

New Legal Protections for China's National Parks



Zhuoshi Liu

Staff Attorney; Director, China Program
Environmental Law Institute

Overview

- Background and pilot national parks
- Violations and enforcement tools
- Public interest cases filed by NOGs and prosecutors
- New developments



Background and Pilot National Parks



Background and Pilot National Parks

- **Regulation on Natural Reserves** (revised in 2017)
- **General Plan to Establish National Parks Systems** by General Office of State Council & General Office of CCP Central Committee, September 2017
- **Guidance Opinions on Establishing Protected Natural Areas Systems with National Parks as the Center** by General Office of State Council & General Office of CCP Central Committee, June 2019



Violations and Enforcement Tools

- Unlawful activities:
 - Mining (minerals, sands, etc)
 - logging
 - Hunting
 - Excessive development



Violations and enforcement tools

- Civil environmental public interest litigation by NGOs or prosecutors
- Civil litigation by provincial and local governments
- Criminal prosecution by prosecutors



Public Interest Cases (NGOs & Prosecutors)

- **Procuratorate of Qilianshan National Forest v. Zhang Jun et al.**
 - Civil public interest case against poachers
 - Notice of Intention filed on January 6, 2020
- **Procuratorate of Nanping City v. Xiao et al.**
 - Civil public interest case on illegal logging in Wuyishan National Park
 - Trial in November 2019



Public Interest Cases (NGOs & Prosecutors)

- **Procuratorate of Chengbu Ethnic Miao Autonomous County v. Wu et al.**
 - Prosecutors filed criminal & civil public interest claims against poachers.
 - Criminal jail time & civil damage were ordered by court.
- **CBCGDF v. Nongfu Spring Co., Ltd.**
 - Filed by an environmental NGO against a bottled water company for illegal land use in Wuyishan National Park in January 2020.



New Developments

- **Ecological and Public Interest Judicial Protection Center for Sanjiangyuan Established in August 2019**
 - A partnership among Qinghai provincial procuratorate, Department of Forestry and Grassland, and Management Bureau of Sanjiangyuan National Park
 - To coordinate administrative enforcement, criminal enforcement and civil public interest litigation concerning Sanjiangyuan National Park and Qilianshan National Park (Qinghai section)
- **National People's Congress Standing Committee permanently banned wildlife trade and consumption on February 24, 2020**





Zhuoshi Liu
Director, China Program
Staff Attorney
Environmental Law Institute
(202) 939-3809
liu@eli.org

