

Name:	31. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGH ALTITUDE PEATLANDS OF RUOERGAI MARSHES FOR WATER SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION		
Region	Asia	Country	China
Ecosystem	Inland water; Mountain		
Nature of approach	Improvement in capacity, design and policy measures (identifying and/or developing adaptation approach, promoting policy change); Implementation of EBA measures (natural resource management, pilot schemes, diversifying livelihoods)		
Description of approach	<p>Objective/Expected outcomes</p> <p>China has about 6 million ha of mountain wetlands of which peatlands are the majority, and which act as reservoirs maintaining and supplying streams, rivers and adjacent grasslands, and store and sequester carbon. Due to significant loss and degradation of the Ruergai plateau peatlands through unsustainable farming practices (drainage, over-grazing), mining and infrastructure development, and by climate change, a project to manage the wetlands for water supply was initiated. In addition, the project set out to improve the livelihood options of the local communities (population c.250,000) dominated by herders.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>In partnership with the State Forestry Administration, management options and alternative livelihood strategies were assessed to address issues and the effect of overgrazing and drainage on the upland peatlands of the Ruergai plateau peatlands.</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable/reduced impact livelihoods was undertaken through demonstration schemes, piloting sustainable wetland and grassland management options.</p> <p>Results achieved</p> <p>As a result of the project, the local administration prohibited peat mining and drainage, and initiated a programme of ditch restoration, resulting in more sustainable management of the peatland, and reducing the vulnerability of the users to changes in water supply. In addition, alternative livelihood options were adopted by local communities, including production of value-added products from livestock and ecotourism. The project also provides climate change mitigation benefits through carbon storage/sequestration.</p> <p>Lessons learned</p> <p>By reducing the other pressures on ecosystems they can better provide services that help people to adapt to climate change.</p>		
Type of organisation	NGO	Name of organisation:	Wetlands International;
Further information and contact details	http://wetlands.org/Whatwedo/Ourfieldprojects/Projectarchive/tabid/59/ArticleType/ArticleView/ArticleId/2449/Default.aspx		