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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Length: 3'41''

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT IN CHINA

VIDEO

W/S MOUNTAIN

TERRACED LANDSCAPE (16'')

HANGING GARDEN (18'')

GAO SHU ZHEN ON CAMERA

(17')

AUDIO

NARRATION

In 1995, the Wuliangshan Mountain in Yunnan Province, southwest China, was designated as a nature reserve. But today, its rich biodiversity continues to be threatened by human activities.

Local environmental protection bureaus are given the task of protecting endangered animals and plants. With only thirty staff, it's a challenge to enforce the bans on illegal hunting and logging, says Bureau Director, Gao Shu Zhen.

ZHEN: (in Chinese)

"It's an impossible job, especially in our area where it has a high population density: 140 people per square kilometre. To protect the forests, we need cooperation from the villagers."

NARRATION

PAN OF TERRACED LANDSCAPE (11")	There are eight hundred communities in and around the reserve. One of them is Da Xia Chang village, an isolated hamlet with two hundred people in fifty households.
HOUSE WITH PIGS & MEN SMOKING (8")	Jobs are scarce here. Villagers depend mainly on subsistence farming, hunting, and raising livestock.
PAN DOWN HOUSE TO MAN & DAUGHTER (8')	All houses are built with wood taken from the forests. Even a villager, prosperous by local standards, like He Chuan, makes very little actual cash.
W/S MAN GRINDING FEED (15")	Helped by his son, he earns about forty US dollars a month processing animal feed. His less well-off neighbours make far less. The ban on logging and hunting makes no sense to them, says villager, Bi Guang Wen.
BI GUANG WEN ON CAMERA (7")	<u>WEN:</u> (in Chinese) "You just can't tell them to stop hunting and cutting trees. It's their only livelihood."
VILLAGERS ATTENDING WORKSHOP (18")	<u>NARRATION</u> In an effort to build a rapport with villagers, workshops are organized to explain biodiversity

conservation. More importantly, the project, supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), helps them find ways to diversify and improve their livelihoods.

PAN TO VILLAGERS WORKING IN FIELD (20”)

With small grants and loans, villagers are beginning to expand cash crops like soybeans, palms, and walnuts, and to start home industries such as tea processing. To reduce pressure on the forests, the village is planning a firewood plantation and introducing biogas as a fuel.

MEN PAVING ROAD (15”)

A road is being built to improve transportation in the area. The ultimate goal of the project is to mobilize communities to manage their forests, says Kerstin Leitner, UNDP’s Resident Representative in China.

KERSTIN LEITNER ON CAMERA (17”)

LEITNER:

“That they will have agreements with the State Forestry Administration: which animals? Up to what numbers can be hunted during which part of the year? Who will give that permit? And maybe also – how many trees can be felled?”

VILLAGERS AT WORKSHOP

NARRATION

In protecting the reserve, imposing bans alone is not enough. Villagers and their communities must be involved and given a sense of ownership of the conservation programmes.

WOMAN CARRYING FIREWOOD
(16")

For generations, villagers here have survived in a delicate balance with nature. Today, many more resources, other than just nature's bounty, must be tapped in order to preserve that balance.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Patricia Chan for the United Nations.