

Chinese giant salamander survey questionnaires

CGS Villager questionnaire

Interview number:

Location of interview:

Date:

Name of interviewer:

Opening statement: “We are local scientists from XXXX, studying ecology/environmental research. We are conducting a study on the animals and aquatic resources found in this region, and would like to ask you some questions for our studies, because you know a lot more about the environment here than we do. We have a questionnaire that takes about 20 minutes to complete. All information that you tell us will be completely confidential, we will not write down your name, and you will not be identified – we just want to try to learn more about the local environment from you.”

A. BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

1. Are you prepared to participate in this survey and answer the following questions? Y/N
2. Male/Female
3. Age:
4. Ethnicity:
5. How many years have you lived in this local region?
6. Occupation:

B. CGS QUESTIONS

7. Do you know what a CGS is? Y/N

If Y: ask informant to describe the species (emphasizing its size)

If N: prompt the informant with a CGS photograph

(show series of photographs of aquatic species, and ask informant to identify CGS accurately)

8. Are there any local names for the CGS?
9. Are there any stories, legends, myths, traditions or customs about CGS?
10. Have you ever seen a wild CGS around here? Y/N/don't know

If Y:

- Describe the last time you saw a wild CGS (specific location, year, time of year if known)

- How many times have you seen a wild CGS? Describe all previous sightings (year and location)

**** Try to mark each locality on a high-resolution map as accurately as possible (try to record approximate co-ordinates, distance from community, and name of river drainage/watershed)**

**** When recording sighting dates, specifically report whether informants stated a calendar year (e.g. 1993), or whether they said “XX years/decades ago” or “in the 1980s/1990s etc”. Try to encourage**

the informant to give a direct calendar year if possible.

If N:

- Do you know anyone else in this community who has seen a wild CGS? If Y, where/when?

11. Do people ever eat wild CGS in this community?

- Yes (today)
- Yes (but only in the past)
- Never
- Don't know

12. Have you ever eaten wild CGS? Y/N/don't know

If Y:

- When was the last time you ate wild CGS?
- How many times per year do you eat wild CGS?
- Where did you eat wild CGS?
- Are they eaten more/only at special occasions? If Y, what kind of occasions?

13. Are CGS ever used in Traditional Chinese Medicine? Y/N/don't know

If Y:

- What is their main medicinal use?
- Have you ever used CGS-based medicine? If Y, when?

14. Do people in this community have any other uses for wild CGS? Y/N/don't know

If Y, describe these uses:

15. Has anybody (e.g. local people, reserve staff, farm staff, local authorities) ever released any CGS into any rivers in this region? Y/N/don't know

If Y:

- How often does this happen?
- How many animals have been released?
- When was the most recent CGS release?
- Who releases the CGS?
- Where do these CGS come from?
- Where have they been released? (try to provide exact location(s))
- Why do they get released here?

16. Do you farm CGS? Y/N

If Y:

- Where do you obtain them from?
- How many do you have at the moment?
- What is the maximum number of CGS that you have ever kept?
- How long have you kept CGS for?
- Who do you sell these CGS to?
- Have you ever released CGS into the wild? Where and when?

17. Does anybody else in this community farm CGS? Y/N/don't know

If Y:

- How many people (i.e. households)?
- How many CGS in total are farmed in this community? (approximate guess)
- Where do they obtain them from?
- Who are they sold to?
- How long have CGS been farmed in this community?
- Have they ever been released into the wild? Where and when?

C. FRESHWATER RESOURCE USE QUESTIONS

18. Do you go fishing? Y/N

If Y:

- How regularly do you go fishing? (how many times a week, month, or year)
- When do you go fishing? (day or night)
- Where do you go fishing? (give locations AND approx. distance from community – mark all locations on map if possible)
- Do you go fishing more at certain times of year? If so, which times of year?
- Which fish species do you try to catch? (list names)
- What fishing methods do you use? (list all methods) Which is your main fishing method?
- Do you use electro-fishing? If YES, how often do you use this method?
- Do you use poison? If YES, how often do you use this method?
- Do you use explosives? If YES, how often do you use this method?

If N:

- Did you use to go fishing? If YES, where did you use to go fishing, and when did you stop going fishing?

19. Have you ever tried to catch CGS from the wild? Y/N

If Y:

- How regularly do you try to catch CGS? (how many times a week, month, or year)
- When do you try to catch CGS? (day or night)
- Where do you try to catch CGS? (give locations AND approx. distance from community – mark all locations on map if possible)
- Do you try to catch CGS more at certain times of year? If so, which times of year?
- What methods do you use to catch CGS? (list all methods)
- Why do you catch CGS? If it is sold, who is it sold for, and for what price?
- How many CGS have you caught in the past year? Give dates and locations for each individual.
- How many CGS have you caught in the past five years? Give dates and locations for each individual if possible.
- Have you always tried to catch CGS? If N, when did you start trying to catch them, and why?
- Do you still try to catch CGS today? If N, when did you stop trying to catch them, and why?

20. Approximately what proportion of people in this community try to catch CGS?

- All
- Over 50%
- Less than 50%
- Very few
- None
- [Record exact number if given, as well as proportion]

21. What methods do people in this community use to try to catch CGS?

22. Has the level of CGS collecting carried out by local people changed over the past ten years?
Y/N/don't know
- If Y:
- Has it increased or decreased over this time period, and by how much?
 - Why has it changed?
23. What are the main localities where people try to catch CGS?
24. Do you collect other aquatic species (e.g. frogs, crabs, crayfish, shrimp, mussels) from the wild? Y/N
- If Y:
- How regularly do you do this activity? (how many times a week, month, or year)
 - When do you do this activity? (day or night)
 - Where do you do this activity? (give locations AND approx. distance from community – mark all locations on map if possible)
 - Do you do this activity more at certain times of year? If so, which times of year?
 - Which species/kinds of animals do you try to catch? (list names)
 - What methods do you use to collect these species? (list all methods)
 - Why do you collect these species?
- If N:
- Did you use to do this? If YES, where did you use to do this, and when did you stop?
25. Approximately what proportion of people in this community go fishing in nearby rivers?
- All
 - Over 50%
 - Less than 50%
 - Very few
 - None
26. What are the main areas around here where people go fishing?
27. Approximately what proportion of people in this community collect frogs or other aquatic species from nearby rivers?
- All
 - Over 50%
 - Less than 50%
 - Very few
 - None
28. What are the main areas around here where people collect other aquatic species?
29. Approximately what proportion of people in this community use electro-fishing?
- All
 - Over 50%
 - Less than 50%
 - Very few
 - None
 - [Record exact number if given, as well as proportion]
30. Approximately what proportion of people in this community use poison fishing?
- All
 - Over 50%

- Less than 50%
- Very few
- None
- [Record exact number if given, as well as proportion]

31. Approximately what proportion of people in this community use explosives for fishing?

- All
- Over 50%
- Less than 50%
- Very few
- None
- [Record exact number if given, as well as proportion]

32. Do people from other places ever visit the region near this community to collect CGS? Y/N/don't know

If Y:

- How often does this happen?
- Does this tend to happen at a particular time of year? If Y, when?
- Do they try to collect adults, young or eggs?
- Where do these people come from?
- How many CGS have they caught over the past 12 months? (approx.)
- Why do they come here to collect CGS?

D. CONSERVATION ATTITUDES QUESTIONS

33. Do you think that any species in this region (aquatic and/or terrestrial) have declined over the past ten years? Y/N/don't know

If Y, list all species the informant thinks has declined; describe the level of decline over the past ten years (approximate); describe what the informant thinks is responsible for this decline.

34. Have any species disappeared completely from this region during your lifetime? Y/N/don't know

If Y, list all species, and the approximate date that these species disappeared from the local region.

Also ask specifically about any known tiger sightings, and record all details (date, location) – this question can act as a control.

35. Has the CGS population in this region stayed the same or changed at all (do NOT specifically ask if declined) during your lifetime? Same/changed/don't know

If Y, describe the amount of change during this period (approximate); when it started to change; and describe what the informant thinks is responsible for this change.

36. What do you think the main threats are to the CGS population in this region? Please rank in order of importance, with 1=high importance. (*Read out the categories*)

- Overharvesting by local people
- Overharvesting by other people not from this community
- Water pollution
- Lack of food
- Water development projects (e.g. weirs, dams)
- Other (describe)
- No threats

37. What are your attitudes about whether CGS should be protected? (*Read out the categories*)

- They should be protected everywhere
- They should only be protected in nature reserves
- No need to protect them
- Other (describe)
- No opinion

38. Do you think that you or your community would get any benefit if CGS was protected? Y/N/don't know

If YES, why would there be a benefit?

39. Are any particular aquatic species in this region specifically protected by law? Y/N/don't know

If Y, list all species, and try to describe what this legislation is (i.e. whether they can/can't hunt it, etc)

40. Is wild CGS specifically protected by law? Y/N/don't know

If Y, try to describe what this legislation is (i.e. whether they can/can't hunt it, etc)

41. Are any fishing methods banned in this region? Y/N/don't know

If Y, ask the informant to name these methods.

42. Are any areas where fishing cannot be carried out? Y/N/don't know

If Y, ask the informant to name these localities/rivers.

43. Have the nearby rivers changed at all during the past ten years? Y/N/don't know

If Y, how have they changed in quality? (*NB: differentiate between water pollution and rubbish in the water if they say "pollution".*) What has caused this change (e.g. water structures such as weirs or dams)?

44. Has anyone ever been prosecuted for illegal fishing around here? Y/N/don't know

If Y, how often has this happened? Which village/town where they from? What charge/fine/sentence was there?

45. Has anyone ever been prosecuted for catching CGS around here? Y/N/don't know

If Y, how often has this happened? Which village/town where they from? What charge/fine/sentence was there?

46. Has anyone ever been prosecuted for poaching/collecting any other animal or plant species around here? Y/N/don't know

If Y, how often has this happened? Which village/town where they from? What charge/fine/sentence was there?

Space for further comments if necessary:

Chinese giant salamander county-level governmental official survey questionnaire

County, Autonomous County and Nature Reserve interview format

The purpose of this questionnaire is to understand the distribution and status of the Chinese giant salamander populations in your county/Nature Reserve. We sincerely appreciate your support for the conservation research of this species.

Questions:

1. Date
2. Name of department
3. Name of person, job title/official position and contact telephone number
4. Name of Province
5. Name of City
6. Name of County
7. Do you know what a Chinese giant salamander is?
8. Do you have any reports of giant salamanders *in the wild* from your county?
 - (a) within the past 12 months?
 - (b) within the past 5 years?
 - (c) older than 5 years ago?
9. If YES, describe the following:
 - a) Name all localities from which giant salamanders *in the wild* have been reported within your county
 - b) How recently (which year) have giant salamanders *in the wild* been reported from each of these localities?
 - c) What kind of environmental conditions/habitat are the giant salamanders in the *wild* reported from in each locality? (*"Don't know" is an acceptable answer.*)
 - d) How were these reports obtained? [*i.e. who reported the presence of CGS?; also try to find out what kind of evidence is available to support the proposed occurrence of giant salamanders in each named locality*]
 - e) Have any of these reports been verified by local officials? (*e.g. by visiting the locality and seeing the CGS with their own eyes*).
10. Have there ever been any reports of dead or sick wild CGS being found in your county? If YES, please

give as many details as possible (e.g. year, location, number of animals affected, description of any illness).

11. Do you think CGS was present in your county in the past but has since disappeared?

- What makes you think they have disappeared?
- What do you think made them disappear?

(c) When do you think they disappeared from your county?

12. Does your department protect the CGS? If so, when did this protection start and how is this protection carried out?

13. What threats does the CGS face in your county?

14. Have you ever had any reports of wild giant salamanders being collected or traded?

If YES:

a) Collect all details associated with these reports: date(s), locations(s), number(s) of animals

b) Were the wild giant salamanders being caught for sale to restaurants or farms or for another reason (please state all reasons)?

c) Have people ever been prosecuted for collecting or trading wild CGS in your county? If YES, how many people, when did the prosecutions take place, and what were the penalties?

15. Have any permits been facilitated to be issued for the collection of CGS from the wild in your county?

16. Are there any giant salamander farms in the region under your office's jurisdiction?

If YES:

a) How many farms?

b) How many farms of each farm type?

- Smallholder ()
- Company ()
- Collaborative ()

c) How many farms in your county are licensed to farm CGS

d) How many farms in your county are not licensed to farm CGS

e) How many farms in your county have licenses to sell giant salamanders?

17. Are farmed giant salamanders ever released into the wild in this county?

If YES:

a) How many releases have occurred in the last 12 months?

b) How many releases have occurred in the last 5 years?

c) When was the last year CGS were released and how many were released during that year? (Name the year and the number of animals released.)

d) Where were these individuals released (names of locations/rivers)?

e) Where do these individuals come from? (e.g. which farm(s))

f) How were the specific release site(s) chosen? (What were the reasons for choosing these release sites?)

18. What do you think is the future of the CGS farming industry over the next 5-10 years?

a) Stay the same

b) Increase

c) Decrease

(give space for any further comments, e.g. reasons why they think this)

19. Have there been any recent changes in market demand (i.e. demand from restaurants)? Y/N

a) If YES, have these had any impact on the local industry? If YES, please describe

20. What do you think that the farms would do if the farming industry collapses? (tick more than one if necessary)

a) Abandon the farm

b) Transfer the business

c) Release the captive CGS

d) Don't know/never considered this

e) Other

What do you think that the government response would be if the farming industry collapses? (leave as open question)

Chinese giant salamander farm survey questionnaire

Chinese Giant Salamander Farm Questionnaire, April 2014

1. Date:
2. Name of person being interviewed:

Telephone contact number:
3. Position of person being interviewed (i.e. their job within the farm):
4. Name of farm:
5. Address of farm _____
- GPS: ____ N ____ E
6. What is the business model used by the farm?

1) Smallholder (i.e. in a family house) 2) Company 3) Cooperative 4) Other _____
7. Over how many sites is the farm located _____ and how many staff are employed (1) at this site _____, and (2) over all sites _____.
8. Does this farm have households involved or not? **Y/N**
9. When was this CGS farm established?
10. Estimated total number of CGS (adults plus stock juveniles):

(If possible, record exact number: _____)

A) <100

B) 100 < 1000

C) 1000 < 5000

D) 5000 < 10000

E) >=10000

11. Estimated number of breeding adults:

(If possible, record exact number: _____)

- A) <20
- B) 20 < 50
- C) 50 <100
- D) 100 < 500
- E) >=500

12. How many CGS larvae do you estimate your farm produces annually? (If possible, record exact number: _____)

- A) None
- B) <100
- C) 100 < 1000
- D) 1000 < 5000
- E) 5000 < 10000
- F) 10000 < 50000
- G) >=50000

13. How many generations of CGS have you bred on your farm?

14. Has your farm ever experienced any disease in the captive CGS population? **Y/N**

If YES, give details (e.g. which diseases, which year, proportion of stock lost?)

15. Pictures – can you ID the signs of disease on these pictures? (Describe the informant's responses/comments)

16. Have any of the neighbouring farms experienced disease? If YES, please give as much detail as possible (e.g. number/percentage of neighbouring farms with disease, when the disease occurred, or is it still on-going? what kinds of disease has occurred on these farms?)

17. Can you describe 3-5 most important production problems you have come across?

18. Describe the source(s) of your CGS:

Origin		Approximate number of breeding adults	Approximate number of juveniles/sub-adults	Approximate number of larvae	Further details of location
Locally wild-caught					
Wild-caught from other regions					
Other farms in this county					
Other counties in this city					
Other cities in this province					
Other province (describe which province):	Name of the province				
	(i) Shaanxi				
	(ii) Hubei				
	(iii) Hunan				
	(iv) Anhui				
	(v) Guizhou				
	(vi)				
	(vii)				
	(viii)				

19. Does your farm sell CGS?

Destination	Approximate number of wild-caught CGS	Approximate number of breeding farmed adult CGS	Approximate number of juveniles/subadult farmed CGS	Approximate number of farmed larvae	Further details of location
Restaurants (describe where)					
Other farms within this county					
Other counties in this city					
Other cities in this province					
Other province:					
(ix) Shaanxi					
(x) Hubei					
(xi) Hunan					
(xii) Anhui					
(xiii) Guangdong					
(xiv) Other (describe which province)					

20. If you sell CGS to other farms, what is their purpose for buying them?

- ☐ For breeding
- ☐ For rearing
- ☐ Other (describe)

21. Do you rear animals separately based on their origins? Y/N

(If YES, describe the informant's responses/comments on why, and on how they do the separation)

22. Have you microchipped your CGS? **Y/N**

If YES, in which part of the animal do you do the microchipping?

23. Do you know of any wild populations of CGS in your area? **Y/N**

If YES, describe all known wild population(s) – geographic location, estimated numbers of wild animals, etc.

24. In your opinion, is there a preference for farms to stocking with farm-bred or with wild CGS? **Y/N**

If Yes, please describe which is preferred and why.

25. Are CGS from your farm ever released into the wild? **Y/N**

If YES:

- How often/regularly does this occur?
- How many animals are involved in each release?
- Where are they released?
- Why are they released in this location?

26. What do you think is the future of the CGS farming industry over the next 5-10 years?

- a) Stay the same
- b) Increase
- c) Decrease

(give space for any further comments, e.g. reasons why they think this)

27. Have there been any recent changes in market demand (i.e. demand from restaurants)? **Y/N**

- a) If YES, have these had any impact on your industry? If YES, please describe

28. What would you do if the farming industry collapses? (tick more than one if necessary)

- a) Abandon the farm
- b) Transfer the business
- c) Release the captive CGS
- d) Don't know/never considered this
- e) Other

Urban consumer survey questionnaire

Date:

Location:

Sex: M / F

Age: (1) 18-25 (2) 25-35 (3) 35-50 (4) 50+

What is your highest level of education?

(1) Primary school

(2) Middle school

(3) Undergraduate

(4) MSc

(5) Higher level

Have you heard of Chinese giant salamander? Y / N

If YES: how/when did you hear about it?

If NO: have you heard of wawayu? Y / N

Have you ever seen a Chinese giant salamander? Y / N

If YES: where?

Farm (specify)

Media

River

Market

Other:

How big was it? (ask them to show you)

Which one of these animals is Chinese giant salamander?

[Show photos of different amphibian and fish species, including giant salamander]

What do you feel about Chinese giant salamander on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = really dislike and 5 = really like? 1 2 3 4 5

Why?

Have you ever heard of someone eating Chinese giant salamander? Y / N

If YES, why might you want to eat giant salamander:

Tasty / good flavour

Curious

No pollution

Rare / expensive

Other reason:

Do you feel that Chinese giant salamander should be protected? Y / N / No opinion

If YES, how do you feel they should be protected:

Laws

Government policy

Do not eat them

Habitat protection

Other / open answer:

Do you want to help protect Chinese giant salamanders? Y / N / No opinion

If YES, how:

Volunteer

Donate

Other: