

Plateau Perspectives Newsletter

December 2007

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This year has brought changes in operation and registration in China that will facilitate greatly Plateau Perspectives' work in the future. However the basic work programme continues unchanged.

Community Health

Doctor Training

Qumalai County – Cuochi is a very remote village. An experienced doctor and a new trainee doctor were brought out for training and we were asked to help. We therefore gave a training course in our county town and then went out to the village to give follow up bedside teaching and assess health needs there.



Zaduo County –



Eighteen village doctors were invited from the three remotest districts in Zaduo ... but 41 doctors showed up for the course. All were taught in the morning and a smaller group in the afternoon, but this group rapidly increased again to 32 doctors. They requested further training, particularly in obstetrics.

Community Health Centres

In Zhiduo the four health centres built last year are now equipped and running well – one in particular is so busy that 3 new doctors were sent to assist with the patient load. One further community, Lari village, also approached us for equipment and furniture for a clinic that will start in the new year with two doctors and two women's health workers, three of whom were trained by PP.

In **Zaduo County** two clinics have been built jointly with the government (one of the clinics' doctors attended our recent training course), and a third clinic will be built as soon as a new gravel road is completed in the new year.

In **Qumalai County** PP has agreed to equip and furnish the clinic in Cuochi, a project that should be completed in early 2008

Immunizations

Assistance was given with logistics to enable the immunisation of another township, completing the triple and hepatitis B vaccines. The township leaders were very keen and asked for no assistance for the distribution of the vaccine to the village doctors.

Education

Muqu School – “Yak – 2 – School”

The herd of the school prior to the “Yak-to-School” project consisted of 50 yak and 30 sheep. This was insufficient even to feed the children of the school. After many PP supporters purchased yak and sheep, the herd increased. All the animals survived and bred well such that the herd by August of this year was 300 sheep, 500 lambs and 150 yak. The autumn brought the annual sales (which reduced herd size again) to pay salaries and food for the children. In the new year further purchases will be made which will bring the first school to be almost of the size to keep the school entirely sustainable.

New clothing was knitted and donated to PP to give to the schools for those who need them in the extreme cold.

Environmental Management

Agreements

PP wrote a 5 year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Northwest Plateau Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Science, for a joint research programme for the conservation of Tibetan grasslands and biodiversity in the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

A second planning meet was held with the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve for the “Community Conservation Network” project that now is leading on to a three year project (beginning in 2008) in which the Nature Reserve and PP will work with local communities to protect the grassland environment and wildlife. This project includes use of camera traps for snow leopard research, a study of wild ass (kiang) seasonal migrations, capacity building, teacher training and raising the public environmental awareness.

Zhiduo County

Grassland Study – Vegetation cover and biomass have been assessed within the selected plots, with identification of plants done together with the Chinese Academy of Science to help assess biodiversity.

Water Testing – A pilot study was carried out in the clinics’ water supplies to test for different metals. A plan has now been drawn up to assess the relationship of gout to heavy metal intake.

Zaduo County

Monitors in Qirong have been selected and equipped with binoculars to begin local monitoring activities.



Field Staff

We welcome in particular two new members of staff this year:

Gongbo Tashi our new programme manager. He comes with good experience of running bilateral projects and a masters in Natural Resource Management from the University of Hawaii with a scholarship from the East-West Centre.

Timothy our new translator, who comes with a high standard of English.

Staff members:

Foreign staff (full-time)

Dr J Marc Foggin
Dr Marion E Torrance-Foggin
Dr Fiona R Worthy

Director
Medical Director
PhD (Ecology)

Foreign staff (visiting)

Dr John Sale
Dr Peter M Foggin
Mr Ben Henderson

advisor for wildlife conservation
member of PP’s board of directors
project management and operations

National staff

Gongbo Tashi
Liu Lingjun (Larry)
Jigme Rabden (Timothy)
Xu Haiying
Suocai

Programme Manager
Office Secretary
Translator
Office Worker
Driver



Team photo taken in Zaduo County, November 2007

We also thank Sertsogyi (Helen) and Zhang Bin (Ted) for their great help working with us as translators in 2006-07 – we have many great memories!