Tradition- and Faith-based Conservation in China
--- towards a more sustainable future

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@Developing your Faith Long-term Plan: Wisdom
About China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation

- In 1985, the Marquis of Tavistock (12th Duke of Bedford) sponsored the return of Milu Deers to China.
- CBCGDF was established to receive the endangered species.
- Tradition- and Faith-based conservation is part of our key areas.
Some Major Chinese Tradition- and Faith-based Wisdoms

• Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism are major philosophical traditions and religions deeply rooted in Chinese culture.

• Over the past thousands of years, they have significantly shaped the Chinese languages, value and culture.

• Today, traditional wisdoms are quietly leading the revival of environmental protection activities with Chinese characteristics.
Taoism: China's indigenous religion

--- Follow the nature, balance between Yin/Yang, Anti-consumerism, Coexistence of all-life

- Key texts: Dao de Jing, Taiping Jing etc.
- Three sticks of incense movement: criticism on consumerism
- Taoist Ecology Temple (生态道观)
- Daoist Ecological Protection Network
Buddhism Wisdom & Environmental Awareness Promotion
Calling People to Stop Inappropriate Commercialised Mercy-release and Illegal Wildlife Trade
deforestation

sustainable consumption

drought & water

food, endangered species & climate change

Dr Bradnee Chambers, UN Convention on Migratory Species, addressing the ceremony

industrialization, pollution & environment
Laudato Si and its inspiration
• Ancient Chinese believed that gentlemen are harmonious yet different/independent.

• Respect, Inclusiveness, Harmonious and Independence are virtues highly advocated by Chinese traditional wisdom.

The rubbings of the inscribed Popular Stele of Nestorianism in China of Tang Da Qin Dynasty (in 781)
CASE#1: Community Conservation Areas for Sacred Hills at Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, by CBCGDF-CCAfa

"Longshan" is a seasonal rain forest protected by the traditional religious beliefs and local regulations of the Dai people in Xishuangbanna, with a single area ranging from 1.0 ha to 10 ha. Such highly biodiverse forests hardly belong to any of today's nature reserves.

Believing tradition- and faith-based conservation is a very important part to biodiversity, the CBCGDF supports those small traditional tribes via an OECMs approach - Community Conservation Areas.
CASE#2: Community Conservation Areas for Eastern Black-crested Gibbons at Wuliang Mountain, by CBCGDF-CCAfa

Aduo, an indigenous female leader whose tribe has been warriors to local ecology for 1000+ years in a Yunnan mountain, uses her beautiful songs to aware people about a harmonious co-existence between human and nature.

Her family safeguards a critically endangered Gibbon species in Wuliang Mountain.
Trend: Revival of Traditional Culture in China

“Chinese traditional culture is broad and profound. Learning and mastering the essence of traditional thoughts is very beneficial to establish one’s worldview, philosophy and values.”

---- Xi Jinping, Chinese President
Trend: Revival of Traditional Culture in China
- Celebrations of Chinese traditional festivals

除夕 (New year's Eve)
春节 (Lumar Spring Festival)
清明节 (Tomb-sweeping Festival)
端午节 (The Dragon Boat Festival)
中秋节 (Mid-Autumn Festival)
七夕节 (Qixi Festival)
重阳节 (Double Ninth Festival)

From 2008, China officially announced that several traditional festivals will be set as legal holidays.

Chinese Valentine’s Day (七夕节 Qīxī Jié) is celebrated on the 7th day of the 7th month of the Chinese lunar calendar.

• “着力引导青少年学生正确处理个人与他人、个人与社会、个人与自然的关系，学会心存善念、理解他人、尊老爱幼、扶残济困、关心社会、尊重自然，培育集体主义精神和生态文明意识，形成乐于奉献、热心公益慈善的良好风尚，培养青少年学生做高素养、讲文明、有爱心的中国人。”

• [A PRINCIPLE] • Efforts should be made to guide young students to correctly handle the relationship between themselves and others, between themselves and society, and between themselves and nature. They should learn to be kind, understand others, respect the old and the young, help the disabled, care for the society, and respect nature. They should cultivate the spirit of collectivism and the awareness of ecological civilization, form a good fashion of being willing to contribute and enthusiastic about public welfare and charity, and cultivate young students to be high-quality and civilized & loving Chinese nationals.
Since 2017, the proportion of ancient poetry and text has been greatly increased (+80%) in Chinese Textbooks in primary and middle schools in China, and the traditional cultural literacy has been emphasized. It means if a student wants to be admitted to a good university, he has to read a wide range of traditional classics.
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