



**Serving Mountain Communities  
Tibetan Plateau & Central Asia**

# Plateau Perspectives

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA AND CENTRAL ASIA, 2018-19

# Tibetan Plateau, China (1998-2013)

## Previously...

### ► Five main projects

- Barbour Trust – integrated community development, community health
- HimalPartner – development of civil society, tourism, co-management
- Ford Foundation – trial development of new models of governance
- MacArthur Foundation – extending coop model (cancelled)
- Multiple sources – earthquake aid, rebuilding livelihoods

- Then, change of venue in 2013/14...

# Legacy through our staff...

## 1. Legacy map, new collaborations

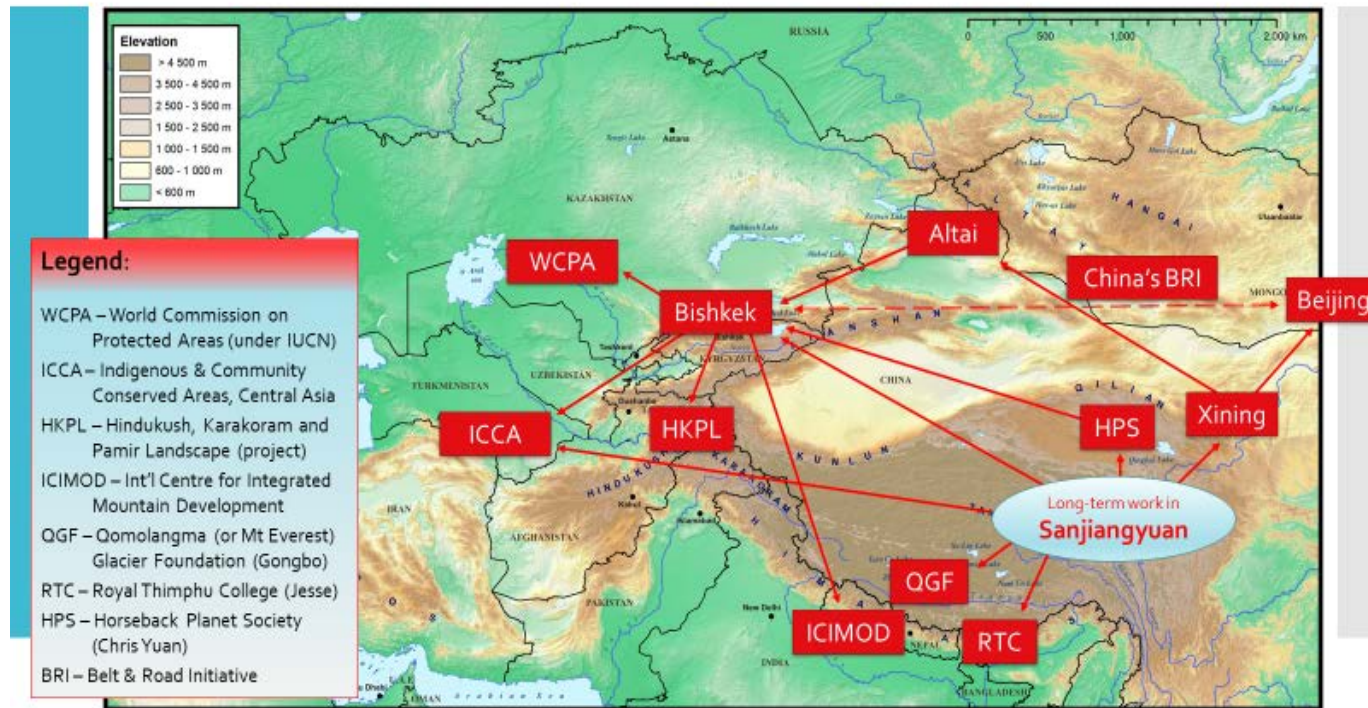
### PP in China:

Moving from  
project-based  
to influence-  
based modes  
of operations



# Ideas and approaches spreading...

## 2. Geographic spread of lessons learned in Sanjiangyuan region



# Moving beyond China (2014 onwards)

## Now...

- ▶ **Geographic spread of projects and realms of influence increase...**
  - ▶ Project work continues in the Tibetan Plateau region...
  - ▶ And now also in the Himalayan region as well as Central Asia
  - ▶ Requests for assistance also coming from the Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges in north Pakistan, the Caucasus mountains, and East Africa !

## Additionally,

- ▶ Growing involvement with several 'think tanks' to help assess and formulate development policies related to China's Belt & Road Initiative





# Tibetan Plateau, China

## ▶ Horseback Planet Society (HPS)

*Chris Yuan, Marc Foggin*

- ▶ Capacity development for local Tibetan entrepreneurs
- ▶ Conservation through ecotourism, development of accreditation system
- ▶ Establishment of 'horse riding clubs' and launch of tourism cooperatives, including upcoming 40 day horse ride to Tibet, south-south knowledge transfer
- ▶ Qinghai Lake model extended to Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Caucasus, East Africa

## ▶ Qomolangma Glacier Foundation

*Gongbo Tashi, Marc Foggin*

- ▶ Study tour for board members – to Spain, Norway, Canada
- ▶ Agricultural development, especially production of quinoa



# Kingdom of Bhutan

## ▶ Royal Thimpu College (RTC)

*Jesse and Sarah Montes*

- ▶ Teaching and research at RTC, focus on environmental management
- ▶ Increasing emphasis on mountain tourism for development
- ▶ Bee keeping also explored for teaching and agriculture

# Kyrgyzstan

## ▶ Araketke-Bereket NGO

*Rory and Randall Gwin*

- ▶ Support/partnership with like-minded organization, Tendik village clinic, broad scope of work – also see the section on *Operations in Central Asia*, below

## ▶ Ilbirs Foundation

*Zairbek Kubanuchbekov*

- ▶ Support to Kyrgyz conservation organization with community partnerships
- ▶ Possibility to partner, provide complementary support to communities

## ▶ Ecoland Travel

*Sasha, Aidana, Aisulu*

- ▶ Support to new Kyrgyz agency to promote development



# Tajikistan

▶ **The Last Sogdians**

*Anvar Jamalovich, local teacher*

- ▶ Endorsing community identity, nature conservation, cultural preservation

▶ **Language mapping**

*Amadeus DeKastle, Marc Foggin*

- ▶ Developing Lapis Guides smartphone app to help map language dialects, with potential contributions toward sustainable development, also cultural survival

▶ **Snow leopard project**

*Aga Khan Agency for Habitat*

- ▶ Advisory role for community-based snow leopard project, with support from the Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for Environment

# Regional projects or interventions in 2018

- ▶ Community ecotourism
- ▶ Yagnob Valley project
- ▶ The Great Tianshan Trail
- ▶ Smartphone app: Lapis Guides
- ▶ Institute of Asian Research, UBC



# Community ecotourism

## ▶ Ecotourism for development

*Chris Yuan, Wang Jiaying,  
Laurens Buist, John Mwangi*

- ▶ Close partnership with Chris Yuan and a community-centred model of tourism developed on the basis of earlier dialogues, including [Nepal study tour in 2012](#), now leveraging [interest in horse riding](#), conservation focus, community benefits
- ▶ Extending tourism model from the Qinghai Lake region over into Central Asia
- ▶ Partnering in Kyrgyzstan with [community rangers](#) (former wildlife poachers)
- ▶ Need to further develop training programme with accreditation system
- ▶ Exploratory trips being planned to the Caucasus and East Africa

# Yagnob Valley, Tajikistan

## ► Building partnership with the last Sogdians

*Marc Foggin, Amadeus DeKastle,  
Matthew Emslie-Smith, and others*

- The Yagnobi people are the last descendents of the ancient Sogdian empire
- Residents of Yagnob Valley were expelled and many died during the Soviet era
- National park now under development, with aim to protect nature and culture
- Exploratory trips aiming to determine feasibility, mobilize community teams
- Aim to set up wildlife camera traps and promoting wildlife conservation

# The Great Tianshan Trail, Kyrgyzstan

## ► Maximising benefits across regions

*Marc Foggin, Marion Foggin*

- Concept under development – modeled after The Great Himalayan Trail
- Destination marketing aims to increase overall returns and spread benefit
- Gateway to the region, to opportunities, to local community ventures
- Leveraged to promote and strengthen nature conservation



# Smartphone app: Lapis Guides

## ► New 'citizen science' tool

*Amadeus DeKastle, Marc Foggin,  
Matthew Emslie-Smith*

- Smartphone app created to support development, conservation, education
- Promotes greater public engagement, participation in environmental issues
- Created and owned by AD and MF, but valuable for charitable purposes
- Commissioned projects: mapping Tajik language dialects, creating a digital nature guide for Domaine des Courmettes together with A Rocha France





# Institute of Asian Research, UBC

## ► Honorary university position

Marc Foggin

- On-going honorary position in the Institute of Asian Research (IAR), within the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia (UBC)
- Developing two courses for UCA's Earth & Environmental Sciences programme: *Environment & Development in Mountain Regions*, and *Environmental Impacts & Risk Assessments*
- Member of the Canadian Mountain Network, World Commission on Protected Areas, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Consortium, the GCRF-supported Gobi Frameworks project (led by Oxford University), etc.

# Contact information

**Dr J Marc Foggin**

Director, Plateau Perspectives

URL: [www.plateauperspectives.org](http://www.plateauperspectives.org)

Email: [foggin@plateauperspectives.org](mailto:foggin@plateauperspectives.org)  
[marc.foggin@gmail.com](mailto:marc.foggin@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: +996770822456

