

for all the people or groups interested in funding or otherwise supporting Plateau Perspectives' work in the Tibetan Plateau region.

STOP PRESS!

We have just received news that a project to support community-based conservation of biodiversity in the Eastern Himalayas has been funded. This is an exciting new venture in a little known area of the Tibetan Plateau. The main objective will be to assist and empower local people to develop, and benefit from, a network of protected areas – thus integrating conservation and community development.

Contact Information

If you would like to know more, please write to...

In Canada and USA: 200 Walnut Ave, St-Lambert, Quebec, J4P 2T1
Email: peter.foggin@umontreal.ca

In the UK: 32 Biggar Rd, Symmington, Lanarkshire, ML12 6LQ
Email: heather@tinto.demon.co.uk

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Marjorie Bergen,
Email: jutras.bergen@sympatico.ca

***Thank you
for
everything!***



A few months have passed since we last wrote and much has happened. As you will see, several projects have progressed fairly well. A health project is now well underway with the Yushu Prefecture Health Bureau, the village schools and clinic in Suojia are well established, another training workshop is planned for this summer, and Kunde Foundation's work in Shannan Prefecture continues to develop well and expand. It also appears that our team will grow in size with several new people joining us over the next year. Thanks again, all of you, for your tremendous support, which is instrumental in making all of this work possible.

Marc Foggin (Executive Director)

Regional Health Needs Assessment in Yushu, Qinghai

In February 2002, Plateau Perspectives and a team of local colleagues visited the first 'township' in this 3-year development project. Interviewers were first trained, and then we randomly selected the 'villages' and families to sample for the project. Nearly everyone we visited over this memorable *Losar* season (Tibetan New Year) was warm and welcoming. Overall there was a high level of cooperation by local people and government leaders alike. Where there were urgent medical needs, medical attention was also given. One woman even had to be evacuated all the way to Xining for emergency surgical care, no less than three

days' journey away. Regarding the survey work itself, 50 families were interviewed over a period of about twenty days, a fair challenge in this remote mountainous part of the Tibetan Plateau. In April, another 50 households were interviewed in the next 'township', and we have already begun to enter the data for analysis. Local doctors and the health bureau seem keen to work with us and together we hope to find long-term solutions to address local health needs.

Second Teacher Training Workshop

Many of the participants in last year's workshop were so enthusiastic about learning new teaching methods and environmental information that we have been asked to assist with a second, expanded workshop this year! The NGO *Friends of Nature* again has agreed to find teachers for the workshop, and their list already includes a couple of prominent Chinese scholars. This year our focus will be mainly on designing a handbook for environmental education in the Tibetan plateau ecoregion.



Update on the Village Schools

The village school in Muqu continues to be popular. Two years' salary has now been found for the teachers and the school has doubled in size to allow admission of a new grade class. The local community also has changed the school site –

which is only possible with tent schools – to a place that they feel to be more accessible and better for the school's herd of sheep and yak. There have been minor illnesses amongst the children, but fewer than last year, and the head teacher reported that the health advice that we gave last year was very helpful to him.

The village school in Yaqu also has continued to grow in numbers. However, the tents now are deteriorating due to the extreme high winds of the Tibetan Plateau. Both schools may in fact need to upgrade to more permanent buildings in the near future. The initial phase of the

tent schools, though, has been an essential part of helping and empowering the local communities to design their own plans for the long-term management of these primary schools.

Update on Suojia Clinic

The Suojia Clinic is now in use for training as well as seeing patients. Some medical equipment has been ordered and is awaited. Medicines stored in the underground pharmacy were not frozen even in the heart of winter – a requirement for many vaccines and important medicines. The emphasis will now be on doctor training and health education. The junior doctor in particular appears to be very keen for such training, along with the county health director.



Partnership with Kunde Foundation

The training programme has continued well and another group of students completed their course in December 2001. The new semester began in March 2002, but Marion was unable to join in the teaching as she is now expecting and had to return to Scotland for several months. Fortunately another doctor arrived the very day that Marion had to leave. The clinic construction work that Marc had been assisting with also has been handed over to others. For more information about Kunde Foundation, please contact Tony & Nan Burgess (KundeUK@bigfoot.com).

Planning for the future...

Currently we are in the process of writing a strategic plan and funding proposal to encompass all of Plateau Perspectives' conservation and development work in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province. The geographic focus of this plan will be the three counties where we have been invited to work, covering the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong Rivers. This planning document is meant to include all major aspects of the work. Our hope is that such a comprehensive document will help to clarify our main aims and objectives