

Expertise and other forms of Assistance

Thank you all for your support that enables this work to happen. We are now also drawing up a list of experts to call on for both short-term and longer-term pieces of work. We are therefore always on the lookout for interested parties! Please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you have email but still receive this letter in hardcopy, please do contact us to let us know your email address for future mailings.

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In February of this year Plateau Perspectives began its agreed work in Zhiduo County, entitled the *Yangtze Headwaters Sustainable Development Project*. This new five-year agreement, coming after several years of work and negotiations, started rapidly. Our partners wanted the first year to consist of two main visible areas of development, which could be assessed as to its success. These two main starter areas were community health and education. However the broader work was also to forge ahead.

Qinghai Project, Phase II (2004-2008)

Community Health

We started with a village doctor training. These village doctors are *de facto* leaders to whom community members turn for advice, and they are often the only health care providers to whom the community has access. They were therefore not only trained in the diagnosis and treatment of the most common conditions, but also in community development and environmental protection.



The students were extremely motivated and very responsive to the training. We were invited to visit their villages and homes. Follow up visits are now being carried out to discuss other interventions the communities have suggested to us. Later this year we will decide which new projects we should support.



Basic Education

Usually the government supports schools only in towns. However in Zhiduo there are 5 villages that have initiated and have been running their own local schools. It is these schools that are most accessible to the nomad children and which PP is committed to support. The first school – Muqu village school – is a tent school,



which PP helped establish in 2000. Since then it has been moved several times, but finally the community decided on one location that they felt was best. They then tried to build a classroom but due to lack of funds the construction was inadequate. PP is therefore now helping with the construction of

classrooms, which is to be completed next month. The water supply is nearby and we have further plans to assess the best approach to bring water to the school.

Environmental Protection

Zhiduo now includes part of a core zone in a huge national nature reserve – the largest in China. The local herders now serving as wildlife monitors are gathering valuable data that can help to better manage the area's natural resources. PP will continue to provide

training in wildlife monitoring. Recently we also gave training in environmental conservation to government and NGO leaders.



Another important area of planning at the moment is how best and where to build a conservation centre / training centre, with satellite stations in areas where there are motivated monitors and communities. The suggested sites are all key areas for the protection of internationally endangered wildlife.

Money has been coming in from the *James Torrance Memorial Fund*, to be designated to one of these centres (pending some further clarifications in discussion and planning), which will benefit both conservation and socio-economic development.

Eastern Tibet

This project is now emerging after over 10 years of planning and negotiation. It will provide a unique opportunity to work in a large spectacular region of the Tibetan Plateau that includes two the world's biodiversity hotspots – the *Eastern Himalayas* and *South-Central Chinese Mountains*. The Yangtze, Mekong, Salween and Bramaputra Rivers all run through this region, impacting nearly a quarter of humanity.

The project has four main project partners – Future Generations (the initiator and driver of the project to date), David Suzuki Foundation, Simon Fraser University, and Plateau Perspectives (to carry out much of the work on the ground). The main strands of the project will be (1) to establish a conservation training centre, (2) to conduct research on species and ecosystems, necessary for long term planning and sustainable resource use, and (3) to train village representatives to plan and implement participatory initiatives for development, health and conservation. While full funding is currently awaited, project plans are already being finalized.