

# Plateau Perspectives Newsletter

December 2009

200 Walnut Ave, St-Lambert, Quebec, J4P 2T1, Canada Charity no. 88353 0511 RR0001  
Kincapple House, Kincapple, St Andrews, KY16 9SH, UK Scottish Charity no. SC036202  
[www.plateauperspectives.org](http://www.plateauperspectives.org)      [info@plateauperspectives.org](mailto:info@plateauperspectives.org)

This year brought new agreements, expansion of work into other regions of Qinghai Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region, and new areas of work.

## Qinghai Normal University

Plateau Perspectives now has an partnership with the Qinghai Normal University in which Marc Foggin is Associate Professor in the College of Geography & Life Sciences, with specific role of introducing foreign expertise and research projects. A National Science Foundation project from the US was enabled by this, and Plateau Perspectives together with the university also co-hosted two international conferences. The first meeting gathered experts from Canada, UK and other parts of China, including representatives from the Nature Reserve, the government, the Central Party, several universities and local herding communities to discuss issues of grassland management. Following on from this, a further meeting was held, which looked at ecotourism development and issues arising from this for the local people and the environment.

Plans now also are being made for the establishment of a research centre with the possible establishment of an MSc programme in Sustainability.

## **Qinghai University**

Plateau Perspectives also is working with Qinghai University to introduce foreign experts. John Friberg, a civil engineer with expertise in bridge building in the Tibetan plateau region (gained from prior work and experience in a neighbouring province), was recently appointed as Lecturer and Researcher. After a semester of teaching, he is presently making plans with the university's engineering department for research to be started in 2010.

## **Tibet Agricultural College**

Marc Foggin was invited as an international expert to the Tibet Agricultural College in Bayi, Linzhi prefecture, to teach staff and students in conservation and resource management and to held seminars in which proposals for future joint work were produced and have been presented to the government. A warm welcome was given and requests made for Plateau Perspectives to return in 2010 for longer-term joint working.



## **Veterinary Training**

A veterinary (animal health) training was given in Zaduo County of Qinghai Province, to local veterinarians who have a variable background of training and experience. The training course was given by Monty and Shelley Mathis.

## **Vocational Training**

Jigme Rabden together with other members of his community that he recruited gave language training to people who recently moved to town, to enable them to shop and live in town more easily – it is a very new environment for them.

## Health Work

- The fourth clinic was completed in Zaduo County and an additional doctor training for all four clinics in the county is planned for 2010.
- In Zhiduo County, an ultrasound machine was provided for the obstetric unit in the Yaqu village clinic, and further training and improvements are planned for 2010.
- In Bomi County, a remote area has been selected and agreements made to begin construction of a new clinic, together with training of the local doctors, in the Spring 2010.
- Paediatric training was given at the Red Cross Hospital in Xining by Marion Torrance-Foggin.
- Timothy Foggin came to assist and discussed plans for further water quality testing for heavy metals.

## Other environmental work



Mitigation of human wildlife conflict – initial testing of solar powered electric fences to prevent bears from destroying the winter homes of the nomads has been successful and now a dozen more have been ordered to trial different kinds, with a view to establishing a local community business for selling electric fences.

Training was given by Dr John Sale to the community participants and nature reserve field staff in snow leopard conservation and wildlife monitoring.

## Other development work

One nomad community which moved to a farming area about 9 years ago has run out of water for their fields and drinking water supply. They have an irrigation system already in place, but it has not worked for most of the year. A wind powered water pump has been built and is now being installed to pump water up to the reservoir.



Inexpensive wind power trials were started by Chris Blunt, civil engineer, with expertise in locally appropriate technology.

Gongbo Zhaxi, Plateau Perspectives' manager, has successfully completed initial trials of *Quinoa* in Qinghai Province, following his previous work in Tibet Autonomous Region. This work will be expanded in 2010, with the hope of providing a new source of income for local communities.

## Field Staff

**Marc Foggin**, Conservation biologist, PP Executive Director

**Gongbo Tashi**, Environmental management, PP Projects Manager

**Hu Ting**, Historian, PP Xining Office Manager

**Ben Henderson**, GIS researcher, Assistant Manager

**Shinay Henderson**, IT specialist, website design/host

**John Friberg**, Civil engineer

**Joy Friberg**, Teaching at international school and assisting with accounts

**Marion Foggin**, Consultant community paediatrician, PP Medical Director

**Jigme Rabden**, Translator and field office manager

**Xu Hai Ying**, Office assistant

**Randal and Solveig Frivold**, who have provided invaluable management support this year in book-keeping, moved to Thailand in December. We thank them for their valuable contribution this year.

**Liza Ann Henderson** was born in September 2009. **Andrew Friberg** and **Alistair Foggin** attend the international school in Xining.

**Jamie Nofsinger** (business manager with experience of managing business in the region) and his wife **Hannah** and two children **Eden** and **Owen** joined Plateau Perspectives team this month to help further develop new business opportunities that will assist with income generation for local communities.

*Canadian Charity Reg. No. 88353 0511 RR0001*

*Scottish Charity No. SC036202*