

# Community-Base Sandland Conservation: The Practice and Reflection in Pifang Village

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# Conclusion

In the past two decades, the desertification in grassland was the Dual-simplification by market and state.

The way to conserve the desertification in sandy land is to form a mutual-decision making, especially empowering the local communities.



# The Simplification by Marketization

- Privatization of livestock in early 1980s and increase of livestock production price encourage herders to feeding more livestock. Livestock was simplified as the way to make cash income.
- Since rangeland was leased to herders in late 1990s, the marketization of pasture has been accelerated, which partly contributed to the grassland degradation.



# Simplified Environment Policies issued by central government

- The conflict between local residents and environment;
- Centralized decision making;
- Contradict of use and conservation of natural resource;
- Contradiction of individual rationality collective action;



# Result of Simplification: Low Efficacies in Rangeland management

- No local norms in rangeland management;
- No collective action;
- Low efficiency of monitoring agencies.
- Poorer in local community;
- Bad use of natural resource and desertification;



# Alternative Way?

- Empowering the local community;
- Strengthen collective action in community ;
- Platform for negotiation and communication;





# Case Study: Pifang Village





# Action Study





# background

- Locating in Otintag Sand Land , which is the area of “Beijing-Tianjin Sand Source Control Engineering” ; almost all forestry in the village were classified as ecological public welfare forest.
- Typical area of mixture of herding and crop farming, where villagers relied on livestock for cash income.
- Precipitation was about 300 mm annually. Rain-fed crop farming was uncertain because no irrigation.
- Villagers were very poor because rangeland degradation and environment policy.



# Conflicts and Right Depriving

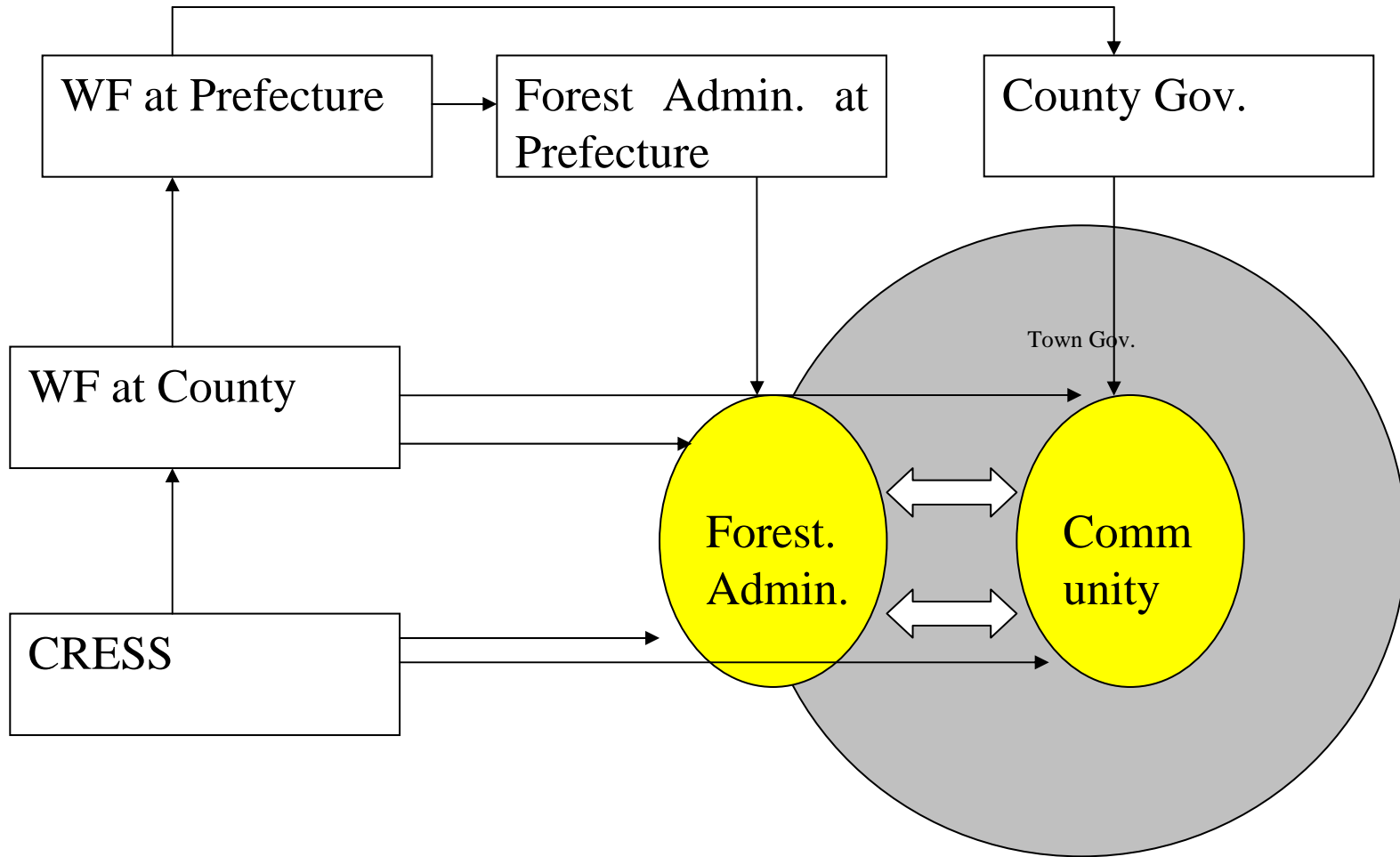
- Grazing ban implemented for forestry protecting and local rangeland use;
- Fining for grazing in forestry and villagers livelihood.
- Right depriving and degradation;

# Community-base management

- Grazing planning
- Adjustment of production structure
- Promote rural cooperative
- Establishing the negotiation mechanism of community and local administrative.



# Actors



# Impact

- **Rangeland has been improved;**
- Villagers' livelihood improved;
- The conflicts between community and administrative alleviated.
- A platform for negotiation and communication has been establishing





# Rangeland Improving

	<b>Pifang</b>	<b>Other villages</b>
Observation in 15, July 2007: Average length of grasses (cm) Yield of dry grasses (Kilograms / per <i>Mu</i> *) Coverage of grasses (%)	18.5 61 50	21.5 43 45
Observation in 26, Aug. 2007: Average length of grasses (cm) Yield of dry grasses (Kilograms / per <i>Mu</i> *) Coverage of grasses (%)	21.5 64 50	17.1 40 45
Observation in 16, July 2008: Average length of grasses (cm) Yield of dry grasses (Kilograms / per <i>Mu</i> *) Coverage of grasses (%)	23 77.95 60-65	21 72.35 55-60
Observation in 16, July 2008: Average length of grasses (cm) Yield of dry grasses (Kilograms / per <i>Mu</i> *) Coverage of grasses (%)	26 86.6 45-65	23 80.5 40-60

# Reflection

- Who's rangeland?
- Who caused desertification and who is the victim?
- Conservation or sustainable use?
- Is the cost for combating desertification high?



