

Geo-environmental Considerations in Strategic Development Planning

*The Panxi Region
Eastern Hengduan Mountains, China*

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*International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu, Nepal*

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Eastern Hengduan Mountains, China**

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(ICIMOD)
Kathmandu, Nepal***

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Foreword

The use and management of natural resources is one of the important concerns of integrated mountain development. Within the mountain areas themselves, although the general picture has been one of over-exploitation, there are some fairly large areas in which rich resources have not as yet been exploited, or where they remain underexploited. The dilemma here is the fact that, critical though these resources are, they are found within a part of one of the earth's most fragile ecosystems, the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.

Although this particular work by Professor Wang Sijing, under ICIMOD's Fellowship Monograph Series, appears to be very technical, it should be kept in mind that, because of the concern for the impact of resource extraction on the environment as a whole, and, in this case, on the environment of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas in particular, a work of this nature is valuable because of its broader implications for resource extraction and use in similar areas across the region. Most of Professor Wang Sijing's information and observations are useful in this respect.

I would like to thank Professor Wang Sijing for his painstaking efforts in producing this important piece of research on the Panxi Region of China. I would also like to thank the Ford Foundation for providing the grant that made this study and its publication possible. I believe it will be of some assistance to all those working in the area of resource extraction and use in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.

E.F. Tacke
Director General

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Table of Contents

	Page
Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION	1-1
Background of Strategic Development	
Natural Resources and Environment	1-2
Socioeconomic Situation	1-4
Strategic Position and Conditions for Development	1-6
Chapter 2: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	
Topography	2-9
Climate	2-10
Rock Formation	2-11
The Muli-Jinpingshan Area	2-11
The Yanyuan-Hulushan Area	2-14
The Yanbian-Baiposhan Area	2-19
The Daqinao-Tianwan Area	2-21
The Mianning-Miyi Area	2-22
The Xide-Huili and the Yizi-Zhiju Area	2-24
Tectonics	2-26
Basement Tectonics	2-27
Tectonics of the Cover System	2-29
The Fault System in the Sedimentary Cover	2-30
Nectectonics and Fault Activities	2-33
Nectectonic Movements	2-33
Fault Activity	2-36
Chapter 3: NATURAL HAZARDS	
Seismicity	3-41
Historical Records of Earthquakes	3-41

<i>Evaluation of Tectonic Stability</i>	3-43
<i>Tectonic Stability Zonation</i>	3-43
<i>Instability of Mountain Masses</i>	3-47
<i>Landslides along the Yalongjiang River</i>	3-49
<i>Debris Flow along the Anninghe River</i>	3-52

Hazards Associated with Sensitive Formations 3-53

<i>Rock Formations Containing Gypsum and Other Sulphates</i>	3-53
<i>Rock Inclined to be Rapidly Weathered</i>	3-54
<i>Rock in the Xigeda Formation with Swelling Properties</i>	3-54

Chapter 4: NATURAL RESOURCES

Mineral Resources 4-57

<i>Iron Deposits</i>	4-57
<i>Copper Deposits</i>	4-59
<i>Other Metallic Deposits</i>	4-60
<i>Non-metallic Deposits</i>	4-61

Land Resources 4-62

<i>Areas Having Elevations of Less than 1,3000 masl</i>	4-62
<i>Areas Having Elevations Ranging from 1,300 to 2,200 masl</i>	4-62
<i>Areas Having Elevations Higher than 2,200 masl</i>	4-63

Water Resources 4-64

Chapter 5: OUTLINES OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Strategic Development Goals 5-67

Socioeconomic Planning 5-68

Production Programme 5-70

Project Programme 5-73

Territorial Economic Complexes 5-74

<i>The Panzhihua District Economic Complex (I)</i>	5-74
<i>The Xichang District Economic Complex (II)</i>	5-75
<i>The Huili-Huidong District Economic Complex (III)</i>	5-76
<i>The Yanyuan District Economic Complex (IV)</i>	5-77
<i>The Zhaoqiao District Economic Complex (V)</i>	5-77

Chapter 6: ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION AND GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Construction of Mining-Metallurgical and Chemical Projects 6-79

Mining-Metallurgical and Chemical Projects 6-79

*Geo-environmental Problems in the Construction
of Mining-Metallurgical and Chemical Projects 6-81*

Hydropower Planning and Geo-environmental Assessment 6-86

Projects for Hydropower Development 6-86

*Geo-environmental Assessment for
Hydropower Development 6-88*

Agricultural Planning and Geo-environmental Assessment 6-92

Planning for Agricultural Development 6-92

*Geo-environmental Considerations for Water
Conservation Projects 6-94*

Urbanisation and Communications' Development 6-97

*Planning in Urbanisation and Communications'
Development 6-97*

Geo-environmental Considerations for Urbanisation 6-99

Chapter 7: GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF NATURAL HAZARDS

Environmental Protection in Areas Where There Are Mining-Metallurgical and Chemical Industries 7-103

Urban Environmental Protection 7-104

The Geo-environment of the Anninghe River 7-106

The Management of the Anninghe River 7-107

*The Construction of Reservoirs for the
Control of River Runoff 7-107*

Water and Soil Conservation and Tree Plantation 7-108

Mitigation of Hazards in Mountainous Areas 7-108

PLATES P-111

REFERENCES R-121

TOPIC INDEX I-123

LIST OF FIGURES

1: Sketch of Prefectural Administration of Panxi Region	1-3
2: Types and Distribution of Rock Formations in the Region	2-12
3: Sketch of Regional Geological Structure	2-28
4: Sketch of Regional Structure Lines Interpreted by the Image of LANDSAT	2-31
5: Sketch of Quaternary Tectonic Deformation along the Anninghe River	2-34
6: Neotectonic Geomorphologic Zonation	2-35
7: Sketch of Quaternary Active Faults	2-37
8: Regional Neotectonic Zonation	3-42
9: Zonation on Regional Tectonic Stability and Natural Hazards	3-45
10: Distribution of the Landslides in Ertan Reservoir Area	3-51
11: Distribution of Mineral Resources in Panxi Region	4-58
12: Planning of an Integrated Economic Complex	5-75
13: Planning of Mining-Metallurgical Industry	6-80
14: Regional Planning of Chemical and Processing Industries	6-82
15: Landsliding in Xigeda Strata	6-84
16: Landsliding on Bottom of Xigeda Strata	6-84
17: Debris Flows along the Jingshajiang River Valley	6-85
18: Planning of Energy Development	6-87
19: Geological Sketch of Ertan Dam Site	6-89
20: Debris Flow in the Ertan Reservoir Area along the Yalongjiang River	6-91
21: Agricultural Planning	6-94
22: Planning of Town-city Settlement	6-98
23: Urban Area of Panzhihua City	6-100
24: Seismicity in Panzhihua Area	6-101
25: Geological Cross Section at Panzhihua	6-101
26: Sketch of Natural Hazards	7-109