

# Supported Management Reform and Eco-Security Study of Economic Development – National Parks System

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An idyllic scene from Pudacuo National Park in China's Yunnan Shangri-La – 2015 GEI

China's immense size and varying climate make its environment incredibly diverse and unique. Recently, **leaders have been eager to utilize the environment's economic value by developing of a national parks system.**

Looking to the United States' National Park System, renowned for its established history and good management, Chinese officials have proposed adopting the American model to China's wilderness along with developing ecotourism sites.

GEI researchers, however, found this model of adaptation matched with ecotourism concerning both in terms of environmental protection as well as sources of funding.

In 2015, we researched the history and development of the US park system.

Our aim was to conduct a comparative analysis between the American protection methods and Chinese context that would answer:

*Is the American parks system suitable to the Chinese national ecological system?*

In October 2015, GEI invited **Debbie Seligsohn**, an expert on American National Parks, to help us research American National Park system, policy and community economic development.

For about a week in October, GEI and Ms Seligsohn traveled to Pudacuo National Park, in Yunnan's Shangri-La to discuss the park's management, development, finances and operation with Shangri-La Botanical Garden Director, Mr. Fang Zhendong, and director of Pudacuo National Park Authority, Mr. Bao.

After all research had been gathered, **GEI invited experts, academics, research institutions and NGOs working on national parks to hear and discuss GEI's results of the comparative study.** These institutions discussed the development status and trends of the National Park System in China.

**FINDINGS:** Currently, GEI's project is still in its infancy but the main report, "**Comparative Study of American and Chinese National Parks**" has been submitted. We believe that the system, to be effective, **must seriously involve Chinese characteristics to suit the environment and local people in the affected regions.**

GEI trusts that as the project is further implemented, the study will help China's national park system develop in the most sustainable and suitable way for China.

## GEI'S EXPERTISE ON CHINA'S NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM

Since 2015, GEI has been developing a series of models and tools for ecological protection in regions including Sichuan, Tibet, Qinghai, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia; which are the proposed areas for China's park system. In 2014, GEI's developed the "Study of China's Ecological Security Reform and Eco-Services Based Economy Development," which we are consistently improving.