

TOURISM CULTURE TIMES

The great seed bank in Kunming

了不起的“种子银行”

Paper-cut: A couple's life pursuit

一对夫妻 一生剪纸

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束河古镇的好时光



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别样豆腐香



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Pu'er speeds up integration into West Yunnan grand tourist route

普洱市加快融入大滇西旅游环线

As an essential part of the grand tourist ring route in west Yunnan province, Pu'er City has strung the scenic areas, heritage sites and border sights within its jurisdiction. On the basis of its beautiful eco-environment and rich tourist resources, the city aims to contribute to the “holistic and all-for-one” initiative for Yunnan tourism development.

Focusing on expressways, airports and railways, Pu'er supplied enough land and funds to construction of the communications network. As the network keeps developing, the key scenic areas and sights are increasingly linked up like beads on a beautiful necklace.

In its efforts to be the most beautiful city in Yunnan, Pu'er speeded up construction of the Banshan hotels (a type of resort hotel) and scenic spots. By the end of this year, Pu'er will open 13 Banshan hotels in the city and become home to 18 A-level areas for sightseeing.

Rested on the “Go-Yunnan” tourist App, the city will improve its tourist

services in check-ins, tour guide, complaints, shopping refund and customized tour packages. Locations of the toilets, parking lots and charging points will be timely marked. On the “Go-Yunnan” App, the Pu'er section makes up 18% of the specialties of the province, and the Pu'er tea and coffee rank first in amounts among their peers in Yunnan.

In addition, Pu'er City has further cooperated with its neighboring localities, signing tourism cooperation agreements with Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Dehong and others. These places will share tourism resources, tourist information and complement each other, so as to jointly build up their tourist brands. It joined hands with Honghe, Xishuangbanna and Lincang, all members of the grand Yunnan tourist ring, in creating an online tourist sales and services network in south Yunnan. To expand the friend circle in the air, the city's airports of Simao and Jingmai have launched over 10 intra-provincial air routes to the surrounding cities and prefectures.

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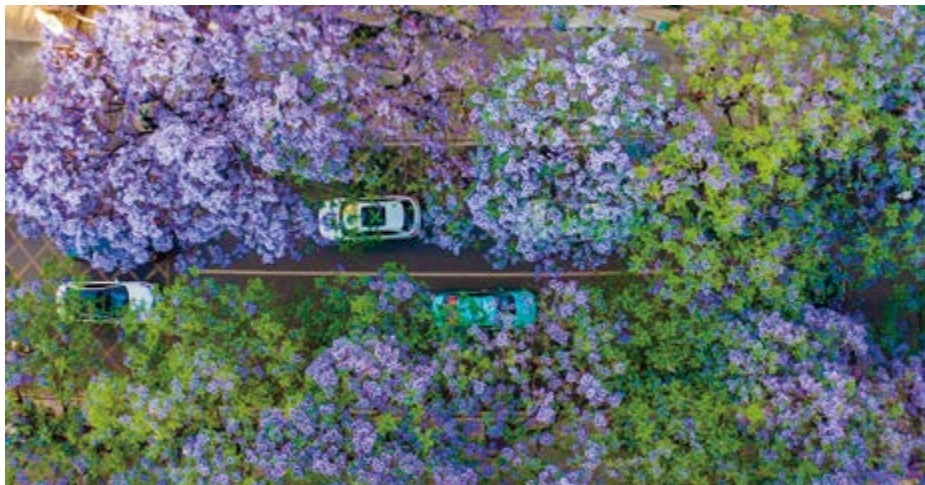
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The jacaranda trees in central Yunnan's Kunming City bloomed recently, forming several continuous purple belts and inviting in droves of sightseers.

近日，昆明市内的多处蓝花楹竞相开放，绵延成一条条紫蓝色“飘带”，吸引大量游客前来拍照留念。

The Water-Splashing Festival of the Dai people is celebrated from April 13 to 15 each year. On the precondition of strict Covid-19 prevention measures, tourists and local residents held water-sprinkling festivities in Jinghong City, south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, on April 14.

每年的4月13日至15日是傣族泼水节。4月14日，在西双版纳傣族自治州景洪市，游客在严格落实新冠肺炎疫情防控措施的基础上，与当地群众一起欢度泼水节庆祝活动。



26 ethnic groups in Yunnan vow to care for nature

云南 26 个民族为保护自然代言

Representatives of the 26 ethnic groups in Yunnan province vowed to protect the natural environment on April 22, the Earth Day.

“Care for the Dulong River jointly!” “Protect the Erhai Lake

for a thriving Dali.” Wearing ethnic costumes, the representatives made the promises in their own unique ethnic languages.

Yunnan abounds in grandeur landscapes featuring snow-capped

peaks, rushing rivers, grand valleys, peal-like lakes and dense rain forests. They are home to numerous plant and animal species. (Yunnan Daily; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue)

Sixiao highway rolls out ecological beauty

思小路：铺展最美高速公路生态画卷



In April, the fragrance of flower blossom is still spreading, and we just had a drive tour along the Simao-Xiaomengyang (Sixiao) highway that links up the Yunnan localities of Pu’er and Xishuangbanna. The highway is part of the Kunming-Bangkok highway.

A vast expanse of luxuriant and green tropical forest comes into our view all the way round, which is a feast for the eyes. Winding through the geological landform, the highway is just like a silver belt flying in the green sea, rolling out a natural painting of ecology.

“Lucid waters and lush mountains

are invaluable assets.” It is this spectacular tropical forest highway that puts the concept into practice during the process of design, construction, operation and management. With wild animals only a glimpse away, the highway is a good example for sustainable development. (Trans-editing by Mo Yingyi)

Lijiang steps up protecting Lugu Lake

丽江加强泸沽湖保护治理

Situated on the border of Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, the Lugu lake is a cross-provincial lake, whose water quality ranks at National Level 1. The lake is like a beautiful pearl shining among the hills in northwest Yunnan.

The lake is encircled with hills. The water is clean and inviting, with fish swimming in it. The forest

around is dense and the air is fresh. This is a place that is little tainted by modern industry -- the natural beauty is retained. Although tourism brings much of the income for local people, the environment was partly polluted by human activities in the past few years.

To protect the ecological environment of Lugu Lake, Lijiang

has, in recent years, reinforced a series of measures with full efforts, such as construction of lake-side belts’ ecosystem, restoration of ecological wetlands, treatment of waterways entering lake and so forth. These measures made it effective to conserve the lake environment. (Xinhua; Trans-editing by Mo Yingyi)



Wild elephants first wander into Yuanjiang

野生亚洲象首次“造访”元江



A herd of 17 wild elephants wandered into a village and foraged in villagers’ houses in Yinyuan Town of Yuanjiang Hani, Yi and Dai Autonomous County, Yunnan Province, on the night of April 16.

The elephants made some fuss by gorging on villagers’ corn, spilling it all over the road, and breaking some doors. Luckily, no one was hurt. (CGTN)

New high-altitude gecko species found in Southwest China

中国西南发现高海拔壁虎新种



Chinese researchers have discovered a new species of gecko living at high altitude in Southwest China’s provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan.

The new species, called Gekko jinjiangensis, was found at an elevation of 2,000 to 2,476 meters, the highest of any known gecko, according to an article published in the journal Asian Herpetological Research.

The species lives along the Jinsha River basin, which is situated in the mountainous region of Southwest China. The basin boasts a high degree of biodiversity but the ecosystem is fragile.

There are currently 77 species of geckos worldwide, mainly distributed in tropical and subtropical regions. China has 19 gecko species. (China Daily)

Purple pottery of Jianshui spurs industrial vitality

建水紫陶激发产业新活力

The purple pottery of southeast Yunnan's Jianshui County, which is one of the most famous potteries in China, has a special artistic charm because of its main decoration method that adopts painting and calligraphy from traditional literati.

Combined with practicability and ornamental value, the purple pottery can assume the forms of teapot, cup, basin, bowl, plate, urn, steaming pot, pipe, writing kits and other products.

In May 2005, Jianshui county listed its purple pottery as one of the two key cultural industries and started to support its development. With the guidance of policy, more and more people in Jianshui took up the traditional craftsmanship and rebuilt the prosperity of the purple pottery.

In September, 2015, the purple



pottery street opened officially. In January of 2018, the market center was built in the pottery street, which is the biggest direct-sale store in Hong he Prefecture with the area of 2,000 square meters.

In July of 2019, the region of purple pottery cultural industry

had the access to the qualification of national intellectual property demonstration zone. In September of the same year, The Light Industry Association of China entitled Jianshui the 'Capital of purple pottery'. (Xinhua; Trans-editing by Mo Yingyi and Wang Shixue)

Tie-dye textile generates jobs, income in Weishan

巍山扎染助就业促增收

During China's fight against poverty over the years, the traditional tie-dye garments made in west Yunnan's Weishan have been sold to east China's coastal areas, as well as to Japan and Korea, generating jobs and income for local villagers.

Weishan county is known as a cradle of the tie-dye craft across China, and tie-dye textile products by the Bai ethnic group feature unique making steps, fine processing and original patterns.

(Yunnan Net; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue)



Silver pheasants first photographed in Dawei mountain

屏边大围山首次拍摄到白鹇

Using infrared surveillance cameras, the management of the Pingbian national nature reserve in south Yunnan's Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture recently has, for the first time, taken some pictures of the rare silver pheasants, a bird under the second-class state protection in China.

"Inhabiting deep in the dark forests, the silver pheasant is a large bird with size differences between the male and female ones," said Yang Zepeng, assistant



engineer at the Pingbian reserve management.

Mt. Dawei is also home other rare animals and 18 plant species,

including the rare wet rainforest vegetations, making it a nature reserve with a high degree of biodiversity. (Yunnan Daily)

Yunnan wrestler makes breakthrough at Olympic qualifiers

云南运动员龙佳夺得东京奥运会入场券

Long Jia, a freestyle wrestler from west Yunnan's Yingjiang county, has made a breakthrough at the Almaty Olympic qualifiers on April 10, winning the title for the Chinese delegation in women's 62kg competition.

Long Jia entered the 1/4 final with 2 wins and 1 loss in the preliminary round. In the semi-final, she beat the Mongolian wrestler by 10:0 and won the championship.

Another Chinese wrestler Zhou Feng also won the 68 kg championship over a contestant from South Korea, securing full Tokyo Olympic slots for the Chinese women's team. (Yunnan Daily; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue)

Dishes out of flowers near Yunnan-Vietnam railway

滇越铁路上的鲜花美食

In south Yunnan's Hekou county, the Chinese section of the Yunnan-Vietnam railway is decorated by various flowering plants: cotton trees, white orchid-trees and sophora viciifolia.

Tian Xiaoni, a staff member with the international railway, is in love of flowers and good at cooking flower dishes. The other day after work, Tian made a flower feast for her colleagues.

The feast featured white orchid with mashed potato, cold-dressed kapok flowers, fried sophora viciifolia and more. (Xinhua Net; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue)

Banshan hotel to have presence in Jinuo village

景洪基诺山乡启动半山酒店建设

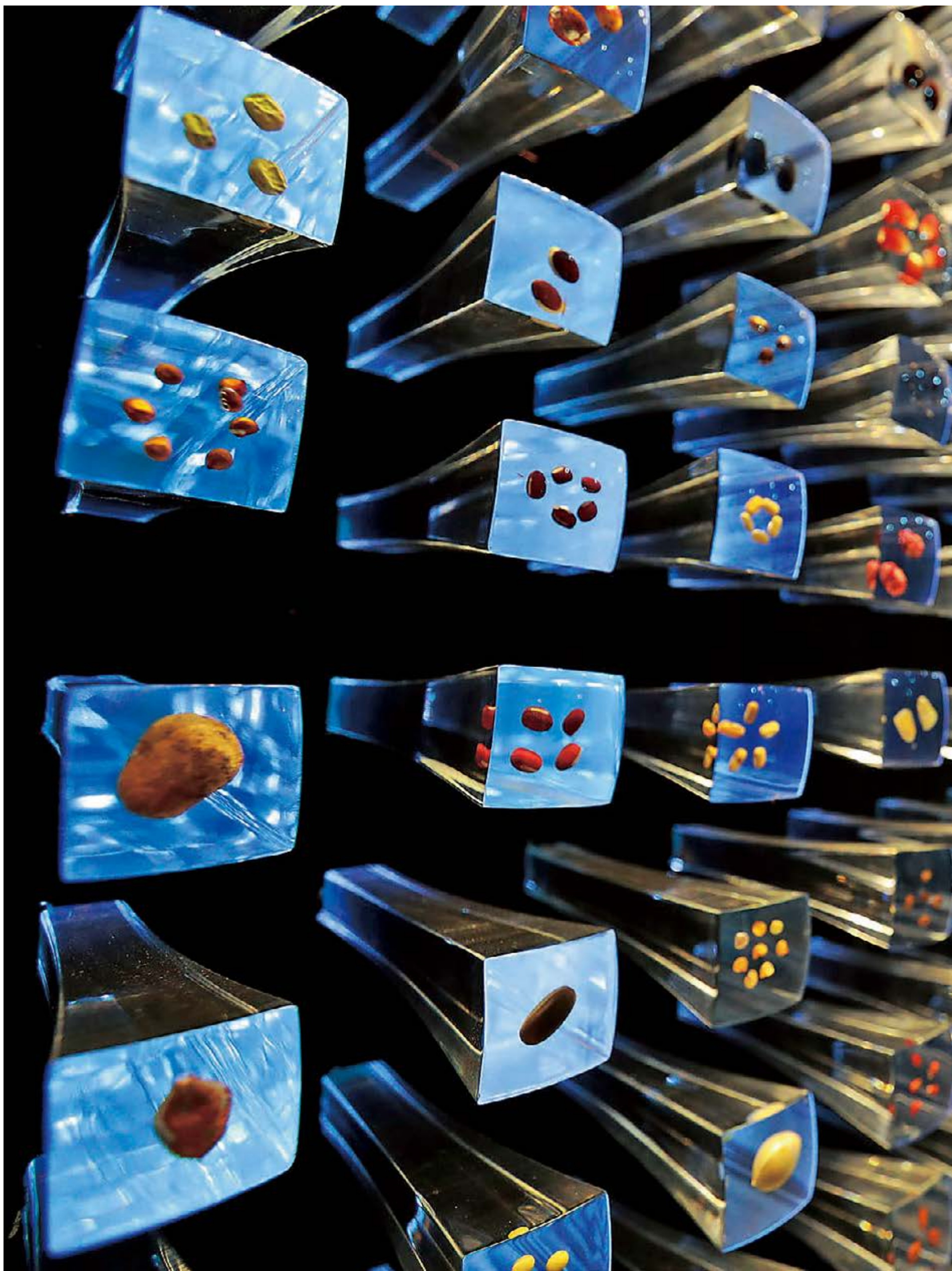


The Banshan Hotel started on April 10 the construction of its new branch in south Yunnan's Jinuo ethnic village of Xiaopuxi.

Home to 15 Jinuo households, Xiaopuxi retains its original appearance and ethnic culture, and the Xishuangbanna village was raised out of poverty in 2018.

The new hotel branch is a cooperation by Yunnan Tengyun Company, Xband Group and the OCT Yunnan Group.

Well-known Chinese artists were invited to the launch ceremony for design inspiration, and they were impressed by the rainforest, Jinuo lifestyle, and stories regarding the wild elephant. (Yunnan Daily; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue)



The great seed bank in Kunming

了不起的“种子银行”

□ 赵汉斌、季征 / 文

Written by Zhao Hanbin and Ji Zhen; Translated by Wang Shixue; Photo by CFP

China is one of most bio-diverse countries in the world. As one of its actions to protect bio-diversity, the country established the first national-level wild plant seed conservation institute in 2009, and that is the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species in Kunming, Yunnan province. Thanks to ten plus years of efforts, the seed bank now stores wild plant seeds of over 10,000 species, ranking second in the world. On the occasion of the coming fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity(COP15), let's look into the Kunming-based Germplasm Bank of Wild Species, exploring the Noah's ark for Chinese wild plant seeds to better understand the country's bio-diversity conservation efforts.

中国是世界上生物多样性最丰富的国家之一。作为保护生物多样性的重要举措之一,2009年,中国在云南昆明建成第一个国家级野生生物种质资源库——中国西南野生生物种质资源库。如今,经过十多年的努力,这座“种子银行”累计采集保存野生植物种子超过1万种,规模居世界第二位。在联合国《生物多样性公约》第十五次缔约方大会(COP15)即将到来之际,让我们走进中国西南野生生物种质资源库,探秘这座中国野生植物种子的“诺亚方舟”,了解中国的生物多样性保护。

Seeds are the carriers of plants' genetic information, holding the key to plant breeding, while seed banks are important facilities for preserving wild plants' seeds as well as bio-diversity. As the sole seed bank at the national level in China, what kind of roles does the Kunming-based Germplasm Bank of Wild Species play in protecting biodiversity. This issue, let's take a closer look at it from the following aspects: its size, its standards for seed selection and the life expectancy of the stored seeds.

“种子银行”有多大 Size of the seed bank

As the only national seed bank in China, the germplasm bank in Kunming is home to an underground collection of over 10,000 species of wild plant seeds, including the rare and endangered ones such as Chinese dove tree, Himalayan yew and *Oreocharis mileensis*.

In the bank, seeds are stored at minus 20 degrees Celsius throughout the whole year. Theoretically, if properly stored, the seeds could stay alive for decades or even thousands of years. In case of extinction of certain plant species, they can be introduced back to the wilderness to resurrect the species. Therefore, it can be said that the germplasm bank carries the ultimate hope for

the continuation of species.

Since its foundation, the number of seeds stored in the germplasm bank has been increasing annually. At the end of 2020, the bank had collected more than 85,000 seed samples from 10,601 species of wild plants. The seed storage accounted for 36 percent of the total wild plant species nationwide, making it the largest in Asia and the second of its kind globally.

Also, the seed bank stores over 2,000 seed samples from the US, Canada, Brazil and more, increasing the survival rate for more plant species when an extinction does come.

“种子银行”有什么选种标准 Standards for seed selection

The germplasm bank has standard procedures for selecting seeds. “It's our priority to collect wild plant seeds of endangered and special species, as well as seeds of species of great economic value,” said Qin Shaofa, a seed manager at the germplasm bank.

The extinction of one plant species can affect the survival of other species related to it. So it's vital to protect wild plants with a tiny population as well as the rare and endangered species in the efforts to preserve bio-diversity and gene-diversity.

For newly-collected seeds, the germplasm bank will record and store all of their information in computers and set up a data base.

Later, the seeds will be dried, cleaned, counted and weighed, and their plumpness measured. Before they are finally admitted to the underground cold storage, the seeds will be dried once more. The storage is divided into the fixed section and the dynamic section: The former is the permanent storage of seed backups, while the latter stores seeds for germination tests.

Therefore, when storing the admitted seeds, it's a principle for the researchers to first meet the required quantity of the fixed section and put the left into the dynamic section. The number of seeds to be stored in the dynamic section depends also on how many germination tests will be carried out.

去什么地方采集种子 Where to collect the seeds

To ensure the diversity of genetic resources, the researchers need to collect wild plant seeds of the same species at different locations. Usually, 2,500 to 10,000 seeds should be collected for each species. And for the species with tiny population and rare species, a minimum of 500 seeds is needed.

“I'm not afraid of the exhausting and time-consuming experiences in seed collection, and the only thing to fear is that we cannot save all the rare species,” said Cai Jie, director of the Seed Storage Center of the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species. He said the seed collectors have left their footprints across China, from the rain forest to the valleys and peaks and from the shores of South China Sea to deserts in the north. In general, a full-time seed

collector spends 100 plus days in the fields each year.

Moreover, the seed collectors in the wilderness may come across beasts and venomous snakes, often beaten by fire ants, leeches and wasps.

“At times, even plants are hard to deal with,” recalled Cai. In collecting seeds of *Dendrocnide urentissima* (Gagnep.) Chew, one of his colleagues was stung in the hand and a severe pain spread quickly to his arm and heart, causing difficulty breathing. The swelling lasted for one week. Later, he was told that the plant venom can be deadly to children.

As is seen in the case, each seed represents risk, sweat and responsibility. “We'll set out whenever the seed is ripe, and we'll go where the seed exists,” said Cai.





种子也需要“体检” Health checkups for seeds

Even after the seeds are admitted to the bank, it doesn't mean everything is done.

“Unlike plants or animals whose health conditions are obvious, the vigor and vitality of seeds are hard to be identified,” said Yang Juan, a germination tester. Many seeds are dormant, so their vitality needs testing.

What is more challenging is that the germination conditions for 95 percent of plants are unknown, and 80 percent of the seeds from the temperate and arctic zones can be dormant to various degrees.

“We need to care for the seeds in the way a mom looks after her baby,” Yang said she designed three to five germination experiments for each seed sample, and she gathers the testing data on a weekly basis so that the best test conditions can be found. The whole germination test of certain seeds can last more than 1,000 days.

A second germination test needs to be carried out in five to ten years after the seeds are admitted to the bank to identify the changes of seed vitality. Once the vitality rate is less than 75 percent, the seeds need to be bred or replaced by newly-collected ones.

种子寿命能延长多少年 Seed life expectancy

Entering the seed bank, visitors were greeted by arrays of sealed glass bottles, and the size of bottles varies according to that of the seeds.

Here, the key factors for seed storage are temperature and humidity. In general, the seeds' life expectancy will be doubled by either lowering the temperature by 5 degrees Celsius or cutting the seed moisture content by 1 percent.

Corn seeds stored at 15°C and 73% humidity, for example, will lose the vitality in 145 days. However, the Kunming seed bank creates an environment with a temperature of minus 20°C and 15% humidity, where corn seeds can maintain the vitality for 460 years theoretically. In the same way, theoretically, the vitality of wheat seeds can be extended from 99 days to 786 years, rice seeds from 241 days to 1,139 years, soybean seeds 193 days to 214 years and cotton seeds from five years to 17,076 years.

阅读多一点

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Why is China's first national seed bank built in Yunnan? One of the reasons is that Yunnan has the richest germplasm resources among all Chinese provinces, and it boasts 19,365 species higher plants, and 2,273 species of vertebrates, accounting for 50.2% and 52.1% of the national totals respectively.



Paper-cut: A couple's life pursuit

一对夫妻 一生剪纸

□ 胡远航 / 文 刘冉阳 / 图

Written by Hu Yuanhang, Photo by Liu Ranyang, Translated by Zu Hongbing

“

No pains, no gains. For more than 30 years, Mr. Wang Yuan and his wife Ms. Duan Yunli, representative inheritors of paper-cut skills in Kunming, have made endless efforts to pass on the intangible cultural heritage. Wang is good at cutting silhouette images while Duan is a master of traditional paper-cut. While serving tens of thousands of tourists in China, they have also visited Malaysia, Thailand, Germany and India for cultural exchanges. They spend most of their leisure time teaching the skills of paper-cut in communities and schools. They hope to incorporate modern elements into paper-cuts by innovation.

”

一分耕耘，一分收获。三十多年来，昆明剪纸艺术非遗传承人汪元、段云丽夫妇默默坚守，推动剪纸艺术的保护和传承。他们一个擅长人物剪影，一个专研传统剪纸。在为中国数万游客剪下了美好瞬间的同时，他们还远赴马来西亚、泰国、德国、印度等地进行文化交流。除了创作，他们将大部分时间花在了学校和社区教授剪纸。他们希望通过更多创新，将剪纸艺术融入现代生活。



With one pair of scissors and one piece of paper, Wang cut out a life-like silhouette portrait in just 30 seconds. Recently we visited the workshop of Wang Yuan and Duan Yunli and witnessed the miracles of paper-cut.

Wang and Duan are well-known paper-cut artists in Yunnan. Unlike Duan who was born in a family of paper-cut artists, Wang is largely self-taught. However, both are crowned as “master of paper-cut”.

Their workshop is like a sea of paper-cut works, with dazzling array of works hung on walls and piled up on tables and cabinets. Their types range from figures, animals, mountains to rivers.

Duan’s works feature beautiful shapes and lines, with circles as round as the mid-autumn moon, tips as pointed as awn of wheat and squares with clearly-cut edges and corners. Wang is in deep love of cutting silhouette images. His albums are full of lifelike figure silhouette images of Olympic champions, Go chess masters, actors, singers...

“The key to cutting silhouette images is to cut out the most featured aspects of the person,” Wang said it relies on synchronization between eyes and hands. It needs not only exquisite craftsmanship, but also keen observation.

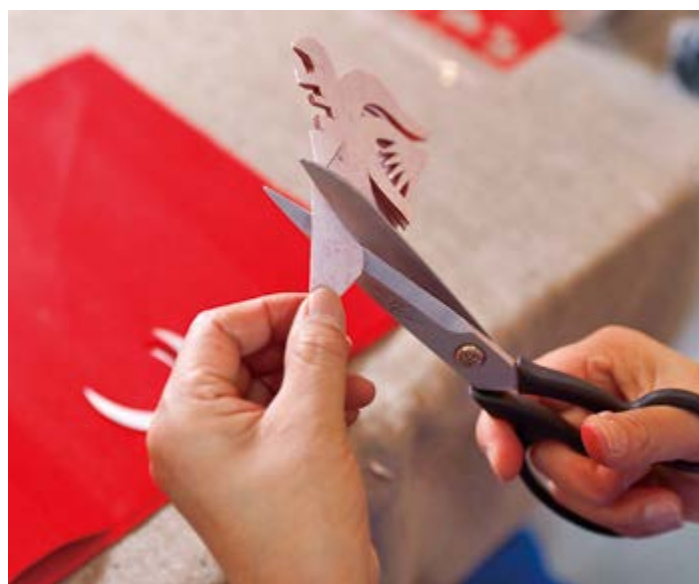
Among the well-known works of Wang, there are *The Peacock Dance in Xishuangbanna*, *The Lovers Riding Elephant* and *The Ashima*. To finish *The Peacock Dance of Xishuangbanna*, he even watched the performance of peak dance several times.

On that day when we visited the workshop, Wang showed his amazing skills and cut out the paper silhouette of my companion in less than one minute. My companion just marveled at Wang’s skills at the first sight of the silhouette. “So similar, so fast. It shows my characteristics clearly.”

According to Wang, the shortest time he spent in cutting out a paper silhouette is just 27 seconds. “As high season of tourism comes each year, I usually travel to different cities around the country and cut out paper silhouette for tourists. I still remember the largest number of tourists I served in a day is more than 200,” Wang said. Once, he served for a group of tourists at the interval between their destinations. As their time was short, Wang had to finish all the cutting quickly. After the last image was cut, one of the tourists told him the shortest time he spent is only 27 seconds.

“No pains, no gains,” Wang said, this motto also holds true for paper-cut craftsman. For more than 30 years, he and his wife have cut images for tens of thousands tourists. They have made friends with notable persons both at home and abroad, while visiting domestic cities and foreign countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Germany and India for cultural exchanges. In Wang’s view, every person has his or her unique characteristics, the work of a paper-cut craftsman is to cut out all these characteristics.

For Duan Yunli, the craftsman’s passion is crucial to the paper-cut career, and one has to endure the loneliness and dull work. She said paper-cut is their life career and their work has never been suspended. In the workshop, they often sit for several hours as long as the work is started. “The paper-cut is one of typical forms of Chinese folk art, with a long history and profound culture. We hope to make our contributions to pass on this tradition,” Duan said. Therefore, they spend most of their leisure time teaching the skills of paper-cut in local communities and schools. They also hope to incorporate modern elements into paper-cut by innovation.





The good times of Shuhe Ancient Town

束河古镇的好时光

□ 段建鑫/文 刘珈彤/图

Written by Duan Jianxin, Photo by Liu Jiatong, Translated by Mo Yingyi

“

Walking into Shuhe Ancient Town, one can see the traditional residences of Naxi people stand in gracefully disorder along the streets and gurgling stream flow through the town. It makes one feel cozy and relaxed. Shuhe used to be a vital market town on the Tea and Horse Road from Yunnan to Tibet. After hundreds of years, the town has been well-preserved with its strong traditional lifestyle. Here, Naxi ancient music and other Naxi traditional culture are inherited from generations to generations. With tourism development, Shuhe ushers in the new opportunity for the conservation and inheritance of Naxi ancient music.

”

走进束河古镇，纳西传统民居错落有致，潺潺溪流穿镇而过，惬意自然。作为滇藏茶马古道上的重要集镇，历经千年沧桑，束河古镇依然保存较完好，传统生活气息浓厚。在这里，纳西古乐等纳西族传统文化世代相传。而随着旅游发展，纳西古乐的保护与传承也迎来了新的机遇。





Situated in the north of Gucheng District, northwest Yunnan's Lijiang City, Shuhe Ancient Town is one of the earliest habitations of Naxi ancestors in Lijiang basin. As an essential stop on the Tea and Horse Road from Yunnan to Tibet, Shuhe Ancient Town has been preserved comparably in good condition for a thousand years. In order to protect and pass on the historical culture, Haligu culture exhibition zone was built in the ancient town, providing a display platform for Naxi folk dance, ancient music and other Naxi customs and cultures, and creating a strong cultural atmosphere for locals and visitors from around the world.

Listen to a piece of Naxi ancient music

听一曲纳西古乐

In the Haligu culture exhibition zone, Naxi traditional residences are arranged in picturesque disorder, the clear stream flows along the streets on both sides, and it is cozy and relaxing. In a small pavilion, a group of elders in Naxi costumes, holding traditional instruments, are playing Naxi ancient music for tourists.

The music is calm, solemn, with a little bit sadness. The elderly musicians look sedate and dignified, indulging in the music. In their hands, there are more than ten Naxi ancient instruments such as trichord, plate drums, and wooden fish.

Li Yongguang, over 70, is a pipa player in the elders' band. He told that he was once a Chinese language teacher. After retirement, he devoted himself to the protection and passing-on of Naxi ancient music. Since 2017, he and other elders have organized the Naxi Ancient Music concert in Shuhe Ancient Town, and perform for tourists every day.

"Although I'm growing older, my passion for Naxi Ancient Music never fades. Every time I think what I can do for the music, I feel very glorious," said Li Yongguang.

The inheritance of Naxi Ancient music follows a special and strict mode of passing on from teachers to students or from fathers to sons. The performance skills have been passed down by oral teaching. "I don't know how many



generations the Naxi ancient music has been passed down," said Li Yongguang.

According to Li Yongguang, the Naxi ancient music concert has a total of more than 20 members, with an average age over 60 years old. They get to the town in the morning to perform and return to their respective homes at dusk. Over the years, their performance has never stopped.

"As more and more tourists are traveling to Shuhe Ancient Town, we have been getting some stable income by performing Naxi music, which has also encouraged some Naxi young people to learn the music. The tourism development are bringing bright future for Naxi Ancient music," said Li Yongguang.

An ancient town with traditional lifestyle

有烟火味的古镇

Flowing through the ancient town, the gurgling streams along the streets reminds of visitors of the water towns in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. Such a view is closely related to the terrain and topography of the town. According to Bai Zhiyuan, the curator of Shuhe Museum, the town is surrounded by three mountains of Jubao, Longquan and Lianhua, and sits by two vaclusian springs of Jiuding and Shuhe. As a result, there are three water systems of Jiuding River, Qinglong River, Shuhe River running through the ancient town from north to the south.

The flowing streams have brought convenience for local people as they can wash clothes and vegetables in the canals in front of their own door. At the beginning of each month, the locals will block the downstream of the channels, so that the water can flow over to the streets, taking away the dust.

Unlike other over-commercialized ancient towns, Shuhe is still deeply rooted in traditional lifestyle. In the ancient town, the villagers come from surrounding villages, selling fresh fruits and vegetables along the street. At the corners of the street, there are booths selling Lijiang Baba(a kind of local pancake). If you buy a Lijiang Baba just cooked hot from the oven, add some spicy sauces, it is the most authentic Shuhe delicacy.

Historically, Shuhe is a hub on the Tea and Horse Road from Yunnan to Tibet. Today,



you are still able to see horses in the town, carrying tourists from all over the country. It's an interesting and memorable experience for tourists to ride horses through the antique streets, while listening to the tour guide telling legendary stories of the horse caravans.

With the rapid development of tourism, many opportunities have also brought to the Naxi people in the ancient town. Li Shanshan, a local resident, transformed her own yard into a homestay inn. As she receives domestic guests, many foreign tourists also choose to stay in her inn because she can speak English. "About 10 years ago, my annual income was less than 10,000 yuan, now by running the inn, I can earn 100,000 yuan per year. More importantly, many Naxi people like me attach more importance to protecting the ethnic and historical culture, because we know this is the most precious wealth," Li Shanshan said.



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The smelly tofu with a special taste is a traditional dish in Jiangchuan District, central Yunnan's Yuxi City. The Wenquan village of Jiangchuan was famed for its nature-born hot springs in ancient times, but now for its production of the smelly tofu. In inheriting the traditional tofu-making method, Qi Shangcheng is the master hand of the village. Every morning at the market, Qi's tofu stall is visited by hosts of customers, and a wooden boxful of tofu is quickly sold out. Qi thinks the hot-spring tofu is totally different from that without using hot spring. Tasting fine and smooth and without a sour smell, the hot-spring tofu gets soft and mellow after being steamed, and it will immediately melt down at the bite.

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臭豆腐是玉溪市江川区的家常美食。江川区温泉村古时因村里自涌温泉而美名远播，现今因出产臭豆腐而闻名四方。祁尚成是温泉村沿袭传统工艺制作臭豆腐的“老把式”。每天早市上，他的臭豆腐摊前总是挤满了人，一木匣子臭豆腐很快就可以卖完。祁尚成认为，用温泉水和不用温泉水做出的豆腐在口感上截然不同。用温泉水做的豆腐口感细腻，没有酸味，蒸制后润滑松软，有入口即化的感觉。



Special scent of tofu

别样豆腐香

□ 徐华陵 吉桂琼 陆燕 文 / 图

Written by Xu Hualing and Lu Yan, Translated by Wang Shixue; Photo by Ji Guiqiong



The smelly tofu with a special taste is a traditional dish in Jiangchuan District, central Yunnan's Yuxi City. In the Wenquan (hot spring) village of Jiangchuan, the tofu is fermented long and evenly, resulting in a strong smell. A single bite on the smelly tofu will make diners immensely delighted.

In inheriting the traditional tofu-making method, Qi Shangcheng is the master hand of the Wenquan village. Every morning at the market, Qi's tofu stall is visited by hosts of customers, and a wooden boxful of tofu is quickly sold out. Thanks to his rich experience in tofu making, the tofu tastes great and Qi was nicknamed "oldie Qi of tofu". Qi said he is making and selling tofu all year around.

"In making the tofu, the hot spring is a must. The key to the ancient method of making smelly tofu lies in smashing beans with traditional grinding stones and heating the

soybean milk with a giant iron wok and prolonged wooden fire." Qi said that due to tiny profit, the number of tofu makers is getting smaller. In the village, only four families are still making tofu, and the Qi's is the only one sticking to the ancient method of tofu making.

The tofu so made tastes good, and this, in the eyes of many, is because of the diverse trace elements from the nature-born hot spring. Qi himself also thinks the hot-spring tofu is totally different from the tofu without using hot spring. Tasting fine and smooth and without a sour smell, the hot-spring tofu gets soft and mellow after being steamed, and it will immediately melt down at the bite. And it seems that such excellence of the hot-spring tofu has been generally recognized by locals.

The smelly tofu is actually the fermented tofu. Another reason why the smelly tofu in the hot-spring village

tastes better is that the tofu is thoroughly warmed in the fermentation. Durations for the thorough warmth vary from season to season. In general, it takes five days for tofu to get fermented in autumn and winter, and two days (48 hours) in spring and summer. During the thorough-warmth period, the tofu pieces should be turned around daily one by one, so that the tofu is evenly fermented. As fermentation goes deeper, the tofu tastes sourer and smellier.

"Making tofu is the same as being a man, for both need you to come down to earth, focus on the details and follow the steps, however simple and trivial it seems to be." This is the motto for Qi, who has taken it part of his life to make tofu. "I feel something is wrong without making tofu for a single day, and I will try my best to pass down to future generations the special ancient craft of making tofu with hot spring," said Qi.

Longma: Rural tourism increases farmers' income

龙玛村：梯田遗产带火乡村旅游

□ 王丹 / 文 张彤 / 图

Written by Wang Dan, Photo by Zhang Tong, Translated by Zu Hongbing

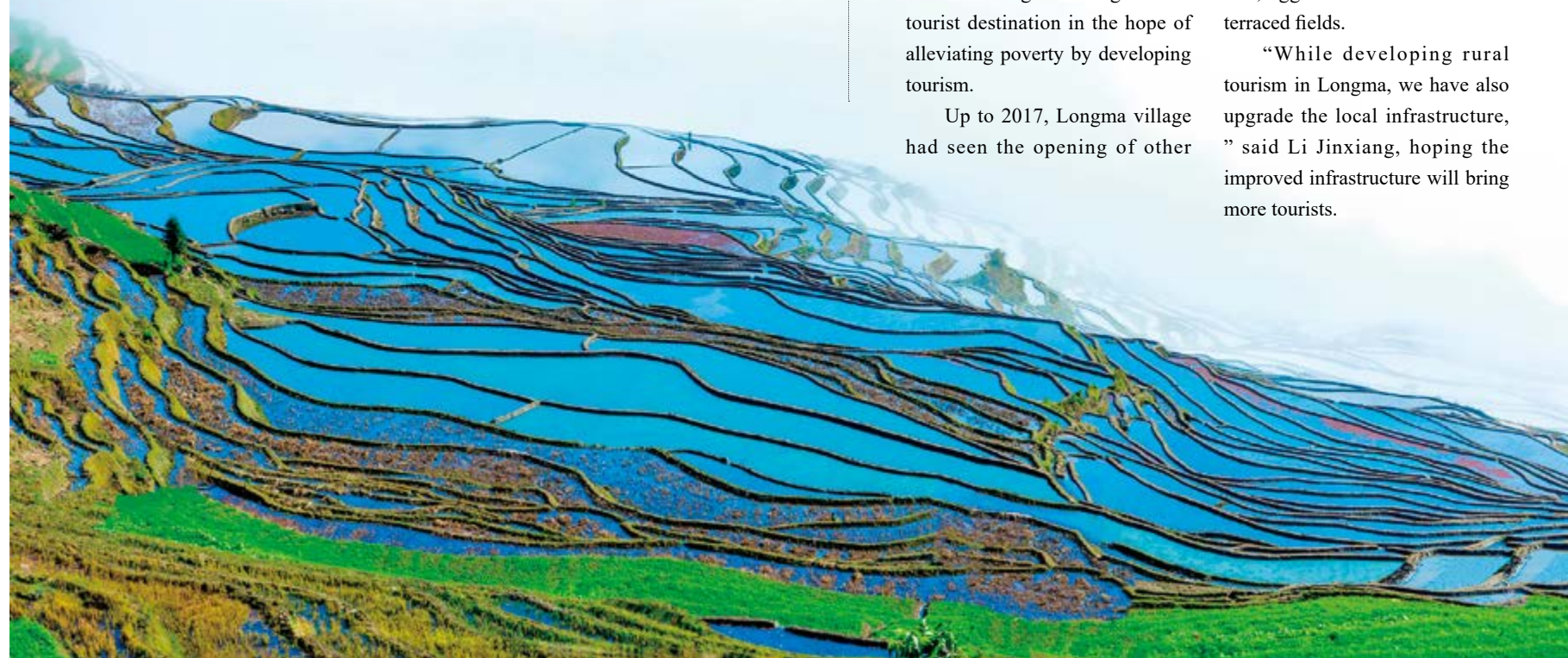


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As the largest interconnected Hani terraced field, the Samaba Terraced Fields covers an area of more than 14,000 mu. The terraced field has more than 4,000 terraces in total, the altitude of the lowest terrace is 650 meters and the altitude of the highest is 1,800 meters. Sitting at foot of Luokongjian Mountain and facing the Samaba Terraced fields, Longma is a village inhabited by Hani people. It is an ideal place for appreciating the breathtaking views of sunrise and clouds in the terraced fields. In recent years, Longma held many cultural activities and celebrations, attracting tourists from Yunnan and other provinces.

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作为中国面积最大的连片哈尼梯田，撒玛坝梯田有 14000 多亩。从海拔 650 米的山脚到 1800 米的山腰，4000 余级梯田层层叠叠，气势恢宏，使大山成为一座不朽的雕刻作品。龙玛村毗邻撒玛坝梯田，是一个典型的哈尼族村寨。背靠落恐尖山、面朝撒玛坝梯田，龙玛村是游客看日出、观云海、赏梯田的理想之地。近年来，龙玛村依托梯田风光、民族文化，举办了多种节庆活动，吸引了大批游客。



“From October to April of next year, it is the high season of tourism in our village,” Li Wei, Head of Longma Village, Baohua Township, Honghe County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture. In this season, rice is harvested and the paddies lie fallow. Filled with water, the paddies are just like mirrors in the sunshine, presenting the most breathtaking views and attracting thousands of tourists and shutterbugs.

Sitting by the Samaba Terraced Fields and Honghe County Tourist Loop, Longma Village is home to 72 Hani households. “Tourists can enjoy the beautiful views of terraces through the windows of two thirds of the households,” Li Wei is so proud when talking about the abundant tourism resources in the village.

Li Wei is the first villager who started hotel business in Longma. He recalled that he was inspired by a tourist to set up an inn. “Once, a tourist came to my house. After he appreciated the beautiful terraced fields on the balcony, he marveled at the views and advised me to found an inn.” In 2014, Li Wei’s inn (Longma Inn) started receiving guests. And in the same year, the Baohua Township rolled out policies to build Longma Village into a tourist destination in the hope of alleviating poverty by developing tourism.

Up to 2017, Longma village had seen the opening of other

four inns with different styles, providing tourists with diverse choices. The inn Tianpan Renjia has been very popular among tourists for its fashionable decoration styles. “We have 17 rooms which are divided into three types with different prices,” said Li Zumei, manager of the inn. During the high season, one has to reserve rooms at least one week ahead.

In recent years, Longma Village, relying on the natural and cultural resources, has developed various tourist products which range from celebrations, Hani traditional food, long-street banquet to “Impression Honghe” Song and Dance Performances. Longma has evolved many forms of tourism, attracting tourists from Yunnan and other provinces and helping increase local farmers’ income.

“We have set up a tourism development cooperative, of which the main business is holding the long-street banquet. Usually the banquet is held ten times a year,” said Li Jinxiang, mayor of Baohua Township. Every year, when the day comes for the start of transplanting rice seedlings, all villagers will participate to prepare the long-street banquet. Tourists can enjoy Hani-featured delicacies including fish, eggs of ducks raised in the terraced fields.

“While developing rural tourism in Longma, we have also upgrade the local infrastructure,” said Li Jinxiang, hoping the improved infrastructure will bring more tourists.



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