

# Supporting Information

Cao et al. 10.1073/pnas.0900197106



**Fig. S1.** Changes in the landscape during the soil and water conservation project in Changting County from 2000 (*Top*) to 2008 (*Bottom*).



Fig. S2. Coal was produced and sold at a subsidy of approximately 25% of the cost to farmers who stopped cutting forest vegetation for fuel.



Fig. S3. The construction of infrastructure for (Top) the production and (Bottom) use of methane was encouraged by government subsidies.



**Fig. S4.** The government encouraged the development of green enterprises such as (*Top Left*) the cultivation of fruit trees and (*Top Right*) the raising of pigs. (*Bottom*) A photograph of the improved environment that resulted from these programs.



Fig. S5. The government paid farmers RMB 30/day for performing the environmental restoration work.



**Fig. S6.** (Top) Using a steel tape to measure vegetation cover. (Bottom) Measuring tree cover and collecting samples to describe species diversity in the study plots.



**Fig. S7.** To monitor run-off and soil erosion in Changting County, sedimentation ponds were constructed on representative slopes at each village (*Top*) and artificial sand sedimentation ponds (*Bottom*) were constructed at a monitoring station used for the soil and water conservation project.



**Fig. S8.** The quantity of run-off and water samples to detect soil erosion were measured every 2 and 12 h, respectively, downstream of the project area.