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The Eco-integrity and grassland management — the lessons from biodiversity conservation & community development in IMAR , China

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Introduction The Sino-Canada Biodiversity Conservation & Community Development Project completed in 2005 and it focused on the effective biodiversity conservation in IMAR China by integrating the local community development , and the Eco-Integrity approach is one of the key principles and concept in this project . Three pilot natural reserves , Dalai lake , Dalinor and West Erdos natural reserve developed the specific Eco-Integrity Statement about their own natural reserve as the perfect model of ecosystem in the region , which illustrated the land using (local livelihoods strategy) , the key factors and their linkage among of these in the ecosystem , as well as the key process of evolvement , the threaten to the ecosystem , and the impacts of human being .

Methodologies The participatory approaches have been applied in this process for local institutional capacity building for more effective biodiversity conservation which integrated the community development so that local partners especially the natural reserve authorities , local government and communities taking more key roles in this process , as well as the actions subsequently .

Results All three pilot natural reserves developed the Eco-Integrity Statement based on the socio-economic survey in participatory ways especially PRA , and the Eco-Integrity Statement has been the perfect model of ecosystem in the region especially the vision of natural reserve management planning so that the natural reserve management plans are more specific , measurable , reliable and achievable on biodiversity conservation at ecosystem level by integrating the local community development , and the cooperation with other local key stakeholders . The Eco-Integrity Statements in these three plot natural reserves also indicated that both water using (allocating) and fishing (fishery management) should be integrated into the grassland management at ecosystem level for not only the effective grassland management , but also the effective biodiversity conservation in particularly .

Conclusions Eco-Integrity Statement is a highly valuable approach on forming the visual , specific , measurable , reliable and achievable goal of biodiversity conservation at ecosystem level but integrated the local community development . The lessons in this process are more demonstrated and high potential on duplication for effective biodiversity conservation , the protected areas management , and the grassland management in China .