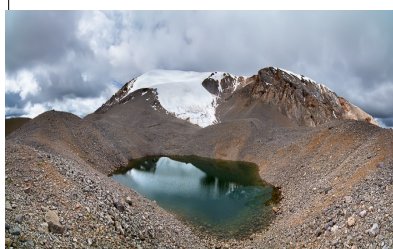


Plateau Perspectives Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Office Registration	1
New China Director	1
Community Trust Fund	1
Co-Management	2
Rehabilitation Centres	2
Move to Bhutan	2



Plateau Perspectives

www.plateauperspectives.org

Canadian charity no.

88353 511 RR0001

Scottish charity no.

SC036202

Plateau Perspectives Office

Office Registration in China

The year began with renewal of the Qinghai office registration for another 5 years. (Up until now, we have needed annual renewals.) Mr Hu Ting together with other PP staff have put a huge amount of work into making this happen.

New China Director

Doug Henderson was appointed as the new China Director for Plateau Perspectives. Doug comes from his previous career working for the Canadian government, mostly in relation to China at the Canadian International Development Agency. He brings great experience in the management of development and environmental projects in Asia, including Qinghai, and is already familiar with Chinese culture and speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese.

Community Trust Fund

After developing a 'community trust fund' in their community, with the design of work committees and management by-laws etc., the herders of Lari village proceeded over the past year with granting seven small loans to local families, for small business development initiatives. After the first year, this project is now undergoing its first evaluation which is being carried out by expert colleagues from research institutes and the academies of social sciences in Beijing and Chengdu. The lessons learned from this project will be useful particularly as China considers more how to support and strengthen rural economic development in remote grassland areas.

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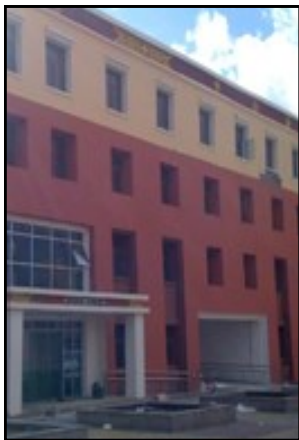
Community Co-Management

Several community cooperatives have been established, or are being established—especially in relation to the development of community ecotourism in the Yangtze River headwaters. The first and most advanced of these, the Kegawa Herders Cooperative, is now well established: it is selling wool for the production of excellent thermal clothing (see <http://www.kora.net/pages/big-picture/the-yak-herders> to learn more about this venture), selling crafts at the local county market, and now developing their first community-designed and -operated ecotours.



Further community meetings focused on the development of community ecotourism were recently carried out with national and expat staff to aid community ecotourism committees plan strategically for the future — addressing local infrastructure and service needs, marketing plans, educational components and the development of partnerships with regional tour operators. Jesse Montes also took excellent photos of the area (including these two photographs)—to put together a new video of these projects, and which may serve as ‘destination marketing’ tool.

Rehabilitation Centres



The buildings for the rehabilitation centres in Yushu are now completed, and we have been allocated rooms for the health worker trainees, clinical assessment and teaching as well as rooms for Plateau Perspectives staff who will give the training. The government have employed staff to work in and run the centre in Longbao town. Beds are now being made and furniture purchased to launch the rehab training programme for workers from around the prefecture.



Field Staff move to Bhutan

Jesse Montes is an environmental scientist who has been working on the community ecotourism project over the past year. He and his family are now moving to Bhutan, where he will teach at a college. Maybe some new project opportunities are therefore just beyond the horizon, across the Himalayas! The Montes family are currently in the process of relocating to Thimpu, Bhutan.

For more information,
please visit our website:
www.plateauperspectives.org