

Basic Information of Jinuo Minority and Baya Village,

Jinuo Township, Jinghong County

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1 Introduction of Jinuo minority and their community

Jinuo minority is the last minority ethnic that is acknowledged by the State Council of People's Republic of China in the 20th century. Jinuo society was still the primitive society when the establishment of the People's Republic of China. They live in the mountain area in Jinghong County, Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China. Jinuo Township is the main area that Jinuo minority dwells in. Now there are seven village committee including 45 natural villages in Jinuo Township. They are engaged in the farming, collecting, hunting and cultivating the tea there.

Jinuo Mountain is the birthplace and main community of Jinuo minority, which covers an area of 599 ha. The elevation of Jinuo Mountain ranges from the highest 1691 meter to the lowest 550 meter. The highest temperature is 34.9 , and the lowest is 5.8 . The annual average temperature is 18 -20 . The rainfall amount is 1580.5 millimetre each year. There are only two seasons all over the year. Raining season is from May to September and the other months are the dry season. Jinuo Mountain is rich in biodiversity. The forest covers 67.7% of all the area, including the tropical rain forest and subtropical green foliage forest. There are more than 1000 higher plants and 2000 plants of great economic value. As for the wild animal, there are more than 100 mammals, 36 amphibians, 60 reptiles, 420 birds and 100 fishes¹.

Baya village is one of the largest and oldest villages in Jinuo Township. It has been the largest population village. A lot of traditional culture is reserved there. Since the establishment of People's Republic of China there are many great changes occurred in Baya village. The table below indicates the growth of the population in this village.

Tab.1 Population change of Baya village

Year	Household number	Population	Male	Female
1965	127	791	364	434
1981	147	957	537	420
1990	182	1006	544	462
1999	230	1103	569	514

2 Introduction of the lifestyle of local people

Jinuo minority keeps the old and unique way of farming. They divide the land into

Attachment # 2: **Note on Village visited during the field trip**

several piece and plant crops on the piece in turn. Generally they still practise shifting cultivation within a circle of 13 yeas. This wisdom traditional way of cultivation avoid excessively use of the land, due to the poor fertilized soil in tropical area².

Jinuo minority lives primarily on the slash-and-burn cultivation agriculture. The tools for farming are made of iron basically like chopper, sickle and hoe. The main crops are the rice and corn, and fruits are subtropical fruits like banana and flowering quince. They also have a long history to cultivate cotton. Jinuo Mountain is one of the six largest tea mountains to yield Pu'er tea. Collecting and hunting are the important household sidelines. In Jinuo society handicraft industry has not been divided from the agriculture. They make hammering, weaves the thin bamboo strip, spin and brew alcohol in the slack farming season.

There are strict rules to choose the land to be slashed and burned in Jinuo society. The rules could avoid the deforesting in large area and fire disaster effectively. The table below is the local classification and use method to the forest and land.

Tab.2 Traditional Classification of Land and Forest in Jinuo society

Jinuo name	Meaning	Management / Use method
Oukou Oukoumiu	forest on the mountaintop	ban cutting
Oukoulou	forest on the ridge	ban cutting
Oukoulou Acelie	forest on the mountainside	fruit-collecting, hunting
Yodu Azou	forest beside the mountain	timeber,fruit-collecting,house-building,planting
Abo Alao	thick forest	timber, land for crop rotation
You Suo	sparse forest	land for crop rotation, hunting
Muodou	bamboo forest	collect bamboo root, land for crop rotation
Mjiulu	bush	pasture,fruit-collecting,hunting
Yidou	grassland	pasture, fruit-collecting
Zuo Diaoyuo	forest for timber	timber, fruit-collecting, hunting
Mizuo Diaoyo	forest for firewood	firewood,fruit-collecting,hunting
Yikoumou	forest for headwaters	ban cutting
Zuoh-mi Azele	forest for landscape	ban cutting
Yoku Azele	forest for road protection	ban cutting
Hrudu	graveyard	ban cutting, ban hunting
Hyoqiao	forest for indicating village border	ban cutting
Chu	holy forest	ban cutting, ban hunting
Luobuke	old tea garden(tall trees)	ban cutting, collecting
Acuke	garden	cultivateing,agroforestry
Usougigou Ake	orchard	cultivateing,agroforestry
Budu Ake	lac forest land	cultivateing,agroforestry,crop rotation
Xiaogsuo	4-5 years vacant land	pasture,collecting,hunting
Suopie Suodala	degenerative land for crop	pasture, collecting

Attachment # 2: **Note on Village visited during the field trip**

	rotation	
Suopou	new land for crop rotation	pasture, collecting
Xiaonana	land for crop rotation	cultivating, intercropping
Die	paddy field	paddy planting,collecting,ban pasturing
Yo	dry rice field	dry rice planting, crop rotation, ban pasturing
Meiduke	corn field	corn planting collecting, ban pasturing
Tulinke	peanut field	peanut planting,colleting,ban pasturing
Luchike	bean field	bean planting,collecting,ban pasturing
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Cited from: LONG Chun-lin, Taku ABE, LI Mei-Lan etc. Biodiversity Management and Utilization in the context of Traditional Culture of Jinuo Society in Yunnan, China. Yunnan Botany Study.

Jinuo minority has created the mature arrangement of the farming activities to coordinate with the climate change during the long term production and daily life. These arrangements guarantee not only the crops cultivation but also the collection of the non-timber forest product. The table below is the farming calendar of Jinuo society.

Tab. 3 Farming Calendar

Month	Phenology	Farming Activities
Jan.	The big tree spits the new bud.	Cutting down trees to make new farming land
Feb.	Cicada begins to sound.	Chop firewood; build the new home;celebrate the new year
March	Cicada season	Burn down the trees; prepare for the planting; collect the tea
Apr.	Jiebuo tree (a kind of local plant) is in bloom.	Prepare for the planting; plant the corn and melon vegetable; build the shack
May	Massive dragonfly and butterfly	Plant in the new land;collect;weed the corn land
June	Massive bamboo shoot	Plant the paddy rice, sweet potato,peanut,bean;weed for corn and dry rice
July		Weed; collect tea; collect mushroom, bamboo shoot ect.
Aug.		weed;pumpkin,cucumber harvest; collect massive tea
Sep.		cutting down trees; early rice,corn,peanut,bean harvest; collect vegetable
Oct.		paddy rice, early rice,corn,peanut,bean harvest, collect the tea
Nov.	Tea leaf is becoming tough.	dry rice harvest; plow the land; weed the tea garden; prune the tea tree
Dec.		plow the land

Cited from: LONG Chun-lin, Taku ABE, LI Mei-Lan etc. Biodiversity Management and Utilization in the context of Traditional Culture of Jinuo Society in Yunnan, China. Yunnan Botany Study.

3 The existing problems and conflicts at present in Jinuo Mountain and Bapo village

Since 1950 Jinuo minority directly entered the socialism society from the last stage of the primitive society. During the change, the tradition social management system – the village elder manages the whole business of the village is substituted by the state administrative organization. Because of the execution of a series of land policy and development policy, a lot of environmental change occurred in Jinuo Mountain. The forest coverage decreased. The soil erosion and mountain landslide intensified. The biodiversity was destructed³.

According to the policy at that time, local people opened up massive new farm land by using the slash and burn cultivating method to maximize grain yield. The forest coverage decreased from 60% in the 1950`s to 40% now. It is the slash and burn production method that caused the deforesting in Jinuo mountain. Due to the promotion of the crops of high economic value, many lands were planted by rubber and amomun which is a kind of traditional Chinese medicine. The deduction of the plant coverage in unit area leads to the soil erosion easily. Additionally a lot of land was turn to the nature conservation area, the local people have less arable land area. The cycle of crop rotation reduced from the former 13 years to the 7 years at present, even 4 years in some places. The reduction of the circle leads to the soil erosion in further. Most of the slopes of Jinuo Mountain are over 20°, and some are even 50°-60°. Due to the over development, it is easy to cause landslide, flood and other natural disasters. Companying the deduction of the forest, the biodiversity has been destructed too. Nowadays antelope, goat, blue sheep, leopard and other wild animal is hard to find in Jinuo Mountain⁴.

Bapo village is one nature village of Baya Village Committee of Jinuo Township of Jinghong County. There are 91 households. They are all Jinuo people and engaged in paddy, upland rice, rubber, tea and tourist dancing for their livelihoods. Each person occupies 0.4 mu (1 ha equals 15 mu) paddy, 13 mu dry land. Recent years, they grow rubber and tea on dry land due to increasing demand from market. Every household has 5-6 mu tea and 20 mu rubber. In last two years, they also converted 1400 dry land back to forest. Recently the village heads in Bapo village raised conflicts.

- Around 2000 mu dry land were not allowed to grow anymore. These lands are located along tourist route of Jinuo Township. There were no any means to compensate for this policy.
- This year government suspends new slash-burn until 2008. Local communities are not happy with it.
- The Protected animal damages small part of farming land.

¹ Introduction of Jinuo minority [EB/OL]. <http://www.xsbnjls.cn/jn.asp?lm=1&id=183> 2006-07-21/2006-09-18

² YIN SHAO-ting. Thinking about the Change of Jinuo Culture[J]. *Minority Today*. 2000, 2 :33-35

³ Yunnan minority village survey: Jinuo minority-Jinuo township, Jinghong [M]. Kunming: Yunnan university Publisher. 2001

⁴ WU YING-Hui. Survey on the ecosystem protection in Jinuo township and the interests of the local farmer [J]. *Yunnan Social Science*. 1999 supplement 135-138