



Shaanxi Qinling Biodiversity
Conservation and Demonstration Project

People's Republic of China

ADB

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE QINLING MOUNTAINS

A global and national biodiversity hotspot

- Home of many unique animal species on Earth, such as crested ibis.
- Home to 20% of wild giant pandas in the country.
- Documented 3,000 rare plants as of today.
- A north-south climatic divide of the PRC.
- A boundary between the Yangtze River and the Yellow River basins.
- One of top three global biogeographic mountain ranges: Alps, Rocky, and Qinling mountains.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Financing

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| ADB loan | \$39.5 million |
| GEF grant ¹ | \$4.27 million |



Loan Approval

22 October 2009

Loan Close

13 November 2019

Implementing Agencies

Qinling National Botanical Garden (QNBG); Shaanxi Rare Animal Rescue Center (SARC)

Executing Agency

Shaanxi Provincial Government, acting through the Provincial Development and Reform Commission

¹Global Environment Facility

KEY FEATURES OF THE PROJECT



The PRC's first project using a Multilateral Development Bank loan for biodiversity conservation.



An integrated ecosystem management case to address nature, climate, and rural/agriculture nexus.



A market-based approach through sustainable revenues generated by ecotourism and rural livelihoods.



Creation of global public goods by conserving global critical species and important ecosystem.



Qinling National Botanical Garden



22

specialized botanical gardens



4

constructed wetlands



4

buildings for research, public education and associated facilities



2

scientific and research education camps, a herbarium and a greenhouse



1

exhibition hall and one service center



1

solid waste concentration station



public infrastructure in the ex-situ district



45 km

roads



6.5 km

water supply and drainage networks



6.1 km

power supply lines



2.4 km

water pipes for firefighting

Shaanxi Rare Animal Rescue Center



Research facilities



A laboratory



An animal rescue hospital



Breeding enclosures
and exhibition spaces
in natural environment



Surveillance systems
to monitor animal
activities



Infrastructure and
landscape greening



60,000 square
miles collective
forests



A public education
hall and a tourist
information center



Natural habitats management and in-situ conservation



Improved habitats

4,000 ha
state forestry lands

6,000 ha
collective forests

Community infrastructure

18 km
roads

120 km
mountain paths

Village facilities

160
households in five
villages with
ecological toilets



water
supply



solar lighting
stands

Ecotourism

20
enterprises engaged,
promoting small income-
generating business



promoted
conservation
agriculture

Knowledge and capacity development



Integrated Ecosystem Management
Strategy and Action Plan for the
Qinling Mountains.



Ecological baseline monitoring and
database.



An ecotourism business plan.



A species monitoring system (for
giant panda, golden monkey, takin,
and crested ibis).



Extensive training activities in
collaboration with international
organizations.



DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS



Environment



32%
increase in number of nature reserves increased from 25 to 33



10,000 ha
of forest habitats and their ecosystems restored



65%
decrease in the extent of land degradation and soil erosion in the mountainous area between 2010–2019

4 major animal species registered a significant rise in population; giant panda by 26%, crested ibis by 330%, golden monkey by 97%, the takin by 148%).

Climate change

Carbon sequestration and greenhouse emissions reductions promoted through sustainable forestry management in 10,000 forestry lands and sustainable land management in 5,000 ha.

Socioeconomic change



140%
increase in per capita rural incomes

200



people (30% women) benefited from employment opportunities. Rural poverty halved, aligning with the national poverty alleviation agenda.

Institutional change

- The Qinling Mountains are now part of the national park system.
- The QNGB joined the national botanical garden program for expansion. It is also certified as a nature education base for students. Specimens are now cataloged in an international database.
- Shaanxi Rare Animal Rescue Center is upgraded to a national research hub for giant panda conservation.



ATTRACTIONS FOR VISITORS

Annually, Qinling National Botanical Garden and Shaanxi Rare Animal Rescue Center attracts more than 1 million visitors, of which 300,000 are school students who undertake nature classes and expeditions. Popular attractions include:



- Seeing giant pandas. Some of the pandas generated thousands of fans.
- Seeing other global critical animal species such as crested ibis, golden monkey, and golden takin.
- Visiting 22 specialized botanical gardens.
- Experiencing public education center with multi-media and interactive systems.
- Exploring world class specimen museum.
- Enjoying ecotourism and expeditions.



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