

Biodiversity Restoration in Lake Dianchi, Yunnan, China - Involvement of Buddhist Believers

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WORLD BANK



Biological Interest of the Lake Dianchi Basin

Fishes

- 64 species recorded
- 28 indigenous species
- 12 endemic species
- 8 IUCN threatened species

Molluscs: 82 species

- Snails 62 species
- Mussels 20 species

Macrophytes: 68 species

Dianchi: challenge & response

- ❖ Water quality declining
- ❖ Introduction of alien species, e.g. 31 alien fish species for commercial purposes
- ❖ Loss of habitats: littoral zones converted into rice fields
- ❖ Over-fishing
- ❖ Construction of perimeter dyke
- ❖ Industry and agricultural pollution



Lake Dianchi Freshwater Biodiversity Restoration Project

- ❖ World Bank/GEF, \$1 million, 2003-8
- ❖ Executed by the Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences



Potential Contributions of Buddhism to Biodiversity

- Despise killing
- Eulogizes saving creatures
- Vegetarianism

Under the protection from Buddhist believers, endemic animals could survive in the adjacent 'dragon springs', which are always surrounded by Buddhist Temples



Traditional Buddhist Life-releasing Ceremonies for Merit

Buddhism tenets emphasize the equality of each creature regardless of its size.

There is no definition of invasive species and native species

Accidentally, invasive species golden apple snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*) and red-slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta*) have been released to the Dianchi Basin by Buddhist believers.

red-slider turtle
(*Trachemys scripta*)





- Cooperation in compiling and disseminating leaflets
- Cooperation in compiling and disseminating publishing book
- Cooperation in arranging for lectures on biodiversity

佛教与生物多样性保护 Buddhism and Biodiversity Conservation

在滇池流域众多的石窟寺中，西山龙门石窟寺，为滇南地区佛教石窟寺之冠。在其它地方的物种日益减少的同时，这里却保留着许多珍稀物种的栖息地。从佛教上说，昆明西山龙门石窟寺，是滇南地区佛教石窟寺之冠。从佛教上说，昆明西山龙门石窟寺，是滇南地区佛教石窟寺之冠。从佛教上说，昆明西山龙门石窟寺，是滇南地区佛教石窟寺之冠。



西山龙门石窟寺



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西山龙门石窟寺

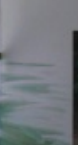
千年古寺青莲院



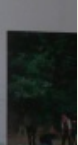
西山龙门石窟寺



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西山龙门石窟寺

全球环境基金(GEF)/世界银行赠款项目 滇池淡水生物多样性恢复项目 研究基地



全球环境基金GEF/世界银行
中国科学院昆明动物研究所
云南省财政厅
昆明市滇池管理局综合执法局
昆明市滇池流域管理处
昆明市环境科学研究所
西山风景名胜区管理委员会

地址：昆明市滇池管理局综合执法局第二执法中队

Buddhism and Biodiversity Conservation

- ❖ Yunnan Provincial Buddhist Association
- ❖ Kunming Municipality Buddhist Association
- ❖ Buddhist Jushilin (A Buddhist Community)
- ❖ More than 20 lay Buddhists and scholars contributed to the book and senior monks provided forewords and blurb

