

Income Generation Projects

We are exploring a number of possibilities for assisting nomads in remote areas to generate further income and add value to the raw products from their livestock herds. These include a pilot ecotourism trip this summer that we are facilitating with the local community, which will also provide seed funds for the establishment of a community-managed development fund.

Staff



Left to right: Marc, Renzin, Tarshin, Andrew, Colin, Sarah, Marion, Fiona

Marc and Marion Foggin continue to work this year in Zhiduo County.

Colin and Sarah Wilcock have settled in well in Zhiduo. Colin has taken on our accounting here in China as well as being involved in investigating income generation projects. Sarah is involved in community development projects.

Fiona Worthy, an environmental biologist from the UK who has just completed her PhD, has now joined the team in Zhiduo.

Hudson left PP in February to start a new job in environmental protection in Sichuan. We are delighted that conservation work has caught his interest.

Larry and Tarshin continue to work with us and greatly enable all the work.

Renzin has joined the team, providing huge assistance with housekeeping.

Andrew, from a neighbouring county, now acts as translator and helps run the community development projects.

We would also like to thank **Bernard Arsenault, Marjorie Bergen, Peter Foggin** and **Jane Torrance**, who have run the offices in the UK and Canada and provided much needed support.

New Website

The website has recently been updated and re-launched. Please visit it at www.plateauperspectives.org for further details about our work.

Plateau Perspectives Newsletter

April 2006

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The New Year here has begun with many extremely encouraging meetings bringing together many different partners and community representatives, local organisations and the government as well as the national nature reserve. All are contributing towards new joint projects this year, sharing both work and finances to an extraordinary degree.

PP will continue to work closely with three village communities – Muqu, Jiongqu and Yaqu – in integrated environmental protection and community development. In addition, we will take up new invitations to expand into the neighbouring counties. This year we have also taken on a project collaborating with a Norwegian organisation, funded by NORAD, with a focus on regional environmental management.

Read more below...

Muqu Village Community

The Muqu Village School is being run by the local community. Boys and girls are attending from each village. Graduates from the school, who are now in the County Middle School, are coming out top in their classes.

The dormitories and classrooms have now been completed, the kitchen and dining hall are in progress, and this year the school plans to build teachers' accommodation, toilets and a wall around the school building to provide a safe courtyard for the children.

Jiongqu Village Community

The Jiongqu Clinic, built last year, is operating well. Patients are coming to the clinic from all directions, as they now have healthcare available in this very remote area. This clinic project is already entirely self-funding.

PP participated in last year's Tibetan Wild Ass Festival at Jiongqu to raise environmental awareness, and will increase its activities in the area this year. The community is already arranging another such meeting and has invited us to produce health materials to give to the community members as they gather.

Yaqu Village Community



The Yaqu Village School kitchen and dining hall, built last year, (see left) are now in use and as a result student numbers have risen, with students attending from each section of the village.

However, bad storms and high winds during the winter caused considerable damage to the dormitories at the school, effectively destroying the roofs. As most pupils live too far from the school to be able to travel each day, dry and safe dormitories are essential to the school. PP has offered to repair the dormitory roofs.



This year's plans in Muqu, Yaqu & Jiongqu communities

- **Village clinics:** Materials are now being purchased and transported to build new clinics with safe waste disposal units, one in Muqu and one in Yaqu village. These will be staffed with the best of the doctor trainees from previous PP training courses (as suggested by the Health Bureau).
- Increase school herds through '*Send a Yak to School*' project (see below for more details). The first purchasing will start this summer.
- Complete **kitchen & dining room** at Muqu School and repair the **dormitory roofs** at Yaqu School.
- Environmental **surveys, training and focus groups**
- Environmental Awareness **Wildlife Festivals**
 - Muqu Snow Leopard Festival
 - Yaqu Wetland Birds Festival
 - Jiongqu Tibetan Wild Ass Festival



Extending Work in Zhahe Township

Zhahe is the neighbouring township to Suojia, similarly remote on the North-Western edge of the county. This year will see a considerable extension of our work in this township.

- **Village Clinics** - Jiongqu Clinic has provided an excellent model for further clinics and we hope to be able to build a network of clinics to provide healthcare to cover the most remote areas. These clinics will also provide a Centre where the community can meet together and other training can be carried out. Kouqian community in Zhahe is a motivated community in a remote area of Zhahe Township. We have just agreed with the County Health Bureau, the community leaders and the local NGO that PP will collaborate to build a clinic here too.
- **Immunisations** - These have been very well received in Suojia and we have now agreed to provide the assistance to enable the immunisation of the people of Zhahe.
- **Doctor & Women's Health Worker Training** - Following the successful training carried out in previous years, the County Health Bureau has asked for further training courses, both for doctors, especially those from the remotest areas of the county, and women's health workers.
- **Environment** - Plans are made for wildlife training visits into Zhahe with the Nature Reserve and local community representatives.

Expansion to Neighbouring Counties

PP has now been invited by community leaders from the two neighbouring counties to expand similar work into their communities.

'Send a Yak to School'



Recent tax system changes mean the village schools now must be self-sufficient. In order to be sustainable in the long-term, they need to increase the size of their herds of yak and sheep. In December 2005, PP launched a fund-raising campaign to assist the schools and we have already received donations for over 20 yak and 15 sheep. The first yak and sheep will be bought this summer.

For more information, please visit PP's website, www.plateauperspectives.org.