

IES ANNUAL REPORT:
Enhancing China's Capacity for Carbon Sequestration: Year Three Update

An early key event of the year 3 was the project symposium "Enhancing China's Capacity for Carbon Sequestration: Progress and Prospects" that took place from June 20th to 24th, 2004 in China's Changbai Mountain Natural Reserve. The workshop was attended by 47 searchers from Canada and China; representatives from various Chinese governmental agencies and from CIDA. AT this meeting all components of the project were reviewed, gaps identified and links among the components strengthened. The workshop also arranged logistics for fieldwork in 2004 and data transfers between project participants.

During 2004, work at the component level progressed satisfactorily. **The GIS/Remote sensing component** was able to complete most (except for Dunhua County) of the outstanding work including national moderate remote sensing image processing; high resolution remote sensing image processing for most of the field sites and all GIS Core Sites, and, preparation of all datasets needed for national scale NBP modeling. Work at Dunhua County lags behind the other core sites because it was newly added to meet additional needs for IA in the Changbaishan area.

Forest Assessment and Ground Truthing. The field study for LAI and NPP at Liping and Dunhua was completed during the year as were the forest resource use patterns and the tree species growing naturally. Data for the evaluation of potential forest practices for carbon sequestration maximization have been analyzed during 2005.

Integrated assessment. Work in this component had progresses steadily. Stakeholders and local experts have been identified in each Core Site and meetings have occurred with Component 1 and 2 members, respectively to design possible carbon sequestration strategies and plans. The initial framework for a sustainability system has been finalized and data on women's forest use has all been collected in the three core sites and Dunhua.

Land Use Policy and Planning. Following the Changaishan symposium, an important JPS committee was held in Beijing. Arising from that meeting was the suggestion that relevant Chinese governmental agencies become better acquainted with the CIDA Carbon Sequestration work in China and actively involved in promulgating its models and findings throughout China to ensure a greater measure of sustainability. To this end, it was decided to seek advice from the project's Chinese counterparts about which would be the most appropriate "Institutional Home" to achieve the latter objectives. In November the China State Forestry Administration agreed to be the project's institutional home.

A project milestone. *The Toronto Carbon Policy Forum* was held at the Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Toronto, May 2-6, 2005. This event provided a forum for 45 leading Chinese and Canadian experts and policy makers to discuss carbon sequestration methods and their implications for policies related to the Kyoto Protocol. The conference reviewed the carbon sequestration models produced by this Canada-China collaborative project, the project findings to date, their relevance to Chinese methods and its implications for Canadian policies. A preliminary outline of the project's Decision Support Tool (DST) to be used by the Institutional Home to propagate the project's methods and models throughout China has been designed and was presented and approved at this Toronto Policy Forum.

This environmental policy forum is an important state in the Collaborative CIDA funded climate change project. The next critically important stage, is to involve senior government officials in China, to maximize the potential for actual incorporation of the results into public policy. This Policy Forum was the first stage, and it was designed to give senior officials from the project and from the Chinese state authorities the opportunity to discuss the project, and to meet people in Canada who have been active in our carbon programs, from both the science and policy spheres. It was also valuable for Canadian environmental professionals to meet with colleagues from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the State Forestry Administration, as well as Canadian colleagues from different organizations in the environmental field. (See conference program and all presentations on the project website under “News & Events”.)

A significant contribution to the carbon sequestration literature will be made when, in December, a special issue of the Journal of Environmental Management will be devoted to research produced by the project. (See the Project Website under “Publications”.)