

LKA. Volunteers from Friends of Nature (FON), a Chinese charity well known for its good conservation work, came to Qinghai to provide training together with Plateau Perspectives. The Upper Yangtze Organization (UYO) made the arrangements for travel and accommodation to enable 15 schoolteachers from the south of Qinghai to attend. At the end of the week, the enthusiasm of all parties was so great that our local partner organizations – the UYO and FON – decided that this training course should become an annual event and that we should train trainers. Apparently, this course was simply the kick-start needed!

New areas of expertise needed

The more that projects develop, the more we find need for new areas of expertise... Below are several short, sample descriptions.

- Handicrafts – to help develop new sources of income
- Ecotourism – to invest in ways that benefit communities
- Video production – to produce fund-raising materials

In closing...

It has been a good year and we thank you all for your generous support that has made all of the above possible.

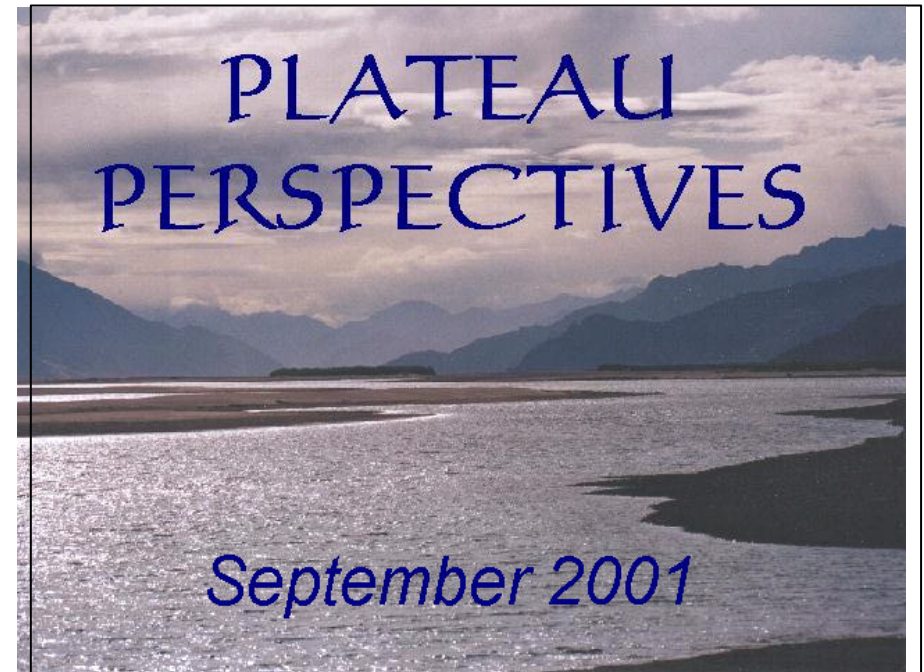
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*Thank you for your
tremendous support
this past year.*



This year has been both exciting and challenging! Over the past few months, Plateau Perspectives has submitted its paperwork to the Canadian government for recognition as a non-governmental organization, two board members visited the Tibetan plateau region, and relationships with a variety of local government bureaus and local communities have continued to develop well. In May, we also finally decided to move our base of operations to Zedang, a small town in southern Tibet. We also have made several trips to Qinghai for official meetings as well as on-going project management. Our latest trip to Qinghai has been especially exciting, both in terms of developing good working relationships and reaching a long-term agreement with a prefecture health bureau. In this newsletter, we now continue to share with you a few brief snippets of life and work here on the roof of the world. We hope you enjoy!

Marc Foggin (Executive Director)

Partnership with KunDe Foundation: Doctor Training, Clinics and Community Development in Shannan, Tibet



During his visit to Zedang (Shannan Prefecture, Tibet) last May, the Chair of Plateau Perspectives' Board of Directors was able to meet with leaders of KunDe Foundation (KDF), a British NGO, and all agreed to partner together in Tibet.

Marion now teaches village and township

doctors as part of the doctor-training programme, and Marc will help to monitor the building of clinics (over). Groups of about 30 doctors come for training every six months. The project also incorporates 'grassroots' community development as well as the professional development of local staff. One staff member recently attended a national conference in Qinghai to learn more about development and environmental issues.

Regional Health Needs Assessment in Yushu, Qinghai

On our most recent trip to Yushu Prefecture, Qinghai, we met with the head of the prefecture health bureau, a doctor well loved by the people. Moreover, she is a paediatrician who worked in Suojia for many years before moving to the county centre and then to a prefecture hospital that provides secondary and tertiary healthcare. She was very excited by Plateau Perspectives' work – and she has now asked us to work in six very remote, high-altitude townships. The total area 'offered' to us is approximately the size of Scotland or New Brunswick or West Virginia! The bureau now wishes us to sign a 3year agreement to jointly assess the health needs and to plan appropriate interventions. It is quite hard to describe just how unique and exciting this opportunity is for us!

Village Tent Schools: An Update



A tent school has now been running for 12 months in Muqu. The local community contributed all the tables, chairs, crockery, etc. to enable the school to open,

and Plateau Perspectives provided the funds for tents and other equipment. Good Mongolian-style tents (yurts) were purchased, which have proven to be much warmer and better than other tents in the area.

The teachers have worked in a volunteer capacity for the first year. As more and more families now wish their children to attend school, the plan is to expand each year for the next two years until the school has three grades. Requests from other communities have also come in the light of this work. We have asked these communities to write short project proposals, which we plan to assess this fall.

Suojia Township Clinic: An Update (Funded by LKA)

Includes an underground storeroom for medicines. Medical equipment and furniture will now be purchased. Clinical training was given to the doctors who were very enthusiastic and have requested more.

The Sanjianghe (Three Great Rivers) Nature Reserve

China has allocated a large proportion of Qinghai Province to be the new Three Great Rivers Nature Reserve. This is a major initiative to preserve the natural environment in the source areas of the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong Rivers. However, this also has major implications for the people living in the area. In June, a meeting organized by the Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) of the China Council – with whom Plateau Perspectives has worked for several years in the area – led to a list of recommendations that will be presented to many provincial and several national leaders. The most important recommendation may be that, in order to protect wildlife, local pastoralists should be allowed to continue to live in the area and thus act as a deterrent to poachers. While in the reserve in July and August, we also were able to discuss management plans with a representative from Beijing who will help make the final decisions regarding the nature reserve.

The First Environmental Education Teacher Training Course on the Tibetan Plateau (Organized by UYO, FON, PP, LKA)

A training course on environmental issues and the relationship between health and environment was held in August, funded by a Finnish NGO,