

Organizational Profiles

Conservation International

Conservation International (CI) is an international, nonprofit organization based in Arlington, VA. CI believes that the Earth's natural heritage must be maintained if future generations are to thrive spiritually, culturally and economically. Our mission is to conserve the Earth's living heritage, our global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature.

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Conservation International – China Program

CI has been working in China since 2002 and in 2003 opened offices in Chengdu and Yunnan in the Southwest China Mountains Hotspot (Sichuan province), which is adjacent to the eastern end of the Eastern Himalayan Hotspot, and stretches over 800,000 km² of temperate to alpine mountains. The focus of CI's conservation efforts in this hotspot include building local conservation capacity, protecting the Tibetan sacred landscape, training managers from 40 newly established nature reserves to improve effectiveness of these protected areas, working with local NGO partners to address wildlife consumption and trade, integrating biodiversity principles into government-invested forest regeneration programs, and coordinating CEPF investments in the area.

In the Southwest China Mountains Hotspot, CI has initiated the Sacred Lands project, with the goal of conserving the unique biodiversity of the Southwest China Mountains by revitalizing resource management systems in the traditional Tibetan sacred lands and encouraging an associated sustainable lifestyle in Chinese society. The project involves mapping of sacred sites, assessing their biodiversity values, documenting and gathering indigenous knowledge, reviving Tibetan cultural and traditional practices of sacred lands management, and promoting the legal recognition of sacred lands management as a community-based land management and protection mechanism. CI-China is working with many Tibetan partners on this project, many of which are local grassroots Tibetan NGOs, including Green Khampa, which was recently established with support from CI-China. For more information on CI-China's activities in the region see

http://www.conservation.org/xp/CIWEB/regions/asia_pacific/china/china.xml.