

ANSO Highlight is to share the new ideas, methodologies, datasets and technologies of sustainability research by summarizing the latest progress and achievements of scientific projects funded by ANSO and ANSO partners. Through this publication, we would like to stimulate active collaboration and communication among ANSO members and partners.

Research on Ecological Security Assessment and Countermeasures along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor in the Belt and Road Region

Summary

Research on Ecological Security Assessment and Countermeasures along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor (CMRC) in the Belt and Road Region is a joint cooperative research project launched by the ANSO in January 2020. The project is led and funded by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS), cooperating with the Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOZ/ CAS), International Alliance of Protected Areas (IAPA) and its related protected area member organizations (including China, Russia, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan) and relevant institutions of the Russian, Mongolian, and Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences.

Period: January 1, 2020-December 31, 2022 PI: ZHANG Zhibin Contact: xieyan@ioz.ac.cn Investigation and Monitoring of Agricultural and Forestry Pests in the Interior of Central Asia

December

2021

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Summary

"Investigation and monitoring of agricultural and forestry pests in the interior of Central Asia" is a joint cooperative research project launched by the ANSO in January 2020. The project is led by the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, cooperating with Xinjiang Normal University and relevant institutions of the Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan Academy of Sciences and Ministry of agriculture and environmental protection of Turkmenistan.

Period: January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022 PI: QIAO Gexia Contact: chenj@ioz.ac.cn

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Research on Ecological Security Assessment and Countermeasures along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor in the Belt and Road Region

Objectives

The CMRC Project is to carry out ecological monitoring and biosafety assessment research along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor in the Belt and Road (B&R) region. It aims to provide the scientific basis for ecological environment protection and cooperation of countries and regions in the B&R. It will improve local ecological monitoring capabilities, promote the development philosophy and spirit of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and encouraging B&R green development.

Research Contents

The project will complete the collection of historical information and survey the status of large mammals, birds, small mammals and their relevant diseases in key areas of the CMRC, establish the ecological baseline information database, develop the ecological monitoring standards and assessment system of the CMRC, analyze the potential impact of major B&R projects on its ecological environment and ecological risks, and propose ecological conservation and risk prevention countermeasures and recommendations.


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Project Site: China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor of BRI

China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor



Main Progress

Established a preliminary ecological security cooperation network along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor. There are 64 protected areas (PAs), and 12 scientific research institutions are included in the network, which strengthened the communication among trans-boundary PAs.

Held five international workshops and training meetings to promote communication, cooperation and related monitoring technology sharing among the countries.

Established preliminary ecological baseline databases of the CMRC region, collected relevant information on the project area, especially the temporal and spatial data of 25 key species, and provided the basis for compiling the Ecological, Social and Development Report of the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor.

Carried out a field survey in Inner Mongolia and surrounding grasslands for animal species distributed along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor. These works have provided a large amount of first-hand information.

Compiled three reports with recommendations on three aspects along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor: ecological security, trans-boundary cooperation among PAs, and biological disaster prevention and control.

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Highlights

Established a regional ecological information database of the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor, compiled recommendation reports on ecological security to promote trans-boundary conservation and biological disaster prevention and control.

A symposium on the theme of Research on Ecological Security Assessment and Countermeasures along the China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor in the Belt and Road Region was held on 20 September 2020 in Changbai Mountain with over 190 onsite and over 100 online participants. The symposium promoted the implementation of the CMRC project.

Future Plans

Establish and improve an ecological monitoring system, formulate a specification of cooperation in ecological monitoring, and establish monitoring capacity.

Continue to promote exchanges and cooperation among transnational nature reserves and hold international symposiums and training meetings.

Carry out data collection, develop transnational field work, establish basic database of ecological information of the CMRC region.

Submit suggestions of ecological security and risk prevention to government departments of the four countries (China, Russia, Mongolia and Kazakhstan).

Publication

Article: From ecological barrier to biosafety --Taking the cross-border cooperation between China, Mongolia and Russia as an example. ZHANG Zhibin, XIE Yan. Man and biosphere, 2021 (127) 67-71.

ANSO Innovation Development Report. XIE Yan, JIANG Guangshun, ZHANG Lixun, BI Junhuai, LI Weidong, LIU Songtao. Countermeasures and Recommendations for Transboundary Cooperation on Protected Areas along Northern Border of China. The B&R Innovative Development Report. Beijing: Science Press of China, 2021, 201-208.



Consultation report: Implementation plan for the construction project of Balhu Gazelle Autonomous Region Nature Reserve in Inner Mongolia. BI Junhuai.

Consultation report: Inner Mongolia Plague Gerbils Epidemic Analysis Report. JU Cheng, WAN Xinru, ZHANG Zhibin.



ANSO project meetings



Photos of field work in Inner Mongolia



trans-boundary conservation and biological disaster prevention and control

information database





Principal Investigator

ZHANG Zhibin, Professor

ZHANG Zhibin is a Professor from the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). He obtained the B.S. degree of Zoology in the Lanzhou University in 1984, and the Ph.D degree of Animal Ecology, CAS in 1989. He was elected as the foreign member of Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in 2014, and member of Academy of Europe (Academia Europaea) in 2017. He is now the President of International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and Editor-in-Chief of Integrative Zoology.

His research interests focus on studying impacts of global change on population and community dynamics of animals and their interactions with plants and microbes by integrating the ecological studies from local to global scale, and from monotonic to non-monotonic regimes.

Investigation and Monitoring of Agricultural and Forestry Pests in the Interior of Central Asia

Objectives

As an important region of the Belt and Road Initiative, Central Asia has a very close relationship with China. The biota is both similar to and different from that of China, which has a significant impact on our country's neighboring biosafety and foreign economic and trade cooperation. Relying on the Belt and Road Animal Resources and Sustainable Utilization Alliance, this project aims to organize a targeted survey of agricultural and forestry pest resources, to determine the composition and fauna of agricultural and forestry pests in the hinterland of Central Asia, and to develop a database of agricultural and forestry pests in this area. The project will also build a rapid species identification platform based on DNA barcode technology, as well as a monitoring network for important pests. The project aims further to export targeted "green" prevention and control equipment and products, to organize relevant professional knowledge and special technical training meetings to encourage young scientists and technology teams dedicated to the monitoring and prevention of pests in agriculture and forestry, and to attract leading scholars to China for exchange visits and cooperative research. in order to build a cooperative research network for monitoring agricultural and forestry pest in Central Asian.

Methodology

We conduct pest resources surveys in partner countries, collect specimens and integrate sample information, establish a Central Asian agricultural and forestry pest database and a DNA barcode standard sequence library to achieve rapid identification of species; build up a pest monitoring network to provide a basis for formulating control strategies. The Chinese side will provide green prevention and control technologies and comprehensive management optimization measures for partner countries, and conduct professional technical training, academic exchanges and personnel training in various fields, such as specimen collection, species identification, and pest monitoring methods.





Main progress

Through a field survey of agricultural pest resources, more than 12,000 specimens of various agricultural pests have been collected; 17,000 specimens have been systematically sorted, and 1,680 DNA barcode sequences of more than 160 pest species have been obtained. The Central Asia Agriculture Pest specimen library, the basic database of pest species of the Belt and Road Region and the rapid identification platform of DNA barcode have been initially established. The Chinese and English versions of the e-book "Agricultural Pests in the B&R Region in Central and East Asia" has been compiled. A monitoring network composed of equipment and products based on the suction tower, entomological radar, sex attractants, etc. has been built, and part of the monitoring data has become an important basis for forecasting, field prevention and control of cross-border migratory locusts on the border between China and Kazakhstan. Operating procedures for monitoring, prevention and control equipment have been provided for three major pests for organic vegetables, greenhouse crops, and fruit trees, as well as lists and instructions for the three major categories of green prevention and control products. A Chinese-English bilingual agricultural pest information platform (Insect Pest Information Platform, http://www.insectpestip.net) was built. Information on the management of 406 species of pest in 83 families and 8 orders can be accessed at any time. Training services have been provided on the use of green prevention and control products and equipment, as well as corresponding English standards and operating instructions for cooperating countries.



Highlights

More than 12,000 new specimens of various agricultural pests were collected; 17,000 specimens were systematically sorted, and 1,680 DNA barcode sequences of more than 160 pests were obtained; a specimen library of agricultural pests in Central Asia, a basic species database, and a rapid identification platform of DNA barcodes were established; and "Agricultural Insect Information Platform" in both Chinese and English has been built, providing information on 406 species of agricultural pests distributed in the Belt and Road of Central and Eastern Asia: 3 sets of integrated technologies for the prevention and monitoring of organic vegetables, greenhouse crops, and fruit tree pests and 4 green technology operating procedures have been formed; product lists and instructions for use have been developed; training has been provided for young scientists in partner countries, of whom currently 7 students are studying in China.

Future Plan

We plan to guide collaborators to carry out online resource survey specimen sorting and identification remotely in their own country; to continue to obtain important pest DNA barcode sequences, and further to improve the rapid identification system; to improve the monitoring system for migratory insects based on suction trap and insect radar; and to carry out timely biological control of important lepidopteran pests in the experimental bases selected by the partner countries based on the monitoring results of sex attractants. We also will continue to instruct foreign students from the partner countries to carry out scientific research and training, particularly for young technical scientists for foreign countries mainly through online methods. Agricultural Insect





Publication and IP

Book:

CY Jiang, RZ Zhang. 2020. Insects and spiders in Uzbekistan. Wuhan: Hubei Science and Technology Press. 2020139834 978-7-5352-9555-2

E-Book: (Chinese and English bilingual) Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University. 2021. Agricultural insect pests in the Belt and Road areas in East-Central Asia.

J Chen, ZX Li, LY Jiang, GX Qiao*. 2021. *Glyphochaitophorus*, a new genus of Chaitophorinae (Hemiptera: Aphididae) from China. Zootaxa, 4975(3): 581-591.

TY Liu, J Chen, * LY Jiang, GX Qiao*. 2020. Phylogeny and species reassessment of Hyalopterus (Aphididae, Aphidinae). Zool. Scripta, 49: 755-767.

P He, J Chen, HZ Kong, L Cai, GX Qiao*. 2021. Important supporting role of biological specimen in biodiversity conservation and research. Bulletin of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, 36(4): 425-435. Invention patent:

A method for counting insect granuloviruses, 2020, ZL201810390398.2, applicants: H Zhang, QL Qin, L Miao, Q Meng, X Li , JH Zhang, GL Zhou, HT Wang, FF Fang, ZQ Feng, XZ Chen.

Invention patent: (applied)

Detection method and Kit for Microsporidium locust by real-time quantitative PCR, 2020, Xinjiang: CN106967834A, special applicants: HX Hu, R Ji, H Wang, TS Fan, F Yu, XH Duan.

Utility model patent:

A wind-suction trap for trapping small pests, 2020, ZL201922158911.8, applicants: JH Zhang, L Miao, HY Li, QL Qin, HT Wang, H Zhang, X Li, GL Zhou, Q Meng.

Software copyright:

DNA barcoding local visualization comparison system V1.0, 2020, 2020SR1920278, applicant: XC Zhu.







Figure 1 Monograph, Electric Book and Information Platform





Insect specimens from Tajikistar

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Insect specimens from Uzbekistan

Figure 2 Insect specimens after sorting and preparing (partial)



Insect trap lamps in the China-Kazakhstan border area

Figure 4 Monitoring equipments in the field











Figure 3 Surveys in the field and preparing the specimens





Principal Investigator

QIAO Ge-Xia, Professor

Prof. QIAO engages in evolution and ecology of biological diversity and complexity of biological interactions of aphids and other organisms, as well as ecology and control of aphid pests, and focuses on the collection and management of animal specimen resources. She leads teams in Central Asia and Northeast Asia to survey pests in agriculture and forestry, build pest monitoring networks, provide biological control technologies, and conduct technical training for young talents. She is a Committee Member of the Association of Asia-Pacific Entomological Society, Member of Major Systematic Entomology Facilities, President of the 9th International Symposium on Aphids, and Standing Member of The Entomological Society of China, etc. Her awards include National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, National Outstanding Scientific and Technological Workers, Top Ten Outstanding Women Award of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Zhou Yao Entomological Taxonomy Fund Award (first prize) etc.

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