

Plateau Perspectives Newsletter

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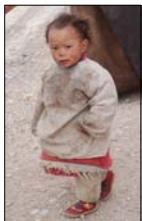
The New Year launched with the start of work in Zaiduo and Qumalai. After working in Zhiduo for some time, the two neighbouring counties – one on each side of us, north and south – have now also requested help. For the environmental work these new areas contain key habitat for some of the wildlife species that we are already monitoring in Zhiduo.

The land area of the three counties is equivalent to 2 ½ times the size of Switzerland.

Read more below...



Zaiduo County



At the end of 2006, we were invited to visit the remote areas of Zaiduo County by the new Vice Governor for Health, a very supportive leader who had previously worked with us in Zhiduo. The needs of some of these remote communities left our staff very moved and eager to help because the needs were so great.

We were asked to begin with two communities who have almost

no access to health care. They wish to construct a clinic, to enable the storage of medicine and the administration of health insurance. New village doctors will need to be trained to staff the clinics. Agreements are now being written and plans are going ahead to enable the transport of materials to the area before the ground melts.

Qumalai County

There have been many invitations and discussion over the years to begin work in Qumalai. The two western districts have motivated communities who wish to protect their land and see the improvement of services in their area. The priority with regard to development work is to train village health workers, particularly women, in maternal and child health. The environmental work is subject to further permissions with the nature reserve. Health materials are now being produced in the local language for use in training women's health workers in these two new counties.



Muqu, Yaqu and Jiongqu Village Communities

With the completion of the clinic construction in Muqu and Yaqu, the main concern this year will be to monitor the medical work undertaken in these clinics. The community designed a new stove and a waste disposal system (one of which was modified at the end of the year to improve it) which also will be monitored this year. The clinics have all been supplied with small solar panels for regular use and a small generator for shorter term use of equipment. The clinics appear to be running well, particularly in Yaqu and Jiongqu, both of which are extremely busy.

Some of the doctors are in fact very experienced and also motivated to take on new ideas rapidly. The woman's health workers from all the communities were equally trained and given assignments designed to increase their profile and enable them to share more of the workload with the doctors, and to become more accessible to the local women.

Dasheng community

This Dasheng leaders are showing good motivation to ensure that the health of their community is improved and that preventative as well as curative health initiatives are undertaken.

Zhahe Township

The township leaders in Zhahe have shown a huge willingness to facilitate the immunisation of their community, requesting no financial help for transport. They are trying to increase the age range of the coverage and the health bureau wishes to increase the type of immunisations provided. With the resolve of such colleagues, implementation of an immunisation campaign in this area will proceed this year.

'Send a Yak to School'

The first round of yak and sheep were purchased over last year and the purchases will begin again as the warmer weather begins. There is a huge enthusiasm for this project in the communities and the schools are still running well with the hope that these herds will enable them to continue long into the future. For more information, please visit Plateau Perspectives' website, www.plateauperspectives.org.

New appointments in Canada

In Canada, we thank **Bernard Arsenault** for his excellent 5 years as President of Plateau Perspectives. It is with gratitude that we say 'thank you' to Bernard and his wife **Julie Michaud** for their dedication, support and encouragement over the years.

Last year **Bill Kent** and **Bruno Désorcy** joined the Board of Directors, and in January 2007 Bill was invited (and graciously accepted) to assume the position of new President. We are all grateful for both of their contributions; Bruno as a Sociology consultant, and Bill as a Development expert with several decades experience in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Field Staff



Marc Foggin, conservation biologist and head of Plateau Perspectives' work in all areas.

John Sale, with his long experience of setting up nature reserves and wildlife conservation, is joining us again this year to advise and assist in setting up further wildlife conservation work.

Fiona Worthy is an environmental biologist who works primarily in the area of wildlife conservation.

Marion Foggin, doctor and leader of health work.

Larry continues to run the Xining Office.

Ted, a graduate in environmental sciences, assists in the environmental work and 'information technology'.



Helen, with her excellent Tibetan, Chinese and English, is primarily assisting in the health work, producing health materials and participating in trainings.

Tarshin keeps the jeep on the road.

Gongji teaches Tibetan to other staff as well as assisting in the Zhiduo office.

Xu Haiying cleans and organizes the Xining office and guest flat.

Peter Foggin has several roles, working both in Canada and on the field, enabling community development in practical ways as well as bringing his long experience and expertise in the social sciences.

