



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

PLATEAU PERSPECTIVES

Supporting the development of more collaborative approaches to environmental conservation, natural resource management and provision of social services in the Tibetan Plateau region



PLATEAU PERSPECTIVES

Community Development & Conservation

གདམ་ཕྱོད་མ་ལུ་བ་ཆོག་མ་ལུ་

Contact information

Plateau Perspectives Canada
c/o Ms Marjorie Bergen
739, Gagnier
Deux-Montagnes
Quebec, J7R 6E6
Canada

Plateau Perspectives Scotland
c/o Prof Alan Torrance
Kincaple House, Kincaple
St Andrews, Fife
KY16 9SH
United Kingdom

Email: info@plateauperspectives.org
Website: www.plateauperspectives.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

PLATEAU PERSPECTIVES

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The times keep changing, yet the basics remain the same: New technologies, new development policies, or even new generations may appear on the scene. However the hope for a better future for our children, a keen desire to participate in important dialogues, and access to fundamental social services and a clean, productive environment are amongst the most basic priorities of nearly all societies worldwide. In line with many people and communities' hopes, needs and aspirations, our definition or understanding of "development" may even need to change, in order to better incorporate important key concepts such as participation, partnership, equity, and genuine access to natural resources and services. Specifically, the notion of "sustainable development" could perhaps be more effective – and lead to a more stable society – if it were understood to depend on 'four pillars' (or four main building blocks): the economy, society, environment, and culture. Approached from this angle, much broader agreement and consensus could be reached across multiple sectors of society, and a more peaceful and prosperous regional development attained. All these are critical matters—and these are areas that we have been considering and learning about over the past year.

In its work in western China, focused mainly on the high grassland and mountain areas of Qinghai Province, Plateau Perspectives continues to support and promote conservation and community development for local as well as regional and global benefit. Below the reader will find a summary of some of the key areas of work we have undertaken in the past year, and also an indication of some of our new programs currently in development. It is our hope that, through this report, further appreciation may develop for the contributions being made by many of our local partners as well as for the challenges they still face.

The continued support of our partners worldwide – whether with finance, expert advice, or raising awareness of key issues and needs – is essential to Plateau Perspectives' work. Your contributions are making a real difference for local people and communities, as well as to the environment and wildlife of the extraordinary Tibetan Plateau region. Thank you!

Yours truly,



J Marc Foggin, PhD
Director, Plateau Perspectives

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary of the Yushu Integrated Development Project (2007-11)	p. 4
Poverty Alleviation in Tibetan Plateau Grasslands	p. 7
Collaborations with the Qinghai Forest Bureau	p. 8
Earthquake Relief & Rehabilitation Services	p. 9
Other activities undertaken in 2011	p. 10
Field staff and Council of Reference	p. 12
Main donors and sponsors	p. 13
Chinese National Partners	p. 13
Financial matters	p. 13



INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, YUSHU PREFECTURE, QINGHAI PROVINCE (2007-11)

PROJECT PARTNERS AND DONORS

HimalPartner, Digni, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

FULL TITLE

“The Sanjiangyuan Community Development Project: Community development and biodiversity conservation in the Sanjiangyuan Region of the Tibetan plateau, Qinghai Province, China”

The overarching goal of this project was to improve the quality of life of Tibetan herders and simultaneously to conserve biodiversity in the grassland, wetland and mountain habitats of the Sanjiangyuan region in southern Qinghai Province. The four specific objectives were:

- To improve social services for local communities, including health and education,
- To enhance the economic opportunities available to local herder communities,
- To help build the capacity of the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, and
- To empower communities to sustainably manage their natural resources.

According to an independent end-of-project evaluation carried out in June 2011,

The overall five year proposal was developed by Plateau Perspectives with a clear hierarchy of logically-linked objectives, each with qualitative and quantitative indicators. The relevance of ... Plateau Perspectives' work is very high and [addressed] real needs which are not being addressed significantly by any other organisations.

Plateau Perspectives has extremely strong relationships with government departments at the county, prefecture, provincial and national levels ... facilitating opportunities to influence policy development and implementation at those different levels. They also have strong relationships with local communities and with key people within those communities. The strengths of these relationships have had a strong positive contribution to the outcomes of the project

It is noteworthy that many of the project activities have effectively cross-linked with other programs and partnerships, thus multiplying and strengthening impact. From its practical field-based work in conservation and development to public policy analysis, the **Yushu Integrated Development Project** has contributed significantly to enhancing local people's quality of life and to the sustainable use and protection of globally important environmental resources, including endangered wildlife species and grassland ecological function.

Several significant achievements have been made in the 2007-11 period. Some highlights are included in this report, as the year 2011 marked the end of this critical bilateral project.

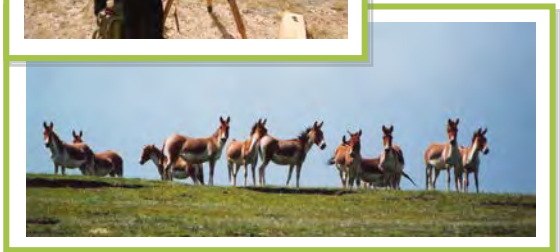
Dasheng Village Clinic

Several village clinics have been built, and health workers trained, throughout vast rural grassland areas of Zhiduo, Zaduo and Qumalai counties. One clinic co-financed by this project is located in Dasheng village. In total, Plateau Perspectives has trained over 100 village health workers and built or furnished 11 villages clinics in the region, in partnership with local health bureaus.



Community co-management conservation project

Central to Plateau Perspectives' purposes has been the local empowerment inherent in the introduction and development of more people-friendly, community-centered approaches to conservation – namely, more collaborative approaches to environmental management and wildlife conservation. The monitoring and protection of snow leopard have served as focal points around which new approaches and methodologies have been developed, including capacity building for nature reserve field staff and local community members. A variety of key workshops and study tours also have been organized through the project to bring new insights into the development dialogue in the project area.



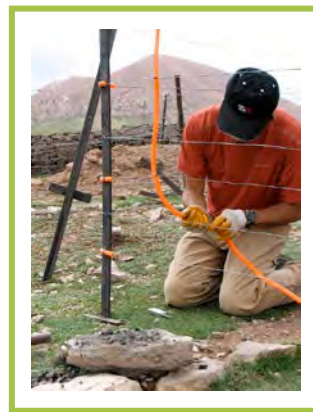
Support for the development of civil society, rural cooperatives, social enterprises



By partnering with local communities and emerging organizations and associations, as well as rural cooperatives and social enterprises, the project also has helped to create space for more equitable development opportunities to become established in the project area. This work is on-going, particularly with the planning and development of herders' cooperatives, community ecotourism ventures, and fair business partnerships.

Solar powered electric fencing (for human-wildlife conflict mitigation)

As human-wildlife interactions increase, so does the occurrence of conflict with wildlife. In the light of damage (and anxiety) caused by the brown bear, new electric fencing systems have been trialed. This technological innovation has proven effective in most cases – and therefore has already been adopted for wider application by the local nature reserve.



Conservation planning and the introduction of community ecotourism

Alongside the development of community co-management (with local herder communities; see above), the capacity of local community members and field staff of the nature reserve have also been built through joint fieldwork, specialist workshops and planning meetings. Conservation and development agendas have equally begun to be reconciled, at least in part, through the introduction and development of community ecotourism approaches. A new website dedicated to ecotourism, www.QinghaiEcotourism.org, was launched in late 2011. Other conservation planning activities also have occurred throughout the lifespan of the project, and similar activities are planned for 2012.



Development policy analysis and dialogue

Based on the experience gained through this development project and other related work, Plateau Perspectives staff have been invited on occasion to contribute to regional policy dialogue – with participation in a variety of international conferences and workshops, and the authoring of several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on relevant topics.



POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN TIBETAN PLATEAU GRASSLANDS (2010-11)

PROJECT PARTNER AND DONOR

Ford Foundation

FULL TITLE

“Poverty alleviation in the grasslands of the Tibetan Plateau: Exploration of policy options for sustainable environmental management”



With the purpose of enhancing opportunities for equitable socio-economic development – particularly in the context of rural grassland areas inhabited by ethnic minority people, and with an overlay of a large national nature reserve (with its environmental focus and related regulations) and local government focus on economic development through ‘ecotourism’ (especially as part of post-earthquake recovery and re-development plans in the Yushu area) – this project has carried out four main inter-related activities.

An international study tour was organized to visit several mountain national parks in Western Canada, with a broad aim to learn about natural resource management, wildlife conservation, community participation and co-management, and other important lessons from the Canadian experience. The trip, which included participants from Qinghai Province and Tibet Autonomous Region, was co-hosted by Plateau Perspectives and Parks Canada. Later, the strategic *Yushu International Ecotourism Workshop* was held in Xining, Qinghai, in November 2010 with the goal of promoting regional tourism that would bring more benefit to local Tibetan communities in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, both inside and outside the Sanjiangyuan (Three Great Rivers) National Nature Reserve. Active participants included delegates from Tibetan herding communities, local tour operators, tourism bureau, and colleagues from Qinghai Normal University. Special input was also gained from invited delegates from Mongolia and the United Kingdom.

In late 2011, a second study tour was organized to introduce local community members and leaders from a new herders cooperative and from government to different approaches of community co-management and a variety of relevant business models, in order to promote more appropriate rural development in grassland areas of the plateau. Prefecture level participants included representatives from the tourism bureau and foreign affairs office.

Exploratory meeting also have been undertaken through the year, with two provincial level universities, to begin developing a ‘sustainability’-oriented post-graduate training program. International exchanges and research programs may also result from these developing partnerships.

COLLABORATIONS WITH THE QINGHAI FOREST BUREAU AND THE SANJIANGYUAN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Plateau Perspectives participated in the “International Conference on Climate Change and Ecosystem Carbon Sequestration” that was held in Xining, Qinghai Province, on July 12-14, 2011. The conference was co-sponsored by PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems, the Qinghai Forest Bureau, and the Australia China Environment and Development Partnership (ACEDP) of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). Both Chinese and foreign experts gave presentations on new carbon trading and certification, on climate change in the Tibetan Plateau region and its impacts on territorial ecosystem including grasslands, and on sustainable use of forests and grasslands in the context of climate change.



Other contributions that Plateau Perspectives has made with the provincial Forest Bureau and Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve also include in-country assistance provided in the development of an anticipated Global Environment Facility (GEF) project focused on enhancing the effectiveness of protected area management in the province; initial planning and development of a training package for bureau leaders and field staff at a Canadian university; at an earlier date, also training provided for a China-Africa study tour focused on co-management approaches to environmental management; and the on-going development of environmental awareness materials for use at field stations of the nature reserve.



EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

On the 14th of April 2010, Yushu County was hit by a major earthquake. The impact of this disaster was immediate with over 2,200 people dead and 10,000 left seriously injured.

As an immediate response, Plateau Perspectives set up a medical camp and worked in conjunction with the government camps to provide medical care. In the longer-term, though, it became apparent that rehabilitation work also would be needed – and, in response to a request from the Disabilities Association of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Plateau Perspectives embarked on a new program, namely to help develop and extend rehabilitation services throughout the region. In particular, Plateau Perspectives has begun to assist in the equipping and refurbishing of rehabilitation centres, and in providing appropriate training for the medical and social service staff who will work in the new centres as they are established. The first rehab centre was established in Longbao, Yushu county.

Training has been provided by international physiotherapists, occupational therapist and doctors, both in Longbao and also in Zhiduo County where another centre will serve the needs of people in Zhiduo and Qumalai counties. Overall, 200 patients have been directly assessed and assisted in 2011. In addition, in collaboration with disabilities associations, we have provided more than 220 wheelchairs, 150 pairs of crutches, 50 walking sticks and over 50 adapted toilets, according to patients' needs. In total, Plateau Perspectives has brought around \$250,000 of support of earthquake victims over the past couple years.



OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2011

Development of a suspension trail bridge over the Yangtze River

Communities in remote mountainous areas away from major road networks often lack appropriate access across rivers and gorges. Plateau Perspectives has been exploring this aspect of regional development in the areas where it is active, with an inventory of locations needing trail bridges. A survey across one county was completed in 2010. Later in 2011, in association with Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve authorities, a favorable location was identified in which to implement a trail bridge project to demonstrate approaches and technology that could be adopted more widely in the region. This project would connect two rural communities opposite each other in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River with a suspended bridge for pedestrians, livestock, and motorcycles. Survey and design work has been carried out and funding has been secured for implementing the project in 2012.

This project also enhances a technical collaboration with Qinghai University, as it complements a design course for trail bridges and provides opportunity for engineering students to engage in the design and implementation process.



Collaboration with Qinghai Academy of Social Sciences

Plateau Perspectives assisted in the organization of the *International Symposium on the Human Dimensions of Ecological Conservation in the Tibetan Plateau Region*, which was co-hosted by the Qinghai Academy of Social Sciences and the provincial government. The symposium was held in Xining in August 2011. International delegates came from Canada, United Kingdom, and Germany.



Quinoa agricultural development project

In 2011, more than 30 Tibetan families planted 1000 *mu* (67 ha) of quinoa in two different areas of the Tibetan plateau. One location was in Zhanang county, Tibet Autonomous Region, and the other in Dulan county, Qinghai Province. The project goal is to trial Quinoa crop production in the Tibetan highlands, and to teach local farmers how to grow the crop for daily food consumption as well as for additional income. Quinoa is very nutritious, and with high (potential) market value. The demonstration fields have grown very well. Quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa* Wild.) is a staple seed crop in the Andean mountain region of South America with considerable potential for cultivation in the high altitude plateau region.



Plateau Perspectives in the news...

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| January 2011 | <i>Canadians Changing the World</i> (in Globe and Mail) |
| September 2011 | Marc Foggin was an invited speaker at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO). His topic was “ <i>Pastoralism in China – New dialogues regarding conservation & sustainable development on the Tibetan plateau.</i> ”
Presentation given as part of the collaborative project entitled <i>Pastoralism in China: National Policies and Local Practices</i> , undertaken with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. |
| October 2011 | Marc Foggin appointed Honorary Research Fellow, School of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent |
| November 2011 | <i>Tracking snow leopards</i> (in China Dialogue) |

Staff publications in 2011

Foggin, J.M., and Torrance-Foggin, M.E. 2011. How can social and environmental services be provided for mobile Tibetan herders? Collaborative examples from Qinghai Province, China. *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice* 1:21. doi:10.1186/2041-7136-1-21.

Foggin, J.M. 2011. Rethinking ‘ecological migration’ and the value of cultural continuity – A response to Wang, Song and Hu. *Ambio: A Journal of the Human Environment* 40:100-101.

Foggin, J.M. 2011. Local communities and conservation on the Tibetan Plateau: Two case studies of collaborative management in the Sanjiangyuan region. Paper presented at the QASS symposium held in Xining, August 2011.

Plateau Perspectives has re-launched its website!

Plateau Perspectives recently launched a new website: www.plateauperspectives.org.

FIELD STAFF, AND COUNCIL OF REFERENCE

Field staff

Dr J Marc Foggin, Executive Director
Dr Marion E Foggin, Medical Director
Mr Gongbo Tashi, Senior National Advisor
Mr Jigme Rabden, General Manager
Mr Huting, Office Manager (Xining)
Ms Ngoya Drolma, Accountant & Translator
Mr Yeshi Sombo, Project Officer & Translator
Ms Tashi Tsomo, Project Officer & Translator
Mr Dundrup, Project Officer & Translator
Ms Xu Haiying, Office Assistant (Xining)
Mr John Friberg, Technical Advisor / Civil Engineer
Ms Lydia David, Technical Advisor / Occupational Therapist



Council of reference

Dr Calvin DeWitt, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sir Brian Heap CBE ScD FRS, former Master of St Edmunds College, Cambridge University
Dr John Hodges, Consultant, formerly with United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organization
Sir John Polkinghorne KBE FRS, former President of Queens College, Cambridge University
Sir Ghilleen Prance FRS VMH, former Director of Kew Royal Botanic Gardens
Mr Matthias Stiefel, Executive Director, WSP International
Mr David Taylor, Executive Advisor in Humanitarian Assistance, World Vision International

MAIN DONORS AND SPONSORS



CHINESE NATIONAL PARTNERS

Qinghai Forest Bureau, Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve (SNNR), Qinghai Academy of Social Sciences (QASS), Qinghai Normal University (QNU), Government of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (including the Foreign Affairs Office), Yushu Prefecture Disabilities Association

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Plateau Perspectives' main financial support in 2011 was designated for the following projects:
(Note: These are indicative figures only.)

Ford Foundation	Poverty alleviation, development of herders cooperatives	\$ 29,000 USD
HimalPartner	Environmental conservation, community co-management	\$ 102,000 USD
World Concern	Development of a suspension trail bridge project	\$ 43,000 USD
Multiple donors	Earthquake relief and rehabilitation services	\$ 50,000 USD



Canadian charity no. 88353 511 RR0001

Canadian BN # 83622 7678 RC0001

Scottish charity no. SC036202

China BN # 78144734-9

www.plateauperspectives.org



© Plateau Perspectives 2012