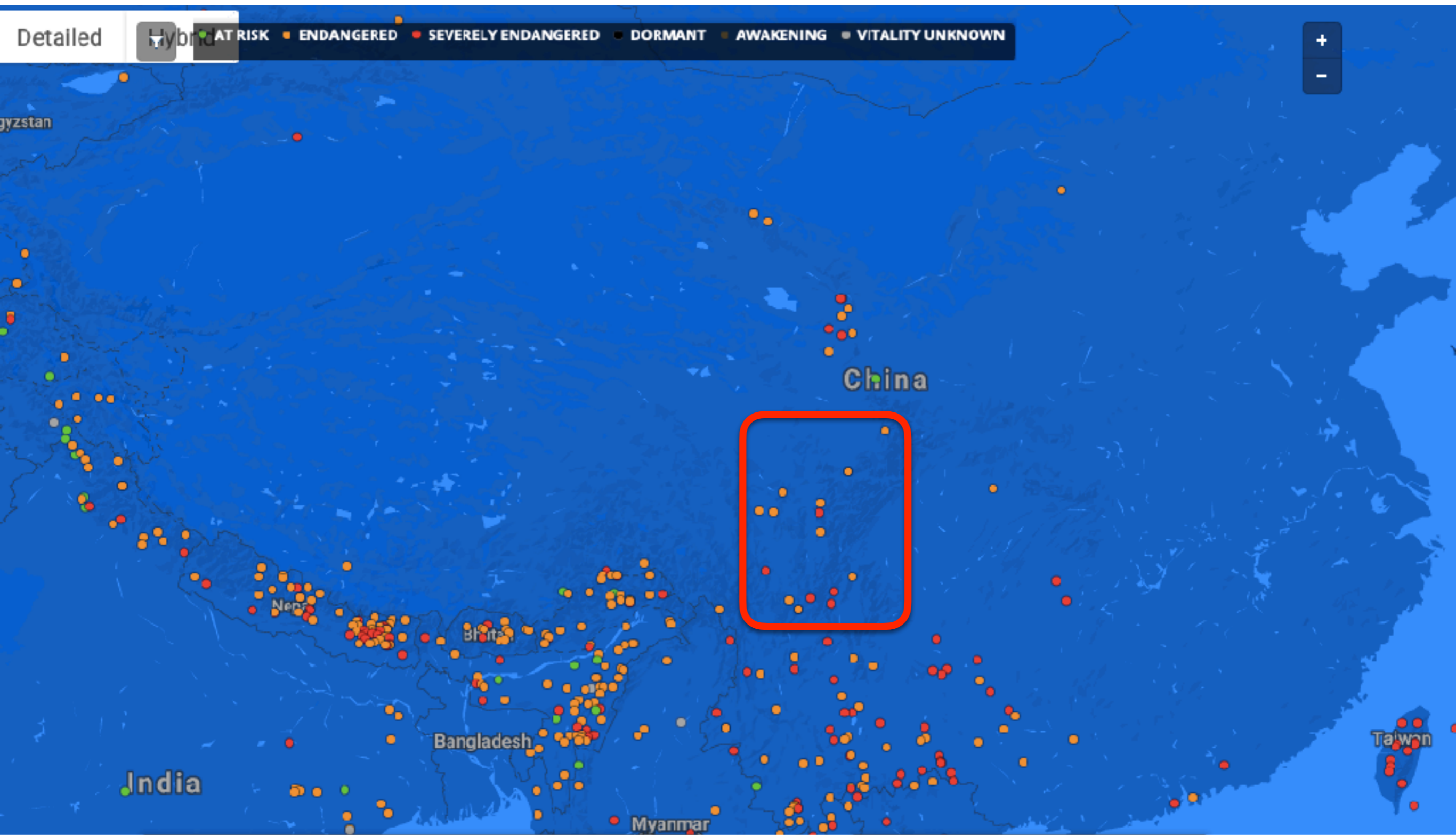


# Current state of language revitalization in Southwest China



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# China

Baima

Souther Qiang

Zhaba

Queyu

Nyagrong Minyag

Horpa

Guiqiong

Muya

Lama

Ersu

Shixing

Lizu

Duoxu

Namuyi

Pumi

Tazhi



# Sino-Tibetan

## Tibeto-Burman

## Chinese

**Kamarupan**  
NE India,  
W Burma

**Baic**  
SW China (Yunnan)

**Northern  
Mandarin**  
**SW Mandarin**

**Karenic**  
Burma, Thailand

**Himalayish**  
Tibet, Nepal,  
Bhutan, Sikkim

**Lolo-Burmese-Naxi**  
SW China, Burma,  
Thailand, Laos, Vietnam

**Central**  
Wu, Xiang,  
Gan, Hakka

**Qiangic**  
SW China  
(Sichuan, Yunnan)

**Jingpho-Nungish-Luish**  
N Burma, SW China (Yunnan)

**Southern**  
Yue, Min

Based on: Matisoff, James A. 2003. *The Handbook of Proto-Tibeto-Burman: System and Philosophy of Sino-Tibetan Reconstruction*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 5.

# Qiangic languages

unwritten

little documented

spoken in a multilingual setting

not officially recognized

# Current state

- lack of institutionalized support on either a federal or regional level
  - ➔ lack of resources
- low prestige of the local languages
  - ➔ little interest of the communities in the cause of revitalization of their traditional languages

But

- individual efforts on both official and informal levels
  - collecting linguistic and ethnographic data, disseminating the results on blogs and other social media

Needs in language revitalization

# What is most needed

- information about possibilities in language revitalization
- training in basic language documentation (basics of data collection and dissemination)
  - locally based Chinese-language interactive digital spaces, providing information, training and support

What skillsets do people want to learn?

- use of existing Romanization systems, dictionary compilation, preparation of teaching materials, language-learning programs



How the Endangered  
Languages Project might best  
serve them?

# ELP

- a Chinese-language section on the ELP website, which would provide information on language resources as well as a space for language activists to share their experience and submit information on their languages in the form of text, audio or video files
- establish contact with local research institutions (Minority Language Institutes and Research Centers in Sichuan Province)

# Thank you for your attention!



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