



Plateau Perspectives Annual Report 2006

Supporting Community Development
& Conservation on the Tibetan Plateau

Plateau Perspectives Canada

Reg. no. 88353 0511 RR0001

(Jan 1, 2006 – Dec 31, 2006)

Plateau Perspectives Scotland

Reg. no. SC036202

(Apr 5, 2006 – Apr 4, 2007)



Plateau Perspectives' mission is to promote integrated community development and environmental protection in the Tibetan Plateau region of western China as an expression of practical Christian love for the world

CONTACT INFORMATION

Plateau Perspectives Canada

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History of Plateau Perspectives

Plateau Perspectives was established in 1998 to help promote environmental protection and sustainable development in the Tibetan Plateau region of China. The organization was formally registered in Canada in 2002 and in Scotland (UK) in 2004.

Plateau Perspectives' work to date has been carried out in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai Province in China, primarily in Zhiduo County with invitations now to extend the work into the neighbouring counties of Qumalai and Zaduo. It is in these three counties that lie the source areas of the Yellow, Yangtze and Mekong rivers which serve millions of people downstream. The conservation of these areas are therefore of vital importance.

Plateau Perspectives has been partnering with local Tibetan organisations and the government including the national nature reserve, to involve the local herders in the protection of these headwater region and in the monitoring of the wildlife. Plateau Perspectives has also set out to increase their capacity, providing environmental training and equipment to government bureaus, the nature reserve staff, and the community appointed nomad wildlife monitors. Plateau Perspectives has also been in this way assisting the local communities in improving their health and education by assisting with provision of doctor training, establishing of health centres, assistance with the logistics to enable provision of immunisations and the establishing of two village schools.

Plateau Perspectives has **5 distinctive work characteristics**:

- PP integrates the conservation of biodiversity and community development
- PP considers the "local" – local environments, cultures, indigenous knowledge
- PP develops partnerships with local communities, government and NGOs
- PP aims to develop successful, replicable models of development
- PP seeks to achieve sustainability in all fields of work

All these factors help to ensure that project activities remains focussed on the local people and their environment. Such a focus is essential to attain long-term success.

Plateau Perspectives has **10 Core Values**:

- Professional excellence
- Performance (results-based)
- Philanthropy – love for neighbours, concern for creation
- Triad #1: Integration of development, conservation, and Christian faith
- Triad #2: Partnership between community, government, and outside expertise
- Focus on community initiatives, and government policies that affect communities
- Commitment – what will it take to get the job done, not what can we gain
- Servant attitude – how can we help each other in this work
- Humility – we don't have all the answers
- Integrity in both life and work

Zhiduo County

● Health

1. Doctor Training

Dr Maynard Seaman came to assist with a follow up training of the village doctors. After their initial general medical training, they were very keen for training in women's health and paediatrics. Dr Seaman gave most of the obstetrics and gynaecology training while Marion Torrance-Foggin gave most of the paediatric training. Discussion of clinical issues took place. Since the last training many patients have now received treatment for TB, who previously were undiagnosed.



2. Women's Health Worker Training



The women's health workers who have been working and receiving training for two years gathered for follow up training also. Dr Seaman and Dr Torrance-Foggin shared the training. The training this time included assisting the women, finding ways of increasing their profile, their confidence and enabling them to go out into the homes more. One woman had been invited to give health training to the village committee which

normally only consists of men.

3. Planning for immunisations in Zhahe Township

After the monitoring of the immunisations in Suojia and ensuring the completion of the immunisation of all up to 16 years of age with the measles vaccine, triple vaccines and hepatitis B vaccine, the leaders of the neighbouring area, Zhahe, requested assistance. Planning meetings were therefore held with the Zhahe township leaders, the UYO (local Tibetan NGO) and the health bureau, and an immunisation schedule was drawn up for 2007. The Zhahe leaders wanted no assistance with transport within their area as they felt they could provide all the logistical support once they received the immunisations, needles and equipment etc. They had already managed to carry out a Measles immunisation campaign which they did at the request of the people, when Suojia received it. When the further implications of immunisations were explained they were extremely keen and motivated to keep up the immunisations within their township.

4. Village clinics: Yaqu, Muqu, Kouqian and Dasheng clinics, built and furnished

Rationale

Following the success of the Jiongqu health clinic, the government and the local communities approached us to request assistance for the construction of further clinics. The purposes of the clinics are to bring accessible health care to the most remote communities. The construction of a clinic, staffed by a doctor trained on the Plateau Perspectives training course, enables patients to be seen by a doctor with appropriate

training and facilities to give treatment. A building is necessary for the health bureau to administer a government health insurance scheme in which 70 per cent of the costs are refunded to the patient. It also enables the safe storage and administration of medicines in the pharmacy. The pharmacy is administered by the community leaders, not the doctor, to enable the doctor to treat patients free of financial constraints. Furthermore it provides a site from which immunisations may be administered. Proper needle and soiled dressing disposal units were provided as well as toilets.

The following sites were chosen:

Yaqu village

The Yaqu community has already established a school assisted by PP. The school site is accessible not only to Yaqu community but also to other neighbouring communities. The doctor chosen to staff it was the best doctor of our PP training course. He and his family were prepared to move house and arrangements made for his family and livestock to move there.

Even before the construction was completed, the clinical work began. The doctor became so busy that he could not cope with the load, and so two further doctors trained by PP came to assist. Likewise to women's health workers trained on a PP course came to work alongside him. The initial pharmacy, kept in order, was felt to be inadequate and therefore moved to a cooler backroom and additional cupboards supplied.



Figure 1. Location of five clinics: Yaqu and Muqu in Suojia Township, Dasheng in Duocai Township, and Kouqian in Zhahe Township. Also Jiongqu clinic built in 2005.



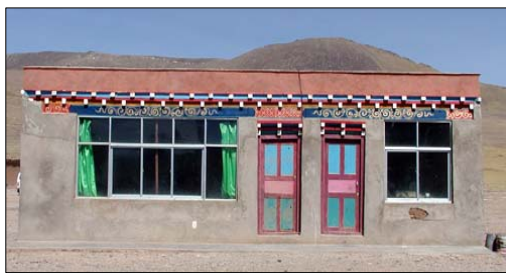
Muqu village



clinic. The building has been built in the traditional style used for the school buildings.

Muqu community is another remote and yet well-mobilised community which is already running a school which PP helped establish. Here at the edge of the school but with separate entrance, another clinic was built. The site for this remote community is one that the community had chosen as accessible for the school and also where the leaders can run it. A PP trained doctor also staffs this

Kouqian village



Kouqian is a remote community in Zhahe township which is often cut off through much of the summer due to the river. Construction of the clinic was completed and is due to open in the Spring of 2007 when the doctors are released from their communities to staff it.

Dasheng village

Dasheng Village, in Doucai Township, is one of the poorest villages in the county of Zhiduo. The clinic is located adjacent to the winter home of a highly respected doctor and community leader. It is in this township that the women's health worker was invited to give health training to the village committee on health and hygiene. She will help staff this clinic.



Our local partners designed a new concrete needle and dressing disposal unit in which the soiled garbage can be burned and disposed of safely. This model was then used for the other clinics.

In this clinic they made an underground storage cellar to prevent medicines from freezing.



For each clinic solar panel units were given for lighting and a small generator for occasions when a greater power supply is required.

5. Community health: testing for heavy metals (arsenic) in water supply

In the light of the severity and frequency of gout and the high levels of tooth decay despite low availability of sugar, some initial water tests were taken and plans made for future water studies at the clinic sites.

● Education

6. Village school: Muqu school kitchen built, Yaqu school dormitory repaired

A school kitchen and dining room was constructed for the **Muqu School**. This enables the food to be cooked and given to the children in a much cleaner setting. The staff designed a new stove which they felt would provide more warmth and last longer. It needed some modification at first but now appears to be functioning well.

In **Yaqu village school**, they had built some dormitories but storms had damaged the roofs. Plateau Perspectives provided the funding for the repairs. The education bureau was aiming to provide new construction in the future, but the head teacher was concerned that the children would be taken home if no dormitories were provided or repaired in the short term.

7. Village school: Muqu ‘Yak-2-School’ project

Muqu primary school was the first school established by a village community with the assistance of the UYO and Plateau Perspectives. The graduates from this primary school are coming out top of the class when they go to the county Middle School. However the community leader raised concerns about the sustainability of the school. Originally the families contributed a pregnant yak for each child attending the school. However, because of the poor income level of the community, the government has banned taxes for them and this contribution for education is considered to be a tax. One of the teachers had already given two years of work without salary. Given the success of the school and the assistance already given, they were very reluctant to see the school close. However there is enough land at the site of the school to sustain many more livestock. Plateau Perspectives therefore launched a campaign called “Yak-2-School” to raise funds for yak and sheep to increase the size of the school herd. The aim is to increase the school herd to a size that would provide sufficient food for the children and salaries for the staff, and so enable the school to be self-sustaining. This year pregnant yak and sheep have been purchased to provide about half the increase that is required.

● Environment

8. Capacity building: training herders in Muqu, Tsozhaton and Yaqu

Regular trips were carried out visiting herders selected as monitors to build up their skills in gathering data and monitoring bird and wildlife species. This will assist in conserving the wildlife of the area.

9. Capacity building: joint field trips with SNNR Suojia station staff

Several field trips were carried out together with staff of the Suojia protection station to monitor wildlife, including Tibetan antelope, and to build their capacity in wildlife monitoring and conservation techniques.

10. Conservation workshop: training in wetland bird identification



Plateau Perspectives together with the Nature Reserve gave a training workshop at the Suojia Protection Station for nature reserve staff and the local community wildlife monitors. The workshop included classroom teaching and fieldwork at the Tsozhaton wetland (Suojia) to teach bird identification. All the participants were provided binoculars and a colour copy of a bird identification booklet to help identify the bird species.

11. Participation in community festivals: Muqu and Yaqu villages

Members of Plateau Perspectives gave environmental training together with the Nature Reserve staff, at community festivals in Yaqu and Muqu communities. These festivals were organised by the local Tibetan organisation, the Upper Yangtze Organisation, together with the communities, to encourage wildlife protection.

12. Environmental education: development of bird booklet, three posters

Educational materials including **posters** and training materials were made about local wildlife and habitats for use in community festivals and for scientific training workshops. Monitoring of bird species was carried out and Plateau Perspectives produced a **bird identification booklet** for the birds of Zhiduo County. This booklet will be used by nature reserve staff and local herders.

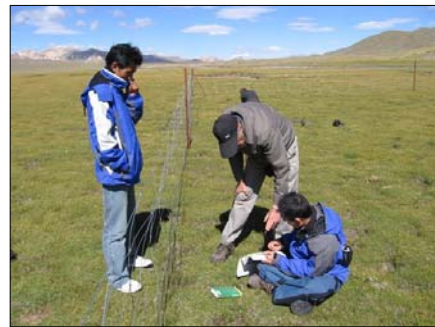


13. Focus group discussions on natural resource management

Together with the Nature Reserve protection station and the UYO focus group discussions were held with several groups of herders about natural resource management, thus documenting local ecological knowledge and beliefs.

14. Grassland study: exclosures built in three grassland habitat types

In co-operation with the nature reserve and local leaders, nine exclosures were erected to study the grassland vegetation. Information about the grassland species is being collected to help develop appropriate grassland management strategies. Dr Walter Willms came to help design the study, monitor the grassland exclosures and start the plant species identification process.



15. Ecotourism development: trial ecotour and home stay in two villages

Plateau Perspectives gave logistic support for the UYO to host university students in Yaqu and Jiongqu communities. The students were given some education in town and then enabled to go out to these communities to live with families there. Families and students enjoyed a unique experience and the communities received financial aid for local community development.

Zaduo County



One of the government leaders who was the most supportive of the work of Plateau Perspectives was transferred to the neighbouring county of Zaduo.

Marc Foggin and a local colleague were invited by the governor and taken out to the western townships where they were amazed by some of the living conditions observed and the human and environmental needs.

Plateau Perspectives agreed to begin replicating much of the work already carried out in Zhiduo, in Zaduo County. We committed to the building of three clinics and the beginning of doctor training in 2007

Zaduo County is the site of the source of the Mekong River, has native Juniper forests and also has many important protected species such as snow leopard and wild ass. The local leaders and county leaders are keen for further co-operation.



Qumalai County

An exploratory visit was also made into northern Qumalai County by the leader of a local Tibetan environmental organisation. Requests were made for the involvement of Plateau Perspectives in environment and health in the source area of the Yellow River. Further training for doctors from Qumalai County is planned for 2007.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES, 2004 – 2006

	2004	2005	2006
GENERAL			
Setup field office in Zhiduo County	<i>Office established in March 2004</i>		
HEALTH			
Doctor training	<i>3 courses, ~50 doctors</i>		<i>1 course, ~6 doctors</i>
Midwife training		<i>1 course, ~25 women</i>	<i>1 course, ~6 women</i>
Immunisations	<i>Suojia (measles)</i>	<i>Suojia (Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio and Hepatitis B)</i>	<i>Planning for Zhahe immunisations</i>
Village clinics		<i>Jiongqu clinic</i>	<i>Yaqu, Muqu, Kouqian and Dasheng clinics (built and furnished)</i>
Water quality			<i>Begin testing water for heavy metals (arsenic)</i>
EDUCATION			
Village schools	<i>Muqu classrooms</i>	<i>Yaqu kitchen</i>	<i>Muqu kitchen</i>
Village school herd			<i>'Yak-2-School'</i>
Zhiduo Minorities Middle School	<i>English classes, with teacher training</i>	<i>English classes, with teacher training</i>	
ENVIRONMENT			
Training wildlife monitors	<i>Basic training given, worksheets developed</i>	<i>Jiongqu (kiang) and Muqu (snow leopard)</i>	<i>Muqu (snow leopard), Tsozhaton and Yaqu (black-necked cranes, other wetland birds)</i>
Planning meeting with SNNR et al., assisting SNNR		<i>Workshop on wildlife monitoring & research, field trip, conservation planning meeting</i>	<i>Fieldwork with SNNR Suojia staff, workshop on bird conservation</i>
Community festivals		<i>Jiongqu community festival</i>	<i>Muqu and Yaqu community festivals</i>
Educational materials			<i>Bird booklet, 3 posters</i>
Focus groups on rangeland mgmt.			<i>Discussions on natural resource management</i>
Grassland exclosures			<i>Exclosures in 3 habitat types, 3 replicates each</i>
OTHER WORK			
Ecotourism	<i>Feasibility study</i>		<i>Ecotour trial, 2 villages</i>
PRA Video	<i>Participatory video</i>	<i>Meeting in Scotland</i>	
Needs assessments			<i>Needs assessment trips to Zaduo and Qumalai counties</i>

BUDGET MATTERS

Plateau Perspectives Canada

(1 Jan – 31 Dec 2006)

Income (field operations)

General funds	¥ 35,584.20 CNY	(\$ 5,248.94 CAD)
Ecotour trail	¥ 47,513.00 CNY	(donation in China)
First Fruit, Inc.	¥ 257,798.23 CNY	(\$ 36,534.25 CAD)
Yak-2-School	¥ 40,264.14 CNY	(\$ 5,720.76 CAD)
Transport fund	¥ 38,757.40 CNY	(\$ 5,500.00 CAD)

Sub-total (income)

¥419,916.97 CNY

Project managed in China, funds received via NHM/Norserve

NORAD 2006, Project no. 10564 (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2006)

Income (field operations)

Buildings	¥ 14,520.00 CNY	(received in China)
Other investments	¥ 33,367.00 CNY	(received in China)
Education / vocational training	¥ 10,000.00 CNY	(received in China)
Environmental conservation	¥ 17,977.00 CNY	(received in China)
Administrative costs (in China)	¥ 9,969.50 CNY	(received in China)
Transport and travel costs	¥ 31,166.00 CNY	(received in China)

Sub-total (income)

¥ 116,999.50 CNY

Plateau Perspectives Scotland

(5 Apr 2006 – 4 Apr 2007)

Income (field operations)

BT Health	¥ 114,262.30	(approx. £ 7,617.00 GBP)
Gardiner fund	¥ 7,040.84	(approx. £ 469.00 GBP)
Transport fund	¥ 39,416.39	(approx. £ 2,628.00 GBP)
General fund	¥ 1,188.51	(donation in China)

Sub-total (income)

¥ 161,908.04 CNY

Total Income	¥ 698,824.51 CNY
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Summary (field operations)

Income

Expenses

Funds at start of year (Canada)	¥ 0.00 CNY	
Funds at start of year (Scotland)	¥ 94,606.66 CNY	
Advances outstanding start of year	¥ 15,000.00 CNY	
Total income during the fiscal year	¥ 698,824.51 CNY	
Total expenses (Canadian sources)		¥ 388,016.97 CNY
Total expenses (NORAD project)		¥ 116,999.50 CNY
Total expenses (Scottish sources)		¥ 250,667.75 CNY

Funds remaining in China, end of year (PP Canada)	=	¥ 31,900.00 CNY
Funds remaining in China, end of year (PP Scotland)	=	¥ 20,846.95 CNY

WHO'S WHO

International 'Council of Reference'

Professor Calvin DeWitt

Calvin DeWitt is a retired Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and former President of the Au Sable Institute. He is a physiological ecologist and ecosystems ecologist with a focus on wetland ecosystems. At Au Sable Institute he administers a programme that serves 60 Christian colleges and universities in North America, India, and Africa with courses in Christian environmental stewardship.

In the area of interface between ecology and Judeo-Christian environmental ethics he is co-author (with Sir Ghilleen Prance) of *Missionary Earthkeeping* (1992) and author of *Caring for Creation: Responsible Stewardship of God's Handiwork* (1997).

Sir Brian Heap CBE ScD FRS

Sir Brian Heap is a former Master of St Edmunds College, Cambridge University, and a Fellow and Foreign Secretary of The Royal Society. He is an eminent animal biologist and until recently was Director of the Babraham Institute, Cambridge, and Director of Science, UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. He is also the UK representative on the NATO Science Committee, and has worked with the World Health Organization in China. Professor Heap holds doctorates from Cambridge, Nottingham and York, has published extensively and holds distinguished awards for his scientific work.

Dr John Hodges

Dr John Hodges was responsible for animal breeding and genetic resources in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN where he had wide experience of development agriculture. Previously he was Professor of Animal Genetics at the University of British Columbia, Canada and earlier taught at Cambridge University, UK. He is the former Head of the Production Division of the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales. He has degrees in agriculture, livestock production and genetics from Reading and Cambridge Universities (UK) and in business administration from Harvard University (USA).

Dr Hodges is co-author of the book *Tropical Cattle: Origins, Breeds and Breeding Policies* (1997). Having analysed the history of genetic gain and livestock in the tropics he recommends an alternative approach to improving quality of life by greater use of indigenous breeds and working together with the local cultures of livestock producers.

Since 1990, Dr. Hodges has worked with the governments and agricultural leaders in Central and Eastern Europe to restructure agriculture. He writes and speaks on Ethics, Genetics and Agriculture examining their influence on the future development of society in Developing Countries and in the West.

Sir John Polkinghorne KBE FRS

Sir John Polkinghorne is an Anglican priest, the former President of Queens' College, Cambridge University, and former Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge University. Dr Polkinghorne resigned his chair in physics to study for the Anglican priesthood. After completing his theological studies and serving in parishes, he returned to Cambridge. During this time, he wrote a series of books on the compatibility of religion and science. These include *Quarks, Chaos and Christianity* (1994), and most recently, *Belief in God in an*

Age of Science (2000) and his Gifford Lectures, *The Faith of a Physicist*. Dr Polkinghorne was the recipient of the 2002 Templeton Prize.

Sir Ghilleen Prance FRS VMH

Sir Ghilleen Prance was for eleven years Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, until his retirement in 1999. Prior to this he was Senior Vice President for Science of the New York Botanical Gardens and Founding Director of the Garden's Institute of Economic Botany. He is an expert on the flora of the Amazon rain forests, having led annual expeditions there over a period of twenty-five years and described more than 450 Amazonian plants new to science.

Sir Ghilleen was trained as a plant taxonomist and spent over 8 years on fieldwork and botanical exploration in Amazonian Brazil. He has a world-wide interest in the sustainable development of rainforest ecosystems and conservation generally; as well as being author of 19 books and editor of a further 14 books, he has published over 400 papers of both scientific and general interest on plant systematics, plant ecology, ethnobotany and conservation.

Mr Matthias Stiefel

Mr Stiefel works in Geneva as Executive Director of WSP International, a private organisation affiliated with the UN, which uses action-research and consensus building methodology to assist local and national actors in war-torn societies in consolidating peace and rebuilding their countries. It also assists the UN and the international community in better supporting them in this task. In the early 1970s he was a freelance journalist and consultant in Southeast Asia. In 1986 he resigned from employment with the UN to spend five years as a farmer on a traditional dry-land subsistence farm in the Algarve, motivated by the desire to gain practical field experience of development issues. Mr Stiefel is also an International Trustee (Chair) of A Rocha International.

Mr David Taylor

Mr David Taylor is Director of the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives. Prior to USAID, Mr. Taylor served in the private non-profit sector with ADRA International for 24 years and World Vision for 10 years.

In his current role as Director of USAID/OTI, Mr Taylor's tasks include that of providing assistance to ordinary citizens in fragile, failing or recovering states. His office has partnered with thirty countries over the past ten years, and is currently active in ten countries. In several instances they have supported conservation projects when environmental issues were identified as key factors in the fragility of the state.

Dr Tony Whitten

Dr Tony Whitten is Senior Biodiversity Specialist for the East Asia and Pacific Region at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., where he attempts to achieve the conservation of forests, wildlife, karst biota, and freshwater biodiversity by whatever means. He has written over a dozen books on the ecology and natural history of Indonesia, and works throughout the East Asia region from Mongolia to New Guinea. Dr Whitten manages stand-alone conservation projects, research/capacity projects, a regional project on faiths and the environment, and environmental assessment on other World Bank projects.

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Mr Bruno Désorcy
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Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, University of Montreal

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St Mary's College, University of St Andrews

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Dr Charles Warren Lecturer, Secretary Plateau Perspectives Scotland
School of Geography & Geosciences, St Andrews University

Mrs Sarah Warren Trustee, Plateau Perspectives Scotland
Art Therapist, Cupar

Field staff in 2006



Foreign staff

Position

Dr J Marc Foggin	Director
Dr Marion Torrance-Foggin	Medical Director
Dr Fiona R Worthy	PhD (Ecology)
Mr Colin Wilcock	Accountant (FCCA)
Mrs Sarah Wilcock	MA (Development)

Visiting Experts

Dr Walter Willms	Agriculture Canada
Dr & Mrs Maynard Seaman	MD (Surgery)
Mr Fredrik Bohler	MSc (Forestry)
Dr Peter M Foggin	University of Montreal

National staff

Position

Mr Liu Lingjun (Larry)	Office secretary
Mrs Xu Haiying	Cleaner
Mr Tarshin	Driver
Mrs Gongji	Teacher
Ms Sertsogyi (Helen)	Translator
Mr Zhang Bin (Ted)	Translator / IT

Main Funders

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