

# Plateau Perspectives

January 2008

The year has had an excellent start, the signing of a long-term project agreement with the **Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve** to develop and trial a new model of conservation near the source of the Yangtze River in the centre of the Tibetan Plateau.

Project goals include:

- Development of a network of local wardens (rangers) for the nature reserve
- Development of protocols for local wardens to monitor wildlife populations
- Development of a scientific research program for endangered wildlife species
- Development of appropriate solutions to help reduce human-wildlife conflict

The nature reserve authorities and local Tibetan communities are amongst the major stakeholders for conserving biodiversity in the Tibetan Plateau region, including both grassland ecosystems and internationally rare and endangered wildlife species such as snow leopard, Tibetan antelope and black-necked crane.

Earlier in 2007, Plateau Perspectives also signed a memorandum of understanding with the **Northwest Plateau Institute of Biology**, a branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, to collaborate on joint research projects for the protection of biodiversity in the same region.

Promoting such cross-sectoral partnerships and building the capacity of local partners are a key part of Plateau Perspectives' strategy to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Tibetan Plateau region.

Finally, in support of Plateau Perspectives' rapidly expanding program, an official **Permanent Office in China** (also known as a Representative Office) was opened in Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province, in May 2007.

Financial support for this work, and related sustainable development work, has come from many sources including:

- Barbour Trust
- Geneva Global
- Norwegian Agency for Development
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Canada Fund (administered by the Canadian Embassy in Beijing)
- and all individual and corporate donors who have contributed over the years

We also thank all the experts around the world who have contributed so much of their time, free of charge, and without whom none of this work would have been possible.

Yours truly,

*Marc Foggin*

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