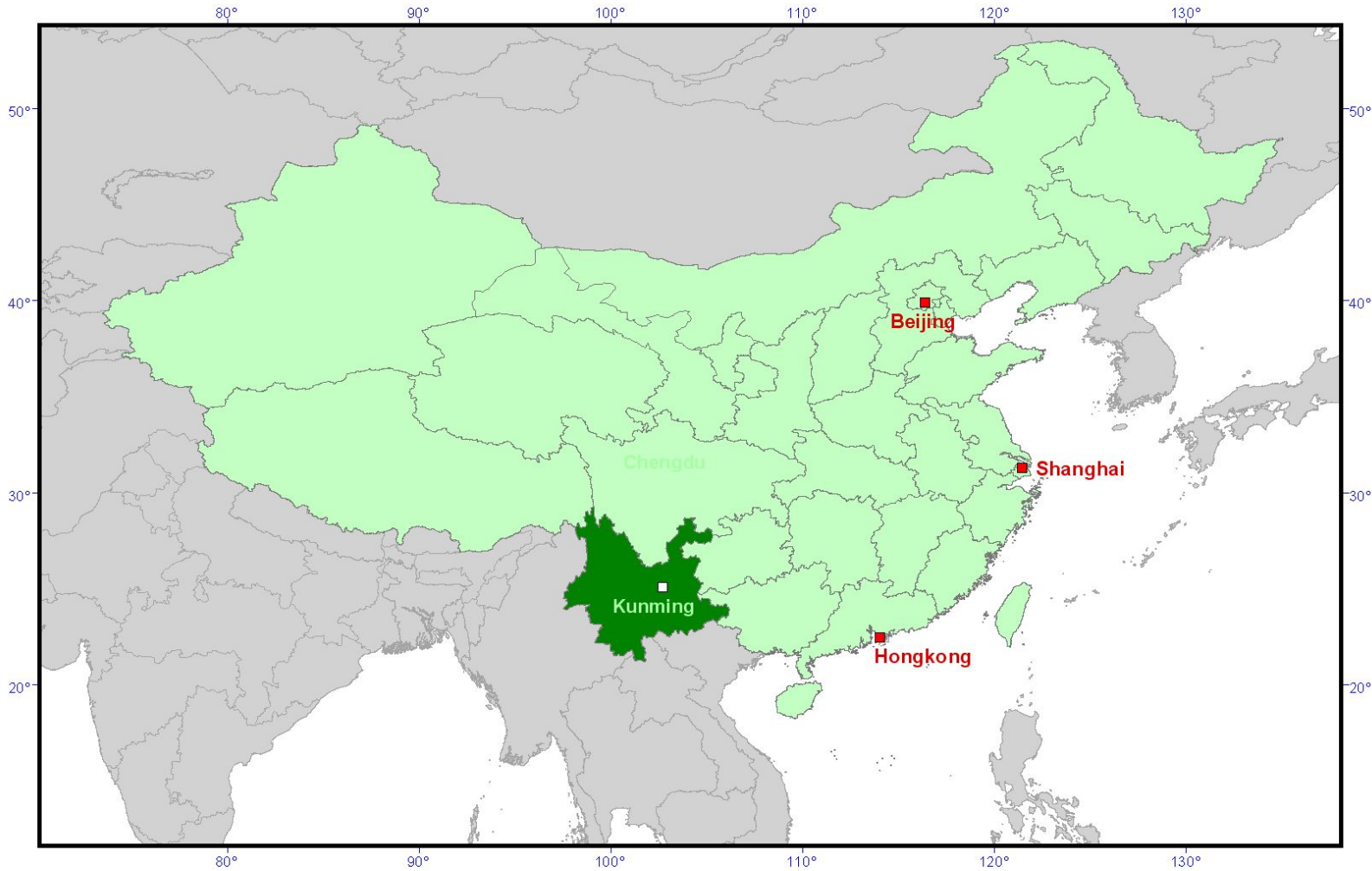


Yunnan Province

- ethnic inhabited, poverty-stricken border province
- great mobility of people, who periodically shift their settlements, livestock, agriculture and land use
- a mosaic of landscapes and land use patterns that vary with altitude and latitude



Yunnan Province



Protected areas in Yunnan

2001:

–120 reserves

–2.5 million ha

–6.5% of the land cover

- 10 national reserves (1.2 m ha, 47.4%)
- 45 provincial reserves (1.1 m ha, 43.9%)
- 65 county and prefecture reserves (222,525 ha, 8.7%).

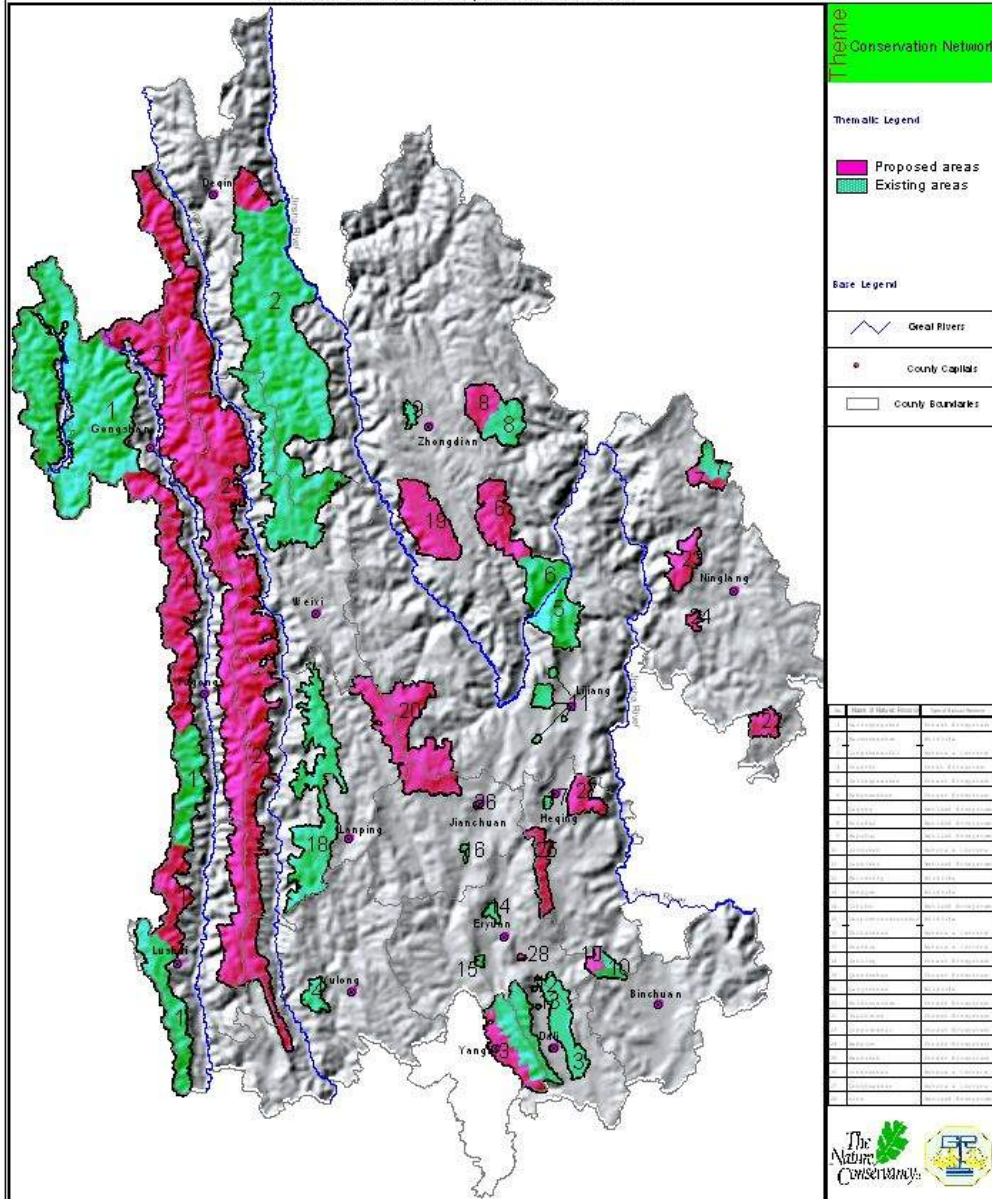
2010:

–179 nature reserves

–3.42 million ha

– 8% of total land

YUNNAN GREAT RIVERS
Conservation and Development Action Plan



Conservation Plan in northwest Yunnan

- Project Contents**
1. To design new preserve areas
 2. To extend existing preserve areas
 3. To upgrade original protecting levels

Projection : UTM, 1143, Zone 41

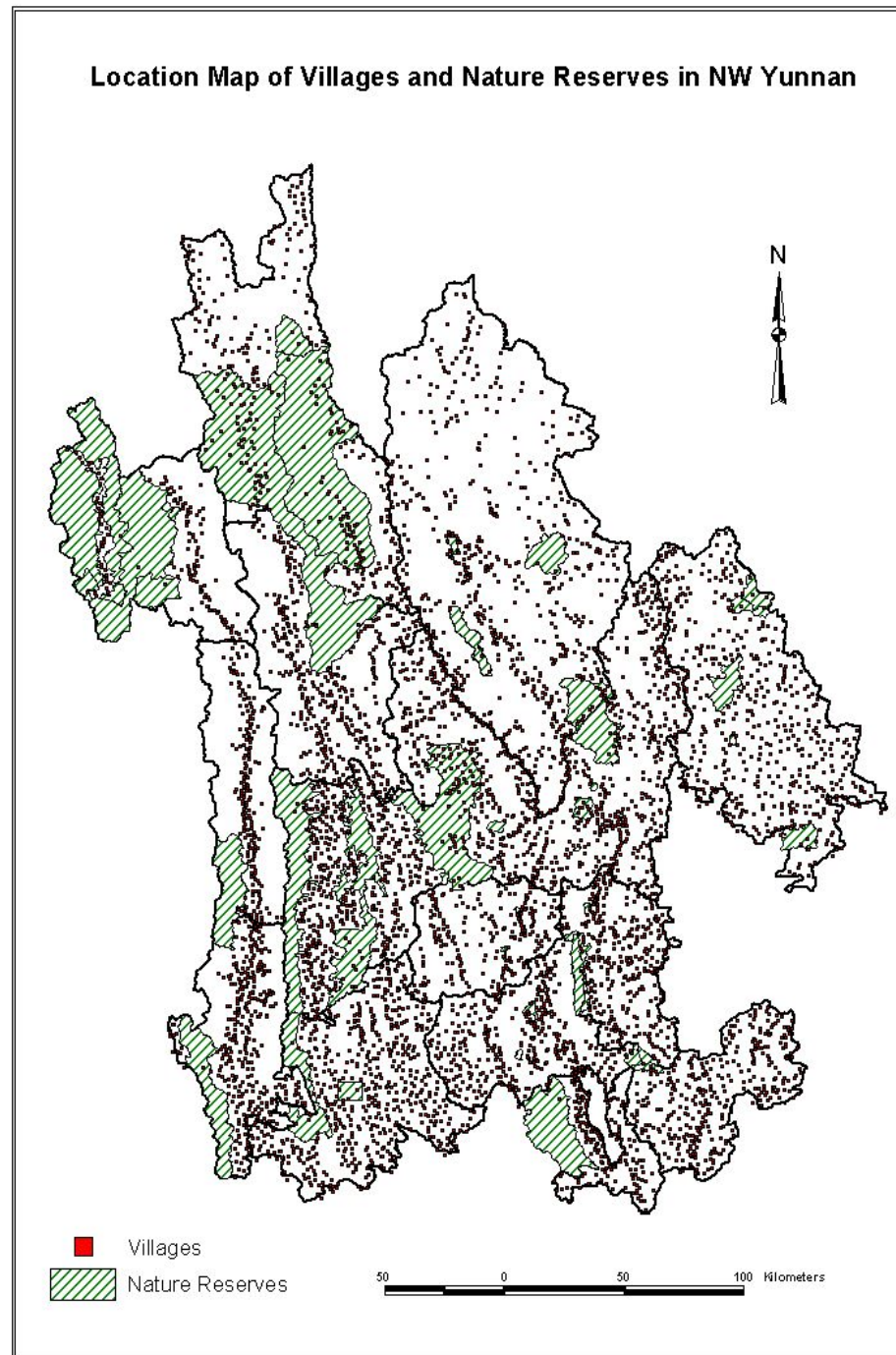


Theme Source

1. Existing preserve areas from Yunnan Institute of Forestry Planning
2. New Designing By Yunnan Institute of Forestry Planning and IIG



Who are affected?



Displacing Local Livelihood

Based on field interviews, local farmers reported after official protection:

- Logging ban, no timber for cultivating mushrooms
- Restriction in collecting NTFPs
- Restricted grazing
- No hunting
- Wildlife damage of crops/property of local farmers
- Poor infrastructure development, road & telecommunication access etc.
- Traditional land use practices are not allowed, e.g. shifting cultivation
- Less job opportunities
- Poor resettlement program
- Tenure conflicts



Nuozadu Reserve in southern Yunnan

- Established in 1997 with a total area of 21,679 ha
- 36 natural villages with a population of 8981 (1828 households)
- 8 villages located completely inside reserve
- 11 villages partially inside reserve
- Traditional access to resources for 17 villages restricted
- A total area of 4565 ha collectively owned land demarcated into nature reserve
- Livelihood dependents:
 - collecting 782 tons of bamboo shoots
 - tapping 133.7 tons of pine resin
 - 7.1 tons of mushrooms
 - 8.6 tons of medicinal plants

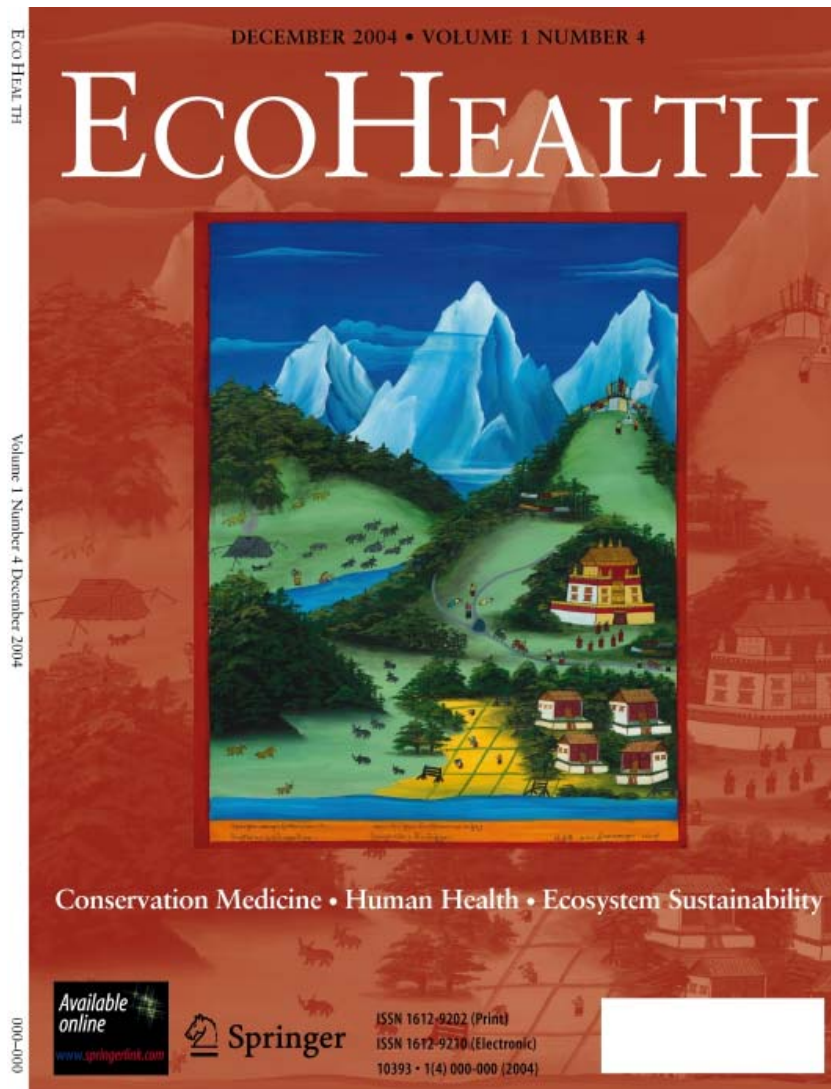


Official and vernacular identification of biodiversity and conservation

| | Official identification | Vernacular identification |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Biodiversity | All living organisms at genetic, species and ecosystem level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everything has own spiritual and material life, e.g. mountain, water, plants and animals ● Life wheel and reincarnation of life (holistic and everlasting) |
| Places and space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Natural habitat and human created non-habitat ● Biodiversity hotspots | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interrelated between human and habitat ● All important, not hotspots and coldspots |
| People | Subjects of study | Citizen |
| Human practices | Negative impacts to biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Essential to create habitats for other species (crops, useful plants, animals) ● Carefully regulated (time and space) ● Ask for forgiveness from other lives through rituals |
| Size | The bigger, the better | Adequate scale, associated with social group |
| Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pristine or restored ● Placement of species/habitats ● Flagship species ● Resettled local villagers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A range of measures ● Dynamic interaction (human intervention) ● Communication between man and nature ● Ecological, economic and cultural functions ● Humans can enhance biodiversity |

Vision of Tibetan Community:

Communication and Reconciliation between man and nature



Reincarnation of Biodiversity



A crow comes to sit on a Tibetan widow's shoulder. People believe the crow is the reincarnation of her daughter.

Conclusions

- It is necessary to develop new legal and political systems that protect and support the links between culture, nature, land and territory, particularly the collective rights of indigenous people for access to natural resources.
- Biological diversity can be better maintained even enhanced with adequate and active participation accompanied by shifts of power to indigenous people and communities.
- Call for more community driven conservation, putting people in the center of conservation



Win-Win Scenario

According to Michael Rosenzweig in his book “*Win-Win Ecology*”:

“Reconciliation ecology can save species without displacing people or their economic activities. In the process, it can reduce political conflict to a minimum.”

