

Global ICCA Database
Cuochi Village, South-West China

<i>A-Basic Data</i>	
Site Name (in local language and in English)	Cuochi or mtsho 'khri
Country (include State and Province)	Qumahe Township, Qumalai County, Yushu Prefecture, Qinghai Province, China
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	2440 square kilometers
GIS Coordinates (if available)	
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no)	yes, rivers and wetlands
Marine (Y or N)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Cuochi Village, consisted of No 1, 2 and 3 natural villages with 230 households, totaling 920 people.
Is the community considering itself an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	Yes. Cuochi is an entirely Tibetan village, with a complicated history, involving merging, migrating of many tribal nomadic communities in the area.
Is the community considering itself a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	No.
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes, the community uses to have a nomadic lifestyle, but was gradually converted to settled lifestyle, except some that still keeping winter rangelands.
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	their annual cash income varies but should be superior to national value, given the number of motorcycles purchased, yaks and diary products sold.
Is the CCA recognized as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognized?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	Yes. Cuochi village is entirely within the Suojia-Qumahe Core Protection Zone of the Sanjiangyuan (Three River Source) National Nature Reserve, with an average altitude of 4,400m. Since October, 2006, the management office of Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve has signed an Incentive Agreement with Cuochi Village, and gave stewardship of the 2,440 km ² to the village.

<p>Have there been any government resources on environmental protection or poverty reduction within the CCA, if yes, is there a relationship between these action and CCAs, if not, why?</p>	<p>Cuochi village is entirely within the Suojia-Qumahe Core Protection Zone of the Sanjiangyuan (Three River Source) National Nature Reserve. China's national government has designated the protected area status in 2003, but is lack of funding and human resources to manage all of this vast 150,000km² area with 18 core protection zones. The nature reserve has only a dozen staff. Realizing that local communities' role in conserving nature, the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, under facilitation of Conservation International China Program and the Snowland Great Rivers Environment Protection Association, has come to sign the first-of-its-kind agreement with Cuochi, to recognize the community contribution. Cuochi village has received many types of poverty alleviation funds, including the most recent one of setting up a solar panel, and community center building. Before the Incentive Agreement, Cuochi has not received any funding from environmental protection.</p>
<p>Conflicts with tenure, natural resource use?</p>	<p>Yes. Cuochi, as with many other communities in the region, has tenure and natural resource conflict with its surrounding communities. Most recent conflict in 2007 was poachers from another township coming in to hunt marmots.</p>
<p>What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)</p>	<p>For Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, the management objective is biodiversity, ecosystem security, and watershed protection. For Cuochi, the objectives also include cultural, spiritual and self-education.</p>
<p>By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category[1] do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)</p>	<p>between IV and VI</p>
<p><i>B-Additional qualitative information</i></p>	
<p>Main ecosystem type</p>	<p>alpine grassland, alpine wetland, steppe</p>
<p>Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA</p>	<p>Qinghai-Tibet Plateau alpine grassland and wetland ecosystem. All typical Qinghai-Tibet Plateau wildlife species, including Tibetan antelope, Tibetan gazelles, wild yak, Tibetan wild ass, etc. Head water of Yangtze, many tributaries of two of the three biggest headwater rivers, Tongtian and Chuma'er - water tower of China.</p>
<p>Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken</p>	<p>Tibetan. Khampa Tibetan dialect with some Amdo influence.</p>
<p>historical context of the CCA</p>	<p>Because of Cuochi's complicated history, it doesn't have the traditional demarcation of sacred landscape, as is the case for many other villages in the region. However, because of its close tie with the Snowland Great Rivers Association, Cuochi established a 'Friend of Wild Yak' (FWY) village patrol team in October 2004. FWY now has a member of 50 and is actively organizing patrolling, monitoring of wildlife, and education to the community members on their legal rights and responsibilities.</p>

<p>Governance structure for the CCA (who takes management decisions, how?)</p>	<p>The Cuochi CCA is managed by the village, represented by the Village Committee. The head of the committee is nominated by the villagers, and the committee head appoints the members. Party secretary is assigned by the government and is part of the committee. Both the village head and party secretary have been serving the community for many years, and are well respected. Friends of Wild Yak members are selected on voluntary basis, and the head of FWY happens to be the village head.</p>
<p>The concerned area and natural resources may or may not be physically demarcated but are perceived and treated as “different” from the surrounding landscape or seascape. Who decided that they are so?</p>	<p>Geographical barrier and historical reasons demarcates Cuochi boundary from other communities surround it, including Tongtian River in the south segregating Suojia Township, Jialong River to the west, Lema and Tongtian Rivers to the east and Lema River to the north.</p>
<p>The concerned area and natural resources are managed according to a set of <i>rules</i> that may or may not be immutable, exist in written form or be fully respected by all, but are broadly known at least locally. Who established those rules?</p>	<p>There were established rules but not in written forms. The formal agreement signed with the Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve is seen as the written form of such rules. These rules are negotiated between the reserve and the community, and facilitated by Conservation International and Snowland Great Rivers.</p>
<p>In fact, the concerned area and natural resources may be managed according to a main <i>objective</i> (preservation of a sacred feature, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of a resource, etc.) Who decided about that objective?</p>	<p>The objective is also a result of negotiation. The community is most concerned with certain wildlife, such as wild yak, as it brings new genes to the domestic yak population, or white-lipped deer, as it's a religious symbol. The nature reserve is more concerned with Tibetan antelope (conservation value and poaching threats) and birds (bird flu risk). Thus such objectives are discussed in a participatory manner within the community, and then negotiated with the nature reserve, and facilitated by third parties.</p>
<p>The concerned area and natural resources need <i>on going</i> management decisions. Who takes those decisions?</p>	<p>Village committee and Friends of Wild Yak. With the Incentive Agreement with the nature reserve and third party facilitators, they will also be consulted now when such decisions are needed.</p>
<p>If a given “body” takes those decisions, who decided the structure of that body?</p>	<p>(same with discussion with CCA decision making question)</p>
<p>Who decided the <i>composition</i> of that “body”?</p>	<p>(same with discussion with CCA decision making question)</p>
<p>If decisions are taken by an individual, who appointed and supports her/him?</p>	<p>(same with discussion with CCA decision making question)</p>
<p>To whom is the “body” or the person who takes management decisions directly accountable?</p>	<p>The result of CCA management is communicated periodically, in the form of public exhibition, to the villagers. Also same with discussion with CCA decision making question.</p>
<p>Who enforces management decisions regarding the area and natural resources?</p>	<p>According to the Incentive Agreement, a guideline on natural resource management for Cuochi will be drafted, as a result of participatory discussion among villagers. The village will be the de facto management decision maker, but the nature reserve, their superior (township of Qumahe) and other third party (CI and Snowland Great Rivers) will be consulted.</p>
<p>Who carries out some forms of surveillance, monitors the concerned area and resources and is generally aware of their status and potential problems?</p>	<p>Friends of Wild Yaks organizes four patrols every year, each lasts for five days, in the designated 17 zones in the village. Each of the three responsible teams will be in charge of such patrolling. In addition, some key areas will be monitored for any danger from outside, such as poaching.</p>

Who is crucially concerned with the area and resources and demonstrates a strong will to preserve it when facing potentially destructive change?	The villagers are. They have listed an ongoing mine as a major threat that they want to keep out. Road construction and poaching are also listed by the villagers as threats.
Length of time the governance model has been in place	Friends of Wild Yaks has been in place since 2004. The community governance model has been in place for much longer.
Characteristics of the use and management of natural resources in terms of kinds and estimated quantity and other features in the CCAs, such as fuel wood, wild mushroom, herbs, livestock ranging, etc.	This will be specified in the guideline of natural resource use for Cuochi. Characteristics for Cuochi have to do mostly with rangeland management, conflict with wildlife and dealing with outside threats such as poaching.
Land and resource ownership in the CCA, both in terms of de jure and de facto and pls specify if there is difference.	all land in China belong to the government. According to the Grassland Law, each herder family is entitled to a 50 year ownership of their rangeland.
Type of land use in the CCA	rangeland within the fences, rangeland outside of fences, sacred mountains and lakes
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	Orals rules exist, and a written rule is due to come out before end of 2007.
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	Yes, attached.
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	Yes, attached.
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Threats to biodiversity - degradation of grassland, conflict between livestock and wildlife, road construction, mining, railway, poaching, climate change. Threats to CCA governance - legal rights, relation with nature reserve and common objectives, limited involvement by villagers, tourism.
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	1985 - snow storm that significantly changed quality of grassland, number of livestock and wild animals; Gama - head of village, signed Incentive Agreement on behalf of Cuochi; Jiayi - party secretary of Cuochi; Zhaduo (Haxi.Zhaxiduojie) - head of Snowland Great Rivers, lived many years in Cuochi, a main player in Cuochi;