

Endangered Folktale Preservation in Xunhua Tibetan Areas,  
Qinghai Province, PR China

A Canada Fund contribution of 191,600 RMB allowed an important local Tibetan folktale project to be carried out in Xunhua Salar Autonomous County. The project digitalized the folktales, encouraged local schools to use local Tibetan literary resources, transcribed the collected folktales into Tibetan writing and translated them into Chinese and English, providing audio versions of the originals told by village elders, and a retold audio version of the original materials by professional radio broadcasters in the Amdo Tibetan dialect. The stories were collected from Wendu, Dobe, Garing, and Gangtsa townships in September 2011. The writing and translation was completed 2 December 2011. The project achieved:

- Production of recorded 49 folktales onto 6,000 CDs of traditional folktales, in standard Tibetan as well as the regional dialect.
- Production of 6,000 books (314 pages) of traditional folktales, written in Tibetan, Chinese, English.
- Preservation of folktales via digitalization.
- Provision of reading and listening materials for local schools and outsiders.
- Provision of produced items to a wide audience, enhancing local interest in traditional culture.

ཐེངས་འདིར་ལ་ན་ཏཱ་ཐེབས་རྩམ་དམངས་སྐོར་༡༧༧༠༠ཡིས་ཞལ་འདེབས་གནངས་པར་བརྟེན་ནས། ཞོན་ཏཱ་  
ཟ་ལར་རིགས་རང་སྐྱོང་རྫོང་དུ་བོད་ཀྱི་དམངས་ཁྲོད་གཏམ་རྒྱུད་སྤྱད་སྐྱོབ་བཟུང་བའི་ལས་གཞི་ཞིག་ལག་ཏུ་  
བསྐར་ཐུབ་པ་བྱུང་ལ། ལས་གཞི་འདི་བརྒྱུད་ནས་ཞོན་ཏཱ་ལུ་ལྷ་ལྷོ་བོད་ཀྱི་དམངས་ཁྲོད་གཏམ་རྒྱུད་སྐོར་ཅིག་སྐོར་ཅི  
ཨང་འཕྲིན་ཅན་དུ་བཏང་བ་དང་། རྩོགས་བཟུས་བྱས་པའི་གཏམ་རྒྱུད་དག་བོད་ཡིག་ཏུ་ཕབ་ཅིང་རྒྱ་ཡིག་དང་  
དབྱིན་ཡིག་གཉིས་ཀར་བསྐྱར་ནས་ས་གནས་སྐོར་གྱི་སྐོར་ཅིག་ལ་ས་སྐྱེས་རྩོགས་ཀྱི་རྩོམ་རིག་ཐོན་ཁུངས་ལྗོན་  
འདོན་དང་བེད་སྤྱོད་བྱ་བར་སྐུལ་འདེད་བྱས། དེར་མ་ཟད། རྩ་རྒྱུ་བྱིས་པ་དག་ལ་དམིགས་ནས་གཏམ་རྒྱུད་  
རྩོགས་བཟུ་བྱས་སྐབས་སུ་ཕབ་པའི་ཡུལ་སྐད་ཀྱི་སྐྱ་དང་བྱིས་སུ་མཚོ་ཕྱོན་རྒྱུད་འཕྲིན་ཁང་གིས་མདོ་འཛིན་པས་  
གཏམ་རྒྱུད་རྩམས་བསྐྱར་བཤད་བྱས་པའི་སྐྱ་རྩམས་ཀྱང་མཁོ་སྤྱོད་བྱས་ཡོད། ཐེངས་འདིའི་གཏམ་རྒྱུད་དག་ནི་  
སྤྱི་ལོ་༢༠༡༡ལོའི་ཟླ་ལར་ཞོན་ཏཱ་རྫོང་གི་བོད་རིགས་ས་ལུས་བེས་མདོ་དང་། རྩོགས་ཀྱི་རིང་། རྒྱ་ཚེ་བཅས་  
ཞང་བཞི་ནས་བཟུས་ཤིང་། ཅོམ་འབྲི་དང་ལོ་རྒྱུ་ལོ་སྤྱི་ལོ་༢༠༡༡ལོའི་ཟླ་༡༢པའི་ཚེས་༢༩ཉིན་ཡོངས་སུ་འགྲུབ་པ་  
ཡིན།

ལས་གཞི་འདི་བརྒྱུད་ནས། དམངས་ཁྲོད་གཏམ་རྒྱུད་༤༧སྐར་ཕབ་ཅིང་། དེ་དག་དང་བསྐྱར་བཤད་བཟུང་བའི་  
སྐྱ་རྩམས་CD ༤༠༠༠གི་ཐོག་དཔར་ཏེ་མཁོ་སྤྱོད་བྱས་ཡོད་པ་དང་། གཏམ་རྒྱུད་དེ་དག་བོད་ཡིག་ཏུ་ཕབ་རྩིས་  
རྒྱ་ཡིག་དང་དབྱིན་ཡིག་གཉིས་སུ་བསྐྱར་ནས་ཤན་སྐྱར་གྱི་རྩལ་དུ་དཔེ་དེབ་(༤༠༠༠དཔར་ཡོད། གཞན་ཡང་ལས་

གཞི་འདི་ལས་བྱུང་བའི་གྲུབ་འབྲས། དཔེ་དེབ་དང་སྐད་ཡིད་ཚད་དྲ་རྒྱའི་ཐོག་ཏུ་བརྩམས་ཤིང་སྤེལ་གྱིང་སྐོག་ལྷན་གྱི་  
ཅིང་ཉན་གྲུབ་པར་བྱས་ཡིད་པས། བྱིད་སྐོག་པ་པོ་དང་ཉན་པོ་པོ་རྣམས་ཀྱི་མིག་གི་དཔལ་དང་ན་བའི་བརྩམས་ཏུ་  
འགྱུར་བར་སྒོམ།

为保护和继承藏族民间传统文化，经加拿大基金捐款 191600 人民币，在循化撒拉族自治县实施了一项藏族民间故事收集其保护项目。所收集的藏语民间故事已撰写成藏文，并译为中文和英文，主要用于民族地区中小学生学习课外读物。并特邀请青海电视台专业藏语播音员叙说故事，将其叙说的故事刻录为音频，以数字化及电子版形式保存，通过网络等媒介传播发扬，为民族地区中小学生学习提供了良好的学习平台。此民间故事于 2011 年 9 月在循化县文都、道帛、尕愣和刚察等藏族自治县收集，其撰写、翻译及音频刻录于 2011 年 12 月全面完成。

本项目实施了：

1. 49 篇民间故事叙说刻录为音频发行了 6000 张 CD
2. 6000 本藏汉英三语对照民间故事书籍
3. 以数字化及电子版形式保护藏族民间故事
4. 为民族地区中小学，提供了藏族民间故事读物以及其 CD 音频。

## Endangered Folktale Preservation in Xunhua 循化 Tibetan Areas

### Qinghai 青海 Province, PR China: The Tellers

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**Bkra shis** བག་ཤེས, male, b. 1953, illiterate, farmer from Grasar ག་སར Village, Bis mdo / Wendu བེས་མདྲོ/文都 Township. He was once an avid teller of folktales and singer, but in 2011, he only sang on such special occasions as the Tibetan New Year and at weddings. He had not told folktales for years and when we recorded his materials, he often forgot portions of the tales.

**Chog ru** ཚོག་རུ, female, b. 1943, illiterate, farmer from Gshoang sa གཤོང་ས་ Village, Karing ཀ་རིང་ Township. She was very interested in singing folksongs and telling folktales. In 2011, she was occupied caring for her niece and nephew at home, and also in circumambulating the village stupa with other elders.

**Dan tig** དན་ཏིག, female, b. 1929, illiterate, farmer from Bar skor བར་སྐོར Village, Bis mdo/ Wendu བེས་མདྲོ/文都 Township. She had a son and a daughter, both of whom had official jobs. A grandson and granddaughter were college students. She was once acted in local dramas related to King Songtsen སྲོང་བཙན་སྐུ་པོ and the Rāmāyaṇa རྟ་མ་ཌེ during the Tibetan New Year period, but now traditional drama is no longer performed in the village.

**Gsang bdag** གསང་བདག, male, b.1936, illiterate, farmer, and is Mr. Shes rab's older brother. He was once famous for his singing of folksongs during the old times. In 2011, he was blind and spent most of his time in the village prayer-house, turning the prayer-wheel and reciting the Six Syllable mantra with other elders. He once was greatly interested in telling folktales but said now his grandchildren were uninterested in his stories.

**Klumo sgrol ma** ལུ་མོ་སྒོལ་མ།, female, b.1936, illiterate, farmer from A sde ཨ་སྒེ Village, Bis mdo/ Wendu བིས་མདོ་/ 文都 Township. She said folktales were told to children and also shared between adults in her youth. Despite her age, she had an excellent memory and was very interested in telling folktales. She was also once wellknown for singing.

**Ma Ni 'bum** མ་ཉི་འབུ་མ།, male, b. 1939, retired teacher, from Mthar ba མཐར་བུ་ Village, Gangtsa ཀང་ཚ་ Township (the only herding area in Xunhua 循化 Salar Autonomous County). He was once a much respected Tibetan language teacher in the village. In 2011, the village children had to go to the township seat for further education. His folktales were once much appreciated by schoolchildren.

**Mkha' 'gro rdo rje** མཁའ་འགོ་རྩོ་རྗེ།, female, b. 1941, illiterate, farmer from Mdo rtse མདོ་རྩེ་ Village, Dobe རོ་སྤེས་ Township. Her close contact with Han 汉族 people may explain the presence of Daoist characters in her stories and some of the vocabulary she used was Chinese.

**Phag mo thar** ཕག་མོ་ཐར།, female, b.1942, illiterate, farmer from Bar skor བར་སྐོར་ Village, Bis mdo/ Wendu བིས་མདོ་/ 文都 Township. She had three sons and one daughter. Two sons were monks in a monastery and the other son was a teacher. Her daughter managed a small shop in the township town. Most of her time was spent in the village prayer-house engaged in religious activities.

**Shes rab** ཤེས་རབ།, male, b. 1933, retired teacher from Rimang རི་མང་ Village, Bis mdo/ Wendu བིས་མདོ་/ 文都 Township, was once a monk who was forced to become a layman during the Culture Revolution. He later became an official teacher within the local government education system. He remembered many folktales in 2011, having told many to his grandson, granddaughter, and schoolchildren. His stories were once greatly enjoyed by students and told during breaks.

THE FOLKTALES

File Name	Teller	Minutes
1---Original_Shes rab_THE SERVANT AND THE PRINCESS	Shes rab	00:09:58
2---Original_Shes rab_THE FOXY SISTER IN-LAW AND TWO BROTHERS	Shes rab	00:06:03
3---Original_Shes rab_THE DONKEY RIDER KING	Shes rab	00:04:55
4---Original_Gsang bdag_THE KING STEALS	Gsang bdag	00:06:54
5---Original_Gsang bdag_LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF BIRDS	Gsang bdag	00:08:42
6---Original_Gsang bdag_THE RABBIT AND THE BEAR	Gsang bdag	00:10:10
7---Original_Gsang bdag_THE WOLD AND THE SHEEP	Gsang bdag	00:04:22
8---Original_Ma Ni 'bum_THE SADDLE-MAKER RABBIT	Ma Ni 'bum	00:02:28
9---Original_Gsang bdag_THE RICH SON FINDS A WIFE	Gsang bdag	00:07:20
10---Original_Bkra shis_THE FURTUNTELLER	Bkra shis	00:08:55
11---Original_Bkra shis_THE TIGHER KING AND THE POOR MAN	Bkra shis	00:04:23
12---Original_Bkra shis_THE PRINCESS AND THE FIREWOOD COLLECTOR	Bkra shis	00:10:26
13---Original_Bkra shis_THE MAGIC BOWL	Bkra shis	00:11:51
14---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE GOD-MAN	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:04:50
15---Original_Ma Ni 'bum_THE BABY MONEKY STEALS A PAIR OF SHOES	Ma Ni 'bum	00:01:48
16---Original_Ma Ni 'bum_THE MARE'S SON	Ma Ni 'bum	00:10:14
17---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE GOLDEN SPINDLE	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:04:11
18---Original_Phag mo thar_THE LITTLE LAMB	Phag mo thar	00:02:33
19---Original_Dan tig_THE OLD LADY AND THE DEMON	Dan tig	00:06:30
20---Original_Dan tig_THE OLD MAN AND THE BULL SKIN	Dan tig	00:03:30
21---Original_Phag mo thar_THE OLD COUPLE AND THE TWO CHILDREN	Phag mo thar	00:03:13
22---Original_Dan tig_THE POOR MOTHER AND THE DAUGHTER	Dan tig	00:05:46
23---Original_Phag mo thar_THE THAG THAG OF THE FOREST	Phag mo thar	00:02:41
24---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE TWO SISTERS, THE WHITE MAN AND THE WHITE	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:06:42

HORSE		
25---Original_Dan tig_THE WOODCOLLECTOR AND THE PRINCESS' SHOE	Dan tig	00:04:48
26---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE POOR MAN AND THE KING	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:09:25
27---Original_Bkra shis_THE HERDSMAN AND THE FROG	Bkra shis	00:03:16
28---Original_Phag mo thar_THE TWO BROTERS	Phag mo thar	00:03:31
29---Original_Dan tig_THE FRIENDSHIP	Dan tig	00:01:04
30---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_KING GONGTSE RAB RTAN	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:08:10
31---Original_Chog ru_THE STORY OF KID'S TAIL	Chog ru	00:03:52
32---Original_Ma Ni 'bum_THE BANISHED MOTER	Ma Ni 'bum	00:07:09
33---Original_Phag mo thar_RA LU MA AND RI LU MA	Phag mo thar	00:01:32
34---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE CHINESE COUPLE	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:12:23
35---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE BUTCHER	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:07:06
36---Original_Ma Ni 'bum_THE WISE BRIDE	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:03:52
37---Original_Mkha' 'dro rdo rje_THE MINISTER MGAR DAMPA	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:08:32
38---Original_Chog ru_THE BEETLE, FROG AND THE LIZARD	Chog ru	00:01:17
39---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE RECOVERY OF THE PRINCE	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:07:08
40---Original_Klu mo sgrol ma_THE MAITREYA STATUE	Klu mo sgrol ma	00:08:55
41---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE RABBIT AND THE HUNTER	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:08:42
42---Original_Mka' 'gro rdo rje_THE BROTHER VISITS THE KING OF DEATH	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:12:46
43---Original_Klu mo sgrol ma_THE BEGGAR'S DAUGHTER	Klu mo sgrol ma	00:09:48
44---Original_Klu mo sgrol ma_MELON KILLING	Klu mo sgrol ma	00:02:21
45---Original_Klu mo sgrol ma_TWO BROTHERS	Klu mo sgrol ma	00:03:54
46---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_TWO MONKS VISIT THE JOBO	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:06:35
47---Original_Klu mo sgrol ma_THE TIGER, THE WOLF, AND THE RABBIT	Klu mo sgrol ma	00:04:21
48---Original_Mkha' 'gro rdo rje_THE WOODCUTTER AND THE STONE	Mkha' 'gro rdo rje	00:10:24
49---Original_Bkra shis_THE MICE ARMY	Bkra shis	00:05:59

1--- Shes rab original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ The Servant and The Princess	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:15:29
2--- Shes rab original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ The Foxy Sister in-law and Two Brothers	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:11:37
3--- Shes rab original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ The Donkey Rider King	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:06:32
4--- Gsang bdag original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ The King Steals	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:10:05
5--- Gsang bdag original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ Learning the Language of Birds	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:12:37
6--- Gsang bdag original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ The Rabbit and the Bear	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:14:08
7--- Gsang bdag original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ The Wolf and the Sheep	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:07:40
8--- Ma Ni 'bum original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ The Saddle-maker Rabbit	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:07:38
9--- Gsang bdag original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE RICH SON FINDS A WIFE	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:08:10
10--- Bkra shis original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE FURTUNTELLER	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:15:26
11--- Bkra shis original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE TIGHER KING AND THE POOR MAN	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:05:09
12--- Bkra shis original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE PRINCESS AND THE FIREWOOD COLLECTOR	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:10:54
13--- Bkra shis original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE MAGIC BOWL	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:15:10
14--- Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller _retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE GOD-MAN	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:07:10
15--- Ma Ni 'bum original _retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE BABY MONEKY STEALS A PAIR OF SHOES	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:04:37
16--- Ma Ni 'bum original _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE MARE'S SON	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:28:01
17--- Mkha' 'gro rdo rje _original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE GOLDEN SPINDLE	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:13:13
18--- Phag mo thar original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE LITTLE LAMB	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:07:30
19--- Dan tig original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ AN OLD LADY AND THE DEMON	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:12:03
20--- Dan tig original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE OLD MAN AND THE BULL SKIN	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:05:01
21--- Phag mo thar original teller _retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE OLD COUPLE AND TWO CHILDREN	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:07:45
22--- Dan tig original teller _retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE POOR MOTHER AND THE DAUGHTER	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:10:41

23---Phag mo thar original teller_retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE THAG THAG OF THE FOREST	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:05:05
24--- Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE TWO SISTERS, THE WHITE MAN AND THE WHITE HORSE	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:08:42
25---Dan tig original teller_retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ THE WOODCOLLECTOR AND THE PRINCESS'S SHOE	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:06:57
26---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE POOR MAN AND THE KING	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:10:55
27---Bkra shis original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE HERDSMAN AND THE FROG	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:03:45
28---Phag mo thar original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE TWO BROTHERS	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:05:10
29---Dan tig original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE FREINDSHIP	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:02:46
30---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE KING GONG TSE RAB BRTAN	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:16:54
31---Chog ru original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE STORY OF A KID'S TAIL	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:06:29
32---Ma Ni 'bum original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE BANISHED MOTHER	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:11:48
33---Phag mo thar original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ RA LU MA AND RI LU MA	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:03:05
34---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE CHINESE COUPLE	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:18:28
35---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE BUTCHER	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:07:20
36---Ma Ni 'bum original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE WISE BRIDE	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:10:29
37---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE MINISTER MGAR DAMPA	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:18:36
38---Chog ru original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE BEETLE, FROG AND LIZARD	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:02:50
39---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE RECOVERY OF THE PRINCE	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:10:53
40---Klu mo sgrol ma original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE MAITREYA STATUE	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:13:45
41---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE RABBIT AND THE HUNTER	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:15:24
42---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE BROTHER VISITS THE KING	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:17:24



OF DEATH		
43---Klu mo sgrol ma original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE BEGGAR'S DAUGHTER	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:12:12
44---Klu mo sgrol ma original teller_retold by Sgrol ma rgyal_ MELON KILLING	Sgrol ma rgyal	00:05:46
45---Klu mo sgrol ma original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ TWO BROTHERS	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:06:44
46---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ TWO MONKS VISIT THE JOBO	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:09:29
47---Klu mo sgrol ma original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE TIGER, THE WOLF, AND THE RABBIT	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:07:58
48---Mkha' 'gro rdo rje original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE WOODCUTTER AND THE STONE	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:12:58
49---Bkra shis original teller_retold by Gu ru mtsho mo_ THE MICE ARMY	Gu ru mtsho mo	00:05:11

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1: Grasar Village, in Wendu Township, home to Mr. Bkra shis..

Photograph 2: Mr.Sonam Dorje recording Mr. Ma Ni a'bum.

PHotograph 3: Bar skor and Rimang villages, home to Dan tig, Phag mo thar, Gsang bdag, and Shes rab.

Photograph 4: Mthar ba Village, in Gangtsa Township, home to Mr. Ma Ni a'bum.















