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**Integrated Development Program to Preserve Cultural
Heritage and Improve Sustainable Livelihoods in Ethnic
Tibetan Communities in China**

Annual Report

October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

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Agreement Number: AID-486-A-14-00003

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List of Abbreviation

AI	Aspen Institute Alliance for Artisan Enterprise
ADS	Automated Directives System
AOTR	Agreement Officer's Technical Representative
AR	Annual Report
CBO	Community-based organization
CI	Common Indicator
CIRS	Common Indicator Reference Sheet
CoP	Chief of Party
CSO	Civil society organization
DCoP	Deputy Chief of Party
FY	Fiscal Year
GW	GoodWeave
IR	Intermediate result
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RDMA	Regional Development Mission Asia (USAID)
RF	Results Framework
RPA	Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
SI	Smithsonian Institution
SO	Strategic objective
SOT	Strategic Objective Team
TA	Technical Assistance
TBF	The Bridge Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Education and Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	US dollar
USG	United States Government
WG	Working Group

I. ACTIVITY/MECHANISM OVERVIEW

Activity/Mechanism Name:	<i>Increased preservation of tangible and intangible Tibetan culture</i>
Activity/Mechanism Start Date and End Date:	Entire grant cycle
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	The Bridge Fund of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
[Contract/Agreement] Number:	AID-486-A-14-00003
Name of Subcontractors/Subawardees:	The Smithsonian Institution, Aspen Institute, Good Weave
Major Counterpart Organizations	N/A
Geographic Coverage (States/Provinces and Countries)	Tibetan-inhabited regions of China
Reporting Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

I.1 Background

The Bridge Fund (TBF) of RPA and our partners, The Smithsonian Institution (SI), GoodWeave (GW) and Aspen Institute Alliance for Artisan Enterprise (AI) have received an award of \$7.5 million under USAID Cooperative Agreement #AID-486-A-14-000003. Under this agreement, TBF has a 5-year integrated development program to preserve cultural heritage and improve sustainable livelihoods in ethnic Tibetan communities in China as outlined in proposal RFA#USAID-RDMA-SOL-486-14-000026. The grant period started on September 30, 2014 and will run through October 2019. This report covers the first of the five year grant.

TBF very much appreciates the support of USAID, which has enabled our ability in conjunction with our partners to implement and scale up high-impact programs in all regions of the Tibetan Plateau in China. TBF partners, staff, and the local communities we serve are deeply grateful to USAID, the U.S. Government as a whole, and the American people for their generous support. RDMA continues to be extraordinarily helpful in the growth and development of the program and to larger issues related to development on the Plateau.

Despite difficulties for NGOs working in China, particularly on the plateau, TBF's work continues. TBF has been exploring new ways to work on the plateau, and has formed partnerships with other institutions and individuals in order to ensure the sustainability of our projects despite the uncertainties regarding the looming threat of restrictive NGO laws.

UNESCO was one of our major partners in past AID grants. Although they have been successful on the plateau, they have been awaiting response from the Chinese government regarding permissions for their work in the region. Due to the lack of response, our planned partnership with UNESCO has unfortunately been made unavailable.

In the past, TBF has met and surpassed many of its initial plans and goals for its projects. This year, TBF fully expects that it will continue to meet targets for the program. TBF is confident that there will be a successful year in terms of both USAID projects and EU funded programs. TBF also receives funding from the EU to support our offices, staff and other programs.

Activities this quarter, by intermediate result (IR) area, follow:

Objective 1. Institutionalized Efforts to Preserve Tibetan Culture and Traditions

TBF and SI will work together to safeguard and preserve both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and, in doing so, engage and empower local communities to participate in the process through cultural mapping and employing global platforms and innovative technologies. Program activities will enable Tibetan communities to use their cultural heritage as a tool in their economic development; to showcase their cultural heritage through activities such as cultural tourism, and to promote the development, protection and marketing of their artisan traditions with support from SI, GW and AI. Cultural mapping findings will be shared with relevant authorities, local communities, USAID and other partners to expand knowledge, set best practice standards, create models and improve coordination and networks. Cutting edge technology will be used to digitize, archive, display and share both tangible and intangible Tibetan cultural traditions and art forms.

Activities being planned in the 5 year grant involve participation with Smithsonian Institution museum exhibits, Folkways recordings and the Folklife Festival. Publications, training manuals, film, music, collections and archives will be an important element of the program. Cultural preservation programs will be linked to interventions to improve livelihoods and achieve sustainability. The program will build the capacity of local organizations, communities and other stakeholders to ensure local involvement, empowerment and sustainability. An emphasis will be placed on the preservation of nomad culture, which encompasses over nine centuries of tradition unique to the Tibetan plateau region. Much of it may be lost in the coming decades due to rapid social and economic development trends in China. Exhibits and collections will also reference the role of nomads as effective stewards of the environment and ways in which they contribute to climate change resilience.

Objective 2. Improved Sustainable Livelihoods for Ethnic Tibetans in China

TBF and our partners The Smithsonian Institution, GoodWeave, Aspen Institute Alliance for Artisan Enterprise and will focus on targeted segments of the artisan and culture tourism sectors to build capacity, standards and market linkages while preserving artisan and handicraft traditions. TBF will support artisan businesses and entrepreneurs engaged in programs that have a strong cultural heritage preservation component and building on work TBF has conducted in Tibetan regions with local organizations and cooperatives, trainers and our business development program.

The program will help Tibetan artisan enterprises and Tibetan entrepreneurs to start up and expand enterprises, create much needed employment opportunities, attain economies of scale in production, increase competitiveness of Tibetan entrepreneurs, particularly artisans, reach new markets, and achieve sustainability. Culture based and artisan enterprises are a focal point of the improved livelihoods program. The global artisan sector, including handcraft, is estimated to generate \$34 billion dollars in revenue per year according to the Aspen Institute. There are significant opportunities for Tibetans to participate in this sector and preserve rare handcraft and other cultural traditions.

TBF, SI and AI will strengthen and support other culture based enterprises in addition to artisan enterprises, including culture centered tourism, Tibetan language publication, music, photography and possibly film production.

Activities including trainings, workshops, and symposia will be aligned with grant support to build capacity and a network of artisan and culture-centered enterprises and will include local leaders, stakeholders and TBF's consortium partners in relevant sectors. Program planning, management and monitoring and evaluation training will be incorporated into the program. Policy recommendations on culture-centered enterprise development will be made to provincial and central government institutions and officials in discussions and through academic and institutional contacts.

Our program to improve sustainable livelihoods while concurrently working toward cultural preservation will result in increased employment opportunities for Tibetans in rural and urban areas, social business creation, and higher incomes. Artisan enterprises that incorporate social enterprise metrics will provide Tibetans with new sources of jobs, income, market access and opportunities and resources to integrate social, cultural and environmental impact into their business models. Tibetans will have increased capacity to scale and replicate successful businesses that improve both livelihoods and preserve the unique cultural heritage and traditions of the Tibetan plateau.

To track beneficiary data and measure impact of the program, TBF has developed the following Intermediate Results (IR) and Sub-IR indicators below:

Objective 1 - Institutionalized Efforts to Preserve Tibetan Culture and Traditions

IR. 1.1 Increased Use and Promotion of Tibetan language

- 1.1.1. Number of Tibetans benefitting from increased access to Tibetan language materials, media and classes
- 1.1.2. Number of Tibetan language materials, media produced and preserved

IR 1.2 Increased Preservation of Tangible and Intangible Culture

- 1.1.1. Number of people benefitting from tangible and intangible cultural heritage preservation
- 1.1.2. Number of direct beneficiaries benefitting from restored tangible sites

IR 1.3 Improved Documentation and Dissemination of Tibetan Culture

- 1.1.1. Number of traditions, including art, songs, festivals, ceremonies and dance recorded and archived
- 1.1.2. Number of collections and exhibits developed
- 1.1.3. Number of people benefitting from access to collections and exhibits

IR 1.4 Cultural Mapping-Identify preservation planning and inform development planning

- 1.4.1 Number of Tibetans benefitting from cultural mapping activities
- 1.4.2 Number of cultural heritage preservation projects undertaken by local communities as a result of cultural mapping
- 1.4.3 Changes in local policies and priorities regarding development and cultural heritage preservation as a result of cultural mapping activities

Objective 2 - Improved Sustainable Livelihoods that Strengthen Cultural Preservation

IR. 2.1 Improved Quality, Standards and Business Opportunities for Artisans

- 1.1.1. Number of artisans benefitting from design, business and marketing assistance
- 1.1.2. Number of Tibetan rug producers benefitting from technical, marketing and design assistance
- 2.1.3 Number of enterprises with improved social and environmental standards
- 2.1.4 Number of cultural traditions preserved through the artisan program

IR. 2.2 increased Competitiveness of Artisan Sector-Management and Marketing Support

- 2.2.1 Number of Tibetan artisan enterprises with new or expanded markets
- 2.2.2 Number of Tibetans with improved capacity to grow their business through business support including links to financing, loans and guarantees
- 2.2.3 Number of Tibetan artisan and cultural enterprises with increased income
- 2.2.4 Number of Tibetans starting artisan and culture based enterprises

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Progress Narrative & Implementation Status

Objective 1 - Institutionalized Efforts to Preserve Tibetan Culture and Traditions **SMITHSONIAN:**

IR. 1.1 Increased Use and Promotion of Tibetan language

1.1.3. Number of Tibetans benefitting from increased access to Tibetan language materials, media and classes

1.1.4. Number of Tibetan language materials, media produced and preserved
The Smithsonian began this year not having any specialists in the Tibetan field. In this first year of the project they have hired 2 highly qualified fellows, and acquired 5 interns to work on this project. One of the Fellows, Tim Thurston completed a trip to the field this summer, taking Smithsonian partners on a tour of the plateau to introduce them to the area and potential partners. This preliminary trip was successful and has made the necessary connections to work with Chinese Universities.

Working through their Recovering Voices Program, SI works to document, revitalize and sustain the Tibetan language and at least two of the most important dialects of Tibetan, which are considered by some scholars to be independent languages. SI's RV Program trains indigenous community members in linguistics and language documentation, culturally-based language curriculum, and survey methods. The RV Program will include video documentation of specific life ways, documentation of specialized vocabulary pertaining to traditional knowledge, documentation of traditional cultural expression and stories, and extant language documentation to include development of a monolingual or bilingual dictionary.

The researchers involved in this project are engaged in community-based language research (CBLR). This methodology emphasizes forming collaborative relationships with the community or specific community members. The research is designed to be not only *on* the language and community, but designed *with* them, implemented in with or *by* them, and create products *for* them. CBLR is practiced throughout the world, and is recognized to create the best language documentation and build capacity for language documentation within communities.

SI (Linn, Leopold, and Tribur) hosted a pre-conference workshop *Linguistic Documentation and Sustainability in Tibetan Minority Communities* at the 48th International Conference of Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics (UC Santa Barbara, August 20-23, 2015). The workshop facilitated robust discussions centering on issues of language and cultural documentation in Tibetan speaking areas of China. The workshop consisted of three primary themes: 1) Literacy, Orthographic Practices & Language, 2) Attitudes; Culturally Appropriate Models of Researcher-Community Interaction; and 3) Under-Described Languages & Genres. Speakers presented short talks or perspective, followed by questions and discussion.

SI met with Tashi Dekyi in Charlottesville, VA to discuss *Documenting Traditional Tibetan Artifacts Through Digital Technologies in Kham and Amdo Regions* (described under Planned Tasks, below) in August. SI proposed a pilot project that would allow SI to determine the documentation skills of the 10 project team members as well as their overall reliability. SI also sought clarification regarding project scope and timeline; the respective roles and previous experience of project personnel; selection criteria for interviewees and locales; and digital formats for audio and graphic images. (Please refer to Challenges, below).

SI invited Mr. He Ping, (Zhibde Nyima) to the US to speak about the role of traditional cultures in his work as a comedian, poet, actor, filmmaker, lyric poet, author. He Ping recently starred in a film that showed at the Venice Film festival. His own film work, though less well-known outside of Tibet, is extremely popular on the Tibetan plateau. He Ping would be the first of a series of learning exchanges conducted under a proposed new program, *Smithsonian Tibetan Artists in Residence* (STAR)(described under Planned Tasks, below).

SI continued to explore prospective academic partnerships for the two seven-day training workshops proposed in our AWP for Year 2, Q4. These workshops will focus on topics of Intangible Cultural Heritage preservation in ethnic minority areas of China and seek to provide practical knowledge of heritage documentation practices for participants to take back to their home communities and/or institutions. We have discussed this training with a dean at the Southwest University of Nationalities (in Chengdu) who is interested in potentially working with us (and willing to share our proposal with senior personnel). In addition, the Qinghai Folklore Society, in combination with the Qinghai Normal University's Intangible Cultural Heritage Research Center, has expressed "great interest" in co-hosting a training workshop. The head of the Qinghai Folklore Society is actively working coordinate with relevant offices to make this a reality. (Please refer to Challenges, below).

SI solicited syllabi from successful documentation training programs conducted in Nepal to serve as training models.

Postdoctoral Fellow Timothy Thurston began his one-year appointment on July 1.

SMITHSONIAN:

IR 1.2 Increased Preservation of Tangible and Intangible Culture

1.1.3. Number of people benefitting from tangible and intangible cultural heritage preservation

1.1.4. Number of direct beneficiaries benefitting from restored tangible sites

UNESCO began this grant cycle continuing the work that they had almost completed during the previous grant. The visual and print versions of mural restoration manuals were edited and translated. All work was based in Bangkok as the organization has not received approval from the Chinese government to continue fieldwork in China. Due to this set-back, Smithsonian is working on IR 1.2 in FY2016.

SMITHSONIAN:

IR 1.3 Improved Documentation and Dissemination of Tibetan Culture

- 1.1.4. Number of traditions, including art, songs, festivals, ceremonies and dance recorded and archived
- 1.1.5. Number of collections and exhibits developed
- 1.1.6. Number of people benefitting from access to collections and exhibits

SI continued this year with the Recovering Voices programs from the previous grant cycle. These programs will not only increase access to Tibetan language materials and preserve existing materials, it will also help re-popularize folk stories, songs and traditional culture through current technologies and connections.

SMITHSONIAN:

IR 1.4 Cultural Mapping-Identify preservation planning and inform development planning

- 1.4.1 Number of Tibetans benefitting from cultural mapping activities
- 1.4.2 Number of cultural heritage preservation projects undertaken by local communities as a result of cultural mapping
- 1.4.3 Changes in local policies and priorities regarding development and cultural heritage preservation as a result of cultural mapping activities

In the previous grant cycle, UNESCO had much success with their cultural mapping programs, this year SI was to join UNESCO in furthering efforts. Because UNESCO has been unable to work this year SI has taken responsibility for these plans. Including making plans to utilize UNESCOs previous work and expertise. SI began mapping this year with TBF staff and with By Hand Consulting to layout arts and craft traditions to tie together the first and second objectives of this grant.

Objective 2 - Improved Sustainable Livelihoods that Strengthen Cultural Preservation

SMITHSONIAN & GOOD WEAVE & ASPEN INSTITUTE:

IR. 2.1 Improved Quality, Standards and Business Opportunities for Artisans

- 1.1.1. Number of artisans benefitting from design, business and marketing assistance
- 1.1.2. Number of Tibetan rug producers benefitting from technical, marketing and design assistance
- 2.1.3 Number of enterprises with improved social and environmental standards
- 2.1.4 Number of cultural traditions preserved through the artisan program

This year, Smithsonian hired consulting By Hand and an expert in the Tibetan handicraft field, Claire Buechert, to begin to design business opportunities for Tibetans in Eastern Tibet. The organization planned two major survey trips for the first quarter of FY16 and have new ideas for how to work together with GW and Aspen.

GW made significant progress this quarter, finalizing its initial feasibility study of standards and certification systems and establishing key relationships for the next phase of implementation. As mentioned in previous reports, the feasibility study provides a survey of certification systems in China, as well as insights for how international standards organizations can negotiate the increasingly complex political landscape. The report included a stakeholder analysis and lessons learned from other standards organizations, which GW contextualized to the situation in Western China through discussions with existing licensees operating in the region, other civil society groups with operations in Tibet, and academics with regional expertise. GW submitted the draft report to The Bridge Fund in mid-August and the final version will be submitted in October.

Reaching out through its networks, GW continued to build on relationships with academic contacts, industry stakeholders, and consortium partners. Rather than rely on a single consultant to survey production in Western China, GW is developing a multifaceted study to help target project interventions. The study will document the current status of the hand-woven carpet sector in Western China, including major producers, weaving areas, and business characteristics. To carry out the first piece of this study, GW worked with the Smithsonian's assessment team to enlist their help in gathering information about producers in Qinghai Province (Xining, Rebkong, Yushu, Dege, Ganzi and Chengdu) during their recent trip to the region, which took place in late September. In addition, GW is developing a producer assessment to implement in Lhasa, Nakchu and Gyantse through engagement of a separate consultant in the coming quarter. The information from these assessments may be supplemented by a group of MBA students from a leading business school who would travel to the region in the spring to conduct a comparative analysis on the competitiveness of Tibetan hand-knotted carpets. GW began exploring this possibility during this quarter and will finalize plans for this partnership in the coming quarter, pending continued mutual interest.

Also during this quarter, GW developed a spreadsheet of carpet producers in Western China based on Chinese-language web-based research to help identify potential areas for project interventions. Moreover, discussions with academics with Dartmouth College, Columbia University, University of California-Berkeley, and Tibet University provided additional information and useful contacts to leverage as the project moves forward.

Based on the results of the feasibility study mentioned above, GW is developing a relationship with a leading industry association that maintains close ties to both government and business, and has the ability to embed the thinking and benefits of standards into existing Chinese sectoral initiatives. During this quarter, GW finalized a TOR for a joint research study with the industry association that will focus on a labor analysis and competitiveness study of carpet producers in Western China. GW will share the TOR with the association in the coming quarter, and potentially complete the study by February 2016.

Finally, GW initiated discussions with a carpet company operating in TAR to explore potential joint activities that would both provide economic support to disadvantaged communities, while also improving the competitiveness of hand-knotted rugs produced in TAR. A more in-depth discussion will take place early in the coming quarter, and activities (such as weaver training) could begin in early 2016.

AI is acting as the bridge for the partners across the second objective. AI has been using its connections to help guide both GW and SI in ways that they may be able to bring Tibetan artisans to the international market. In Q2, AI hosted a successful partners meeting in their office in DC. In Q4, the Alliance for Artisan Enterprise hosted the launch the Global Campaign for Artisan Enterprise event at the U.S. Department of State, attended by the partners on this grant. During the event, Monica Garry spoke about the Bridge Fund's innovative financing solutions on a panel entitled "Bridging the Finance Gap: Innovations for Artisans." The Alliance also shared the Artisan Value Chain Toolkit with members of GW and The Bridge Fund at an Innovations Workshop at the Aspen Institute. Participants in the workshop completed the toolkit and provided feedback to better prepare the Toolkit to be shared digitally.

IR. 2.2 increased Competitiveness of Artisan Sector-Management and Marketing Support

- 2.2.1 Number of Tibetan artisan enterprises with new or expanded markets
- 2.2.2 Number of Tibetans with improved capacity to grow their business through business support including links to financing, loans and guarantees
- 2.2.3 Number of Tibetan artisan and cultural enterprises with increased income
- 2.2.4 Number of Tibetans starting artisan and culture based enterprises

SI will provide targeted services and support to artisan communities in TBF focal areas to improve the quality of artisan crafts and handwork, improve environmental and social standards in workshops and support the development and growth of artisan businesses to increase economic opportunities for Tibetan artisans. TBF and SI will focus on artisan projects in ethnic Tibetan communities in Sichuan, Qinghai and TAR, China.

This year, the first activity of GW was designing and implementing an assessment and feasibility study to map the production of Tibetan hand-knotted carpets in mainland China, identify major producers and operating norms, and follow the supply chain to identify how to tailor GoodWeave's standards and certification approach to fit the Chinese context. The study also places hand-knotted carpets within the context of China's broader carpet industry to identify potential avenues for expanding the international and domestic market for Tibetan carpet products. GoodWeave is also identifying potential partners for initiating training activities and other services to improve the competitiveness of the carpet sector in Western China, and increase employment opportunities among disadvantaged communities. By the end of FY15, GW had identified a partner in China to work with in the TAR to conduct training- not only in hand knotted carpets but also identifying and creating a market for high quality machine made carpets in the TAR. GW had conducted a survey and found that the best way to work in the region is to offer high quality machine made products in order to compete with the low cost high quality hand made rugs of Nepal and the low cost low quality machine made rugs of China. The introduction of high quality machine made rugs to the market will allow Tibetans to emerge with a competitive product- that will be both of high quality and affordable.

In Q4, AI hosted a marketing conference in which TBF founder Monica Garry spoke. TBF, SI, GoodWeave, and AI will work with partners to identify and match artisan enterprises with market opportunities, including both regional and international craft fairs and markets and particularly those with AI members in their networks (such as West Elm, Eileen Fisher, and Coca Cola).

2.2 Implementation Challenges

SMITHONIAN: The draft PRC Non-Mainland NGO Management Law (中国人民共和国境外非政府组织管理法) has had a chilling effect on our work with prospective partners at Chinese academic institutions as well as prospective local project personnel. The former are reluctant to engage in educational exchanges such as training exercises; the latter have asked for clarification regarding our status as governmental/non-governmental. Neither choice is likely to make much of a difference until the draft becomes law. At the moment, the project leader for the Documenting Traditional Tibetan Artifacts Through Digital Technologies in Kham and Amdo Regions, a monk from Pelyul monastery, will not begin a pilot until SI's official operating status is clarified.'

UNESCO: After numerous attempts throughout this first year to apply for permission to work within China, UNESCO never received response from the Chinese government. TBF has had much previous success working with UNESCO as a partner, but unfortunately for the time being this partnership is not possible at the moment. Adjustments are being made in work plan for FY16. SI is finding ways to use the expertise from UNESCO to complete the projects begun by the organization.

GOODWEAVE: GW continues to employ a cautious project strategy with an eye to avoiding political missteps that could affect its ability to operate in Western China and elsewhere in the country. As in previous quarters, GW is carefully brokering partnerships with established counterparts – ranging from academics and companies to industry associations – and exploring ways to facilitate introductions and access to target communities, which is a time-intensive process. Production, material, and design standards that can open up a new market and will be implanting training in the first quarter of the new year.

2.3 M&E Plan & Implementation Update

TBF: Over the course of the year, due to political reasons, there have been numerous changes to our agreement and work plan. Revision to initial plan was discussed with AOTR Tom White in person in Beijing in Q2 and in Qinghai in Q4. As previously stated, the year was slow for spending and project start up. The AOTR also requested that we simplify our indicators and our report language. TBF is undergoing major transition at the time of writing this report and moving forward we will try to ensure that we are more compliant with our M&E plan and implementation.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

3.1 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

While there are no instances of gender violence or public complaints of gender inequality within the Tibetan plateau, the issues of gender inequality are great. Women in Tibet are considered to be of a lower rebirth and are often not offered equal opportunities as their male counterparts. The programs TBF implements are of great benefit to Tibetan women. TBF head staff are both American and Tibetan women who speak regularly with Tibetan women best plan our programs with their input. This grant cycle we are focused on the artisan sector, which is directly related to female empowerment, seeing that women produce the majority of crafts in the Tibetan world. Our language program is also especially designed to promote literacy and scholarship among women, ensuring that they become community leaders, destroying the dis-empowering cultural constructs.

3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms (including local solutions and partnerships) –

During year one of this grant all partners have worked closely with TBF in creating plans and partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the programs that we are creating. In this unknown political climate, it is challenging to ensure that anything will be sustainable,

yet we work diligently on the local level, getting stakeholder advice to make sure that we are working in the proper manner to sustain our work.

3.3 Environmental Compliance –

Working mainly with Tibetan Nomads, TBF is concerned greatly with the environment and thoroughly investigates the environmental impact of all projects. FY15 was mainly a planning year for TBF and its partners, therefore we do not have much to report regarding this compliance.

3.4 Science, Technology, and Innovation –

We hope to be bringing appropriate innovative technologies to the Tibetan people of Tibet to be promoting and preserving their way of life. In Q4 GW identified some technologies that will be used by Tibetan rug manufacturers to compete with the Chinese rug manufacturers who have a corner on the market. SI is using high quality video and audio recording technology with its RV project allowing Tibetans training on AV equipment.

4. STAKEHOLDERS* PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT –

TBF and its local staff work constantly with stakeholders on all levels. Government officials, past, present & future beneficiaries, and community members to speak about projects at all phases. Particularly at this stage, while we have been planning throughout the year, numerous groups have been pulled together to speak about the programs and the partners and the most effective ways to work in the current climate.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

Throughout this quarter both TBF and its partners had some obstacles to our work. SI did not receive visas, UNESCO was not allowed to work, and some of our programs were going to be impossible to implement without proper connections.

TBF and partners have worked very hard this year in order to make the proper connections and impressions in order to ensure that we remain on the ground and working.

That said, this year has been a very slow spending year, yet now we can say that we have a firm foundation and our programs are set to truly launch next quarter as we begin our second year of the grant.

6. UPDATES ON ISSUES/COMMENTS RAISED BY A/COR FROM THE LAST PROGRESS REPORT

INDICATORS: TBF is simplifying its Indicators. We have repointed all indicators (which were many) into one overarching indicator: “Increased preservation of tangible and intangible Tibetan culture”

SPENDING: coming into year two, TBF and its partners are ready to launch programs on the ground and begin being of benefit to the Tibetan people of Tibet. The request that VIA can work as a partner on the ETP program rather than UNESCO (who is currently unable to work in the field) has been discussed and formally requested.

STAFFING: Year 2 will see a major transition with TBF staff and will encourage those with experience and work ethic to re-engage with their jobs, now that we are ready to work on the ground!

7. PLANNED TASKS/INTERVENTIONS FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

TBF: Will begin work according to new revised year 2 work plan and revised M&E.

SMITHSONIAN: Planning continues for Documenting Traditional Tibetan Artifacts Through Digital Technologies in Kham and Amdo Regions will help preserve Tibetan material culture and intangible cultural heritage associated with traditional tools and objects by photographing objects, recording the functions of objects, collecting stories, sayings, proverb and riddles about them in local dialects, and disseminating the documentation in analog and digital formats. The project is intended to encourage the creation of new knowledge drawn from traditional insights by promoting the use of documented materials in education settings. The project fills a lacuna in existing documentation of Tibetan materials culture (which focuses nearly exclusively on religious objects and texts). An additional benefit of the project is the language transmission and learning that results from intergenerational group interaction with objects of material culture, a methodology that the Smithsonian’s Recovering Voices initiative has long employed to great effect. The research proposal was submitted to our team by a group of local Tibetans from Kham and Amdo including laypeople and monks, teachers, writers, and photographers who deeply care about local culture and Tibetan language. The project leader is a monk from Pelyul monastery (who we were unable to meet with on our visit) with extensive previous experience working with NGOs.

Planning begins for Smithsonian Tibetan Artists in Residence (STAR), which will sponsor artists and artisans, musicians, oral literature and verbal arts performers, and other tradition bearers whose career would benefit from a three-week exchange with cultural heritage professionals in Washington. STAR fellows will engage in a variety of activities (tailored to their individual interests and the overall goals of the present project), including lectures, performances, cultural heritage documentation and archiving. Fellows would also be invited to contribute to Smithsonian Folkways Recordings and the holdings of SI’s Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections. This program would

begin with five (5) fellows in Year Two and increase to ten fellows annually in Years 3, 4 and 5. SI has drafted a tentative list of artists:

- TsoYak: Modern-style folksinger.
- Dekyi Tsering: Hip-hop artist
- Dawa drubpa: Gesar performer
- ‘Jams dbyangs blo gros (Jamyang Lodro): Comedian, filmmaker, former monk, folksong singer, and very well versed in traditional verbal art.
- Zhibde nyima: Comedian, poet, actor, filmmaker, lyric poet, author.
- Skal bzang tshe brtan: a teacher from a nomadic area, but also a lovesong singer, and sometimes ethnomusicological researcher.
- Phags pa don grub (Puhua): documentary filmmaker very interested in preservation of traditional Tibetan culture.
- Klu rgyal ra Ti: Young/up-and-coming filmmaker, literally wrote the book on filmmaking in Tibetan.
- Dawa Drolma: Completing her BA at Bay Path University, is an award winning documentary filmmaker. Her films have focused on handicraft traditions from her home area in Dege.
- Sherten: Popular musician.
- Sengcham Drukmo School: has its own Tibetan opera dance troupe.

GOODWEAVE: GoodWeave will submit the final feasibility study in the coming quarter, as well as finalize a research TOR with the industry association. Pending travel approval, GoodWeave will also conduct an assessment of industry production in TAR and potentially finalize plans for a competitiveness assessment and initial activities with a partner company based in TAR.

ASPEN: AI will be planning a year 2 partners meeting and will continue to forge relations with larger companies for each partner. AI will work with all partners to identify and match artisan enterprises with market opportunities, including participation in regional and international fairs and markets. AI will also work to match artisan products with potential members such as West Elm, Eileen Fisher and others in their network.

Annex I. Summary Results to Date

[Enter data in the Excel spreadsheet provided and use outputs from the Excel spreadsheet for reporting.]

Please see following page.