

**Conservation Outcomes Mountains of Southwest China** 

Key Biodiversity Area (extent, geographic extent unavailable)

(extent, geographic extent unavailable)

Theduo Shan Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site (extent, geographic extent unavailable)

NR Nature Reserve <sup>†</sup> Key Biodiversity Areas are targets for achieving site-level conservation outcomes. CEPF funding is not available for marine conservation.

candidate Key Biodiversity Areas are research priorities

The political and geographic designations shown on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on behalf of CEPF or any of its partners concerning the legal status or deliniation of the frontiers of any country, territory or area.

scale: 1/1,525,000

town

country border

projection: Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal

protected area

central meridian: 98.5° east longitude standard parallels: 29° north latitude

(national capitals underlined)

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal of CEPF is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

Center for Applied Biodiversity Science at Conservation International, Arlington, VA USA Chinese Academy of Science (the Institute of Zoology and

Global Shoreline Database, January 2001, Veridian (GDAIS)

VMap0, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

The CEPF Niche for Investment The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Conservation International (CI) use "conservation outcomes" as the scientific underpinning for focusing conservation investment geographically and thematically These outcomes comprise the effective conservation of a set of species, sites, and broader-scale corridors (landscapes or seascapes) that is essential for preventing biodiversity loss. Identifying targets for achieving these conservation outcomes ensures that

matrix of land types required to conserve broadscale ecological processes and to meet the needs of area-demanding species (those that are wide-ranging, migratory, or found in low densities). A subset of the globally threatened species found in Southwest China were identified as requiring action at the broader landscape scale, either because they were area demanding, or because they were vulnerable to changes in hydrological processes. Area requirements for the Giant Panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca, EN) and the Black Snub-Nosed Monkey (*Rhinopithecus bieti*, EN) were mapped to inform decision makers in better managing areas currently not under legal protection. Work on the identification of targets and actions at the landscape scale will continue to be refined as data become available.

Since resources for biodiversity conservation are limited, there is a need to further prioritize among these targets. At the species level, prioritization should identify the most highly threatened species requiring urgent speciesspecific conservation action. At the site level, KBAs can be prioritized according to their irreplaceability and vulnerability. At the top of the list are sites identified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) (www.zeroextinction.org), where species are facing imminent extinction. AZE sites contain 95 percent or more of the global population of one or more Critically Endangered or Endangered species. A total of seven AZE sites have been identified in Southwest China (highlighted on the map in red)

Donors, governments, and nongovernmental organizations must safeguard biodiversity in Southwest China through a range of conservation activities. A few globally threatened species will require species-specific action, such as disease mitigation or controlling invasive species. Most investment, however, will need to be at the site level, to safeguard the habitats in which threatened species are found. Safeguarding a KBA may involve declaring a new protected area, expanding or strengthening management in an existing protected area, initiating community-based conservation and resource management, promoting ecotourism, or a number of other initiatives. At the landscape level, conservation will include fostering land uses that maintain key ecosystem processes and that are compatible with the needs of areademanding species (for instance, agroforestry).

CEPF's niche for investment in Southwest China has been to foster the growth and development of local and regional civil society organizations. By engaging NGOs, research institutions, universities, community groups, the private sector, and individuals, CEPF hopes to generate momentum for biodiversity conservation. Specific strategic directions and investment priorities identified by CEPF can be found in the Mountains of Southwest China Ecosystem Profile (www.cepf.net).

With dramatic variations in climate and topography, the Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot is one of the most biologically rich areas on earth. However, the spectacular endemic species of the region are succumbing to intense pressure from wildlife trade, and from development activities such as dam construction, overgrazing, and firewood collection. Targeted conservation investment is urgently needed to combat these threats.

For more information, please refer to www.cepf.net, www.conservation.org, www.biodiversityhotspots.org, www.redlist.org, www.birdlife.org, and www.zeroextinction.org

