

CONSERVATION OF THE WHITE-HEADED LANGUR (*TRACHYPITHECUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*) IN CHONGZUO, GUANGXI, CHINA : SCIENTISTS, GOVERNMENT, ENTERPRISES, AND COMMUNITY

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When we first started our study on the ecology and behavior of the white-headed langur in Chongzuo, Guangxi in November 1996, the natural ecosystem was undergoing devastating deterioration. The langurs and the local people were both facing challenges for continuous survival. A resolution was much needed to conserve the langurs and the biodiversity, as well as to alleviate the local people's poverty. Understanding the ecological crisis and economic hardship, we educated the local agricultural community about the need of preserving biodiversity, raised general awareness for conservation of natural resources, and gained financial and technical support from private sponsors and enterprises, the Peking University, and the local government. The combined efforts led to significant improvement of water quality, energy supply, school education, and medical care for the local community. These resulted in remarkable reduced dependence on natural resources such as firewood. The local flora and fauna gradually recovered, and the langur population also grew from 165 individuals in 1998 to 245 in 2002, at an annual increase rate of $\lambda=1.106$. Through our practice in the past 14 years, we found that the cooperation between scientists, enterprises, and government is an effective approach to solve conflicts between conservation of natural environment and economic development. Scientists would first identify the problems and causes, then enterprises could provide immediate support to embark on small conservation projects, and finally the government would conduct the projects in larger scales and for longer terms to achieve overall improvement of local livelihoods and wildlife conservation.

Keywords: Conservation, *Trachypithecus leucocephalus* , Population, Community