

Plateau Perspectives has adopted two main thrusts to meet its objectives to improve the well-being of local communities and to protect the environment in mountainous and pastoral areas of western China:

(1) to provide expertise in the form of consultancy and resource materials to people and organizations working in the Tibetan Plateau region;

and

(2) to work together with a few selected communities to design and implement integrated sustainable development approaches that can be replicated elsewhere.

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Plateau Perspectives

Community
Development
and
Environmental
Protection
on the
Tibetan Plateau



Supporting Grassroots Initiatives on the Tibetan Plateau

Five Main Program Areas Basic education

Promoting awareness of the need for basic education, and improving the availability, accessibility, and quality of education and literacy teaching.

Community health

Promoting the overall health of local communities by enabling them to assess and address their needs. Improving current health provision through training and the upgrading of health facilities.



Natural resource management

Promoting the sustainability of land use and natural resource management, and protecting Tibetan Plateau biodiversity.

Income generation

Researching alternative livelihoods and potential sources of income that will help improve local people's well-being as well as preserve the environment.

Relief assistance

When immediate needs arise, relief assistance consistent with long-term goals may be undertaken as well.

Integrated Community Development

To adopt an integrated approach in community development is essential to properly discern, analyze, and find



sustainable solutions for the tightly linked problems of poverty and the environment. Such an integrated approach also helps to meet the needs of local communities in

ways that are much closer to their own holistic perspectives.

Working in close cooperation with the government, grassroots organizations, and the communities themselves, Plateau Perspectives endeavours to facilitate integrated development by tackling simultaneously the overlapping areas of basic education and literacy, community health, natural resource management, income generation, and environmental (biodiversity) protection.

Environment and Development

The link between the environment and sustainable development has been well recognized by numerous development organizations around the world. Plateau Perspectives has chosen to address immediate socio-economic needs along with longer-term environmental needs. Both these areas contribute to the alleviation of poverty and improving quality of life.

Distinctive Characteristics of Plateau Perspectives



- Integrates conservation and development
- Takes into
 account local
 environments,
 local cultures,
 and indigenous
 knowledge
- Seeks sustainability in all fields of work
- Aims to develop successful, replicable models of development
- Builds partnerships with local communities and with governmental and other organisations

These factors all help ensure that the focus remains on the people themselves and on their local environment, a focus that is essential for long-term success.

