



PLATEAU PERSPECTIVES NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 Issue 1

May 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Rehabilitation Services</i>	1
<i>Camera Traps</i>	1
<i>Bear Fencing</i>	2
<i>Community</i>	2
<i>Co-Management</i>	2
<i>Postgraduate education</i>	2
<i>Field staff</i>	2



REHABILITATION SERVICES

July 2011

The rehabilitation centre in Longbao in Yushu County was completed by the end of last year and several training courses given to trainees—some of whom will work out in the homes and 3 of whom are to be based in the centre.

This year began with a change of regional leader who we have already worked with at the earthquake. We began with attending Zhiduo County where we have seen many people with disability before. Elspeth Jaine, a physiotherapist, Lydia David (PP staff) an Occupational therapist and Sarah Montes (PP staff) a nurse specialized in accident and emergency and Dr Marion Torrance-Foggin (PP staff) reviewed over 40 people mostly by visiting their homes. The rehabilitation centre construction is due to be completed by the end of the summer, then have the initial internal refurbishment completed before Plateau Perspectives provides the specialist equipment. Three people have been chosen to be trained in the summer by Plateau Perspectives as therapists.



CAMERA TRAPS



Dr Marc Foggin with Timothy (Jigme Rabden) Dundrup and Charles Jaine to set up camera traps in a new site in Duocai township. This is one of the communities with whom community co-management is being established. Tracks of snow leopard and lynx were found and traps placed appropriately.

ELECTRIC BEAR FENCING



New fences were installed and old fences were checked. David Grainger, an electrical engineer, checked the electric fencing for any electrical errors and problems while Timothy gave training to the herders as to the maintenance of the fencing. Timothy and Charles Jaine then went to set up a new fence around a home, and installed it together with the family.



COMMUNITY CO-MANAGEMENT

One major drive of Plateau Perspectives work over the last 14 years has been Community co-management. Marc Foggin has a paper in press to define this, but this year this the government have agreed with the UNDP to set up a large project to take this concept province wide. It has been very important therefore to ensure the communities are ready for this. This involves alternative income generation in which there is positive impact on the environment. One community has already registered as a co-operative while others are in the process.

The first cooperative has already chosen ecotourism as one of their key directions for income generation and have designed a community tour which they have trialed and are further developing. Fabian and Cecile Moser are assisting the communities in the development of these with the communities and keeping an overview of the ecotourism. These communities are also developing ways of having a positive impact on the community, such as monitoring species some with the use of camera traps, and others bird surveys etc. They also are encouraging the communities to seek out methods for “eco-husbandry”.

At the provincial level, Marc is working with the forestry bureau and Nature Reserve to develop the potential for contract conservation and payment for eco-services.

Marc Foggin has also been appointed senior technical advisor to a UNDP project in the neighbouring province of Xinjiang to help design the way for wetland management with these same principles to help development a model for other areas.



NEW FIELD STAFF

We welcome Jesse Montes (an environmental scientist, formerly with British Columbia Ministry of Environment and his wife Sarah Montes (a nurse specialized in Accident and Emergency)



EDUCATION — DEVELOPMENT OF NEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Ford Foundation have funded a project for the development of new postgraduate education programmes enabling local students to have access to international education from within Qinghai. The new head of department at Qinghai Normal University, the new principal and colleagues from the University of Kent have attended working meetings to enable this now to progress.