



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



QINGHAI/TIBET STUDY TOUR TO WESTERN CANADA

**WITH VISITS TO PARKS CANADA SITES IN CALGARY, WATERTON
LAKES, BANFF, YOHO, AND PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARKS;
AND
AND VISITS TO LOCAL RANCHERS, FARMERS, COMMUNITIES,
UNIVERSITIES, AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS
September 7 - 23, 2010**

PURPOSE OF STUDY TOUR

The study tour to Canada aimed to enable government leaders and researchers to visit and learn from the experiences and current operations in several grassland and mountain regions in western Canada, with a focus on national parks (as well as surrounding landscapes and regions), in the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. Special focus was given to biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, socio-economic development including ecotourism development, protected area management, and multi-stakeholder engagement including cross-cultural (indigenous) relations.

PARTICIPANT LIST

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| - Mr Haibo | Secretary-General, Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture |
| - Mr Yiqing | Director, FAO of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture |
| - Mr Li Ruofan | Director, Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve (SNNR) |
| - Ms Basang Lamao | Section Head, Management Bureau of the SNNR |
| - Ms Wangmu | Professor of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Tibet University |
| - Prof Gongbu Zhaxi | Professor of Environmental Resource Management, Tibet Univ. |
| - Mr Yixi Songbao | Community representative; also translator for the study tour |
| - Dr Marion Torrance | Community Health specialist; Medical Director, PP Canada |
| - Dr J Marc Foggin | Director, Plateau Perspectives; team leader |

FUNDING AGENCIES

HimalPartner (NORAD)

Swiss Embassy in Beijing

Canadian Embassy in Beijing

Ford Foundation

STUDY TOUR SUMMARY

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

In Hong Kong:

1. **Welcome Meeting and Orientation**, at Hong Kong International Airport, with summary of travel schedule and itinerary, some of the key visits planned, opportunity for participants to indicate their hopes and learning goals for trip.

Wangmu – to learn more about impact of tourism on grassland environment

Li Ruofan – to learn about protected area management, integration (and possible conflicts) between conservation goals and development goals, nature reserve laws and regulations, community involvement in natural resource management (e.g., community co-management)

Basang Lamao – to experience real ecotourism, and learn about the relationship between the use and the protection of natural resources, also similarities between First Nations in Canada and Tibetan people in the Sanjiangyuan nature reserve

Haibo – to learn new ideas especially about tourism as community development, tourism management, and environmental protection in Canada

Yixi Songbao – to learn about community development, income generation, local cooperatives, ranch management, small-scale agricultural production

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

2. **9:30–11:00** **Parks Canada, Calgary Office**
Met and welcomed by **Mr Salman Rasheed** (email Salman.Rasheed@pc.gc.ca), Manager, Resource Conservation, Western and Northern Canada Service Centre. Presentation: *Policy and Practice: Applying Species at Risk Legislation*
3. **13:00–15:00** **Progressive ranchers Gary & Janet Brown**
4. **16:00–17:00** **Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Stavely Sub-station**

Thursday, September 9, 2010

5. **9:00–10:00** **Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge Station**
Met with range specialist **Jennifer Richman**, discussion of women's issues in range management.
6. **11:30–14:00** **Hutterite Colony near Pincher Creek**
7. **15:00–16:00** **Local farmer Mr. Linden Willms**

Friday, September 10, 2010

Accompanied by **Dr Walter Willms, Dr Johan Dormaar and Dr Chi Chang**

8. **9:00–11:00** **Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump UNESCO Site**
9. **12:00–14:30** **Peigan Tribe ‘Buffalo Skull Centre’**
Focus on the Preservation of Traditional Knowledge. Discussion with **Velma CrowShoe** (velmacs@xplornet.ca) and **Shirley CrowShoe** (scs01@telus.net)
10. **18:00–21:00** **Supper at residence of Walter & Maureen Willms**

Saturday, September 11, 2010

9:15–11:00 **Waterton Lakes National Park, Warden Office**

11. Presentation by **Dave McDonough**, (Superintendent, Waterton Lakes NP and Bar U Field Unit; dave.mcdonough@pc.gc.ca), *Parks Canada Agency Overview*.
12. Presentation by **Denis Hache**, *Overview of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park World Heritage Site (UNESCO Site)*. Summary: Waterton-Glacier, as the world’s first Peace Park – an inspiring and living example of international cooperation, active citizen and stakeholder involvement in the trans-boundary multi-jurisdictional ecosystem protection and management. Partners such as local rancher and nature conservancy will participate in the briefing. Successes, challenges and joint approaches to ecosystem and visitor experience management, education and outreach will be highlighted.

11:00–12:00 **Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives**

13. with presentation by **Cindy Smith** (restoration)
14. and presentation by **David Mustell** (outreach)

12:00–13:00 **Picnic lunch at Maskinonge Picnic Area**

15. **13:15–13:45** **Meeting with Nature Conservancy Canada**
Talk by **Kimberly Pearson**, Conservation Coordinator, Waterton Park Front (kimberly.pearson@natureconservancy.ca)
16. **13:45–14:15** Meeting with **UNESCO Site Representative**, also with local rancher **Larry Frith**; thanks are also especially due to **Ms Janice Smith**, Head of External Relations at Waterton National Park.

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Travel from Waterton Lakes NP to Banff NP

17. **11:30–13:00** **Avalanche Lake Tourism Centre**
18. **16:00–17:30** **Bar U Ranch Historic Site**

Monday, September 13, 2010

8:55–12:15 Banff National Park, Administration Building
(Mr Kevin Van Tighem sent his apologies; Mike Murtha hosts study tour instead.)

19. Presentation by **Mike Murtha** (Senior Park Planner, mike.murtha@pc.gc.ca): *Banff National Park Overview*.
20. Second presentation by **Mike Murtha**: *Ecosystem Management*.
Summary: With Canada's longest most concentrated history of dealing with conservation, Banff National Park is a leader in managing for sustainability. As first-born park in Canada's vast system of protected heritage areas, the challenges and rewards of managing the oldest and busiest national park are great. This presentation highlights the realities of what it means to achieve Parks Canada's mandate on-the-ground.
21. Presentation by **Judy Glowinski**, *A New Focus on Visitor Experience*.
Summary: A presentation on planning and priorities, integrating the components of visitor experience and outreach education in Banff National Park.
22. **13:45–15:00 Columbia Icefield Research Project**
23. Presenter: **Mr. Bob Sanford** (sanford@telusplanet.net; www.thinkwater.ca), Chair, Canadian Partnership Initiative, United Nations "Water for Life" Decade; also Director, Western Watersheds Climate Research Collaborative, a research, technology, public policy and outreach initiative of the University of Lethbridge
24. **15:30–17:00 Johnston Canyon Hike**

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

25. Day trip with visit to **Lake Louise**
26. and to the **Columbia Icefields**

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

9:45–11:00 Yoho National Park

27. **Mr. Omar McDadi**, Public Relations and Communications Officer greets the party upon arrival. Tourist Information Centre.
28. Presentation by **Dr Hal Morrison** (Wildlife/Human Conflict Specialist at Lake Louise, Yoho, Kootenay NPs; hal_morrison@pch.gc.ca), *Bear Management*.
29. **11:30–14:00 Hike around Emerald Lake**
Mr. McDadi leads the hike, presentations on Burgess Shale, wildlife monitoring programs, and public-private partnerships in national park for enhanced visitor experience and financing
30. **17:00–17:30 Giant Cedar Boardwalk**

Thursday, September 16, 2010

- 31. **13:45–17:30** **Meetings at Thompson Rivers University (TRU)**
Hosted by Lauch Fraser, presentations by >10 professors
and graduate student researchers
- 32. **18:00–18:45** Social visit at residence of Bob Moody, Director of the
Grassland Conservation Council
- 33. **19:30–22:00** Supper presented by **School of Tourism @ Accolades**

Friday, September 17, 2010

- 34. **9:00–9:45** **Kamloops Tourism**
- 35. **9:45–10:30** **Bob Moody / Grassland Conservation Council (GCC)**
- 36. **11:00–11:45** **Lac du Bois / Phil Rouwe, BC Forest Service**
- 37. **11:45–12:15** **Lac du Bois / Ian Mackenzie, Planning Management**
- 38. **14:00–16:30** **TRU Aboriginal Education Centre, also visit to the
Trades Department (Vocational Training)**

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Travel from Kamloops to Vancouver

- 39. **15:30–17:30** Visit to residence of **Dave & Marianne Cameron**

Sunday, September 19, 2010

Free day in Vancouver

Monday, September 20, 2010

Travel to Ucluelet, on West Coast, Vancouver Island

- 40. **Visit to Cathedral Grove**

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

- 41. **10:00–10:30** Visit of **Interpretive Centre** at Wickaninnish Beach
- 42. **10:30–11:30** Overview of **Pacific Rim National Park**, and balancing
conservation goals with visitor experience
- 43. **11:30–12:30** Visit Sand Dunes along **Wickanninish Beach Dune**,
control of Invasive Plants; work is underway to restore the
sand dunes and at-risk plant species

- 44. **12:30–13:30** Lunch at **Wikinnish Restaurant**, meet with other staff
- 45. **14:00–16:30** **Rain Forest Walk** and **Beach Walk**
- 46. **17:30–18:15** **Salmon Nursery**, also **Black Bear Fishing**

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

- 47. **9:30–12:30** **Whale Watching Boat Ride** with Cam McPherson

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Fly to Hong Kong

Thursday—Monday, September 23-28, 2010

Two days in Hong Kong, two days in Shenzhen, return to Xining

In addition, Gongbu Zhaxi and Marc Foggin had the opportunity in Montreal to meet and learn from the following experts:

- 48. **Dr Martin Lechowicz**, Director of the Gault UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- 49. **Dr Peter Poole**, expert on community mapping and participatory mapping
- 50. **Dr Hugh Maynard**, CBC radio presenter (Farm Panel), chairman of LEAD Canada, member of several rural development associations incl. economic development, adult education, education for First Nations, etc.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

Report on study tour, by Basang Lamao (in Chinese)

Report on study tour, by Yixi Songbao (in English)

Report by Dr J Marc Foggin
Director, Plateau Perspectives

October 2010

Canada Study Tour Report

By Basang Lamao

考察报告

受加拿大国家历史遗迹理事会的邀请，由加拿大起步高原组织筹资并统一安排考察行程，赴加拿大考察组一行 10 人（其中：玉树州人民政府 2 人、青海省三江源国家级自然保护区管理局 2 人、西藏农学院 2 人、起步高原组织 4 人），于 2010 年 9 月 7 日至 9 月 23 日期间前往加拿大艾伯塔省和不列颠哥伦比亚省参观考察，在外考察 17 天。

我们这次主要参观考察了加拿大这两个省的五个国家公园、两个原住民保护地及莱斯布里奇农业研究所、汤姆逊大学等研究机构。做为赴这次考察任务的三江源国家级自然保护区管理局工作人员，通过参观考察，我们了解了发达国家自然保护区的行政管理机构设置、职能和保护区相关法律法规的制定、执行以及在自然保护区开展科学研究、生态监测、社区共管和生态旅游的有关情况，对此我们感触很深，特别是通过同国家公园工作人员的座谈和参加相关讲座，了解了国家公园工作人员开展工作情况，并对国家公园工作人员的工作热情和敬业精神感到十分钦佩，也值得我们学习和借鉴。下面总结几点加拿大国家公园在管理公园事务和开展生态保护工作方面的做法，值得我们学习和参考。

一、公众参与公园事务。在开展保护区科学研究和制定法规时，加拿大国家公园非常尊重和重视公众对公园开展研究工作的意见和对制定法规条款的认可，公众参与度高。特别是制定保护濒危物种的相关法规时，制定的濒危物种保护新法规首先要通过公众的认可，在确定濒危物种后要先向公众公示，在得到公众支持后才能制定为法规。

二、不同国家不同公园对同一个生态系统的合作管理。在瓦特顿国家公园，我们看到加拿大瓦特顿国家公园同美国冰川公园属于同一个生态系统，两个公园边界相邻，两个公园在很多领域的工作都是协作开展的。根据本国的法律框架下制定各自的管理计划，按照管理计划来共同协作开展工作，每年都相互交流并制定区域保护的协作目标，在开展生态旅游方面更是相互配合、分工明细、协作完成。

三、生态监测布点到位，实施全面监测。国家公园十分重视开展生态监测工作，在公园内针对不同的工作开展对应的监测。如：针对生态旅游开展的监测有 1、游客体验的监测，2、相互关系的监测，3、周围环境的监测，4、生态变化的监测；针对熊的监测有 1、在公路和铁路上被撞熊的监测，2、对果食、动物尸体等食物的监测，3、使用电网栏的监测；对海洋生态系统的监测有 1、水质的监测（含氧量等指标），2、海底生物的监测，3、海岸线的监测，4、深海、浅海线及动物栖息地等设多样的监测内容。还有针对冰川的监测来开展研究工作。值得一提的是在物种监测工作中，他们选择某一物种作为监测整体生态系统的指标物，这一物种的数量来作为评价指标

四、生态旅游重视教育游客和社区收益。在开展生态旅游时，主要目标作为让游客被自然环境所感染和感化，在自然中受教育，充分体验自然，让游客在公园中得到生态教育。同时，也注重公园内社区的收益，最终让游客可以租用社区的船只、车辆和露营地，有的公园内所有的商铺和旅馆的收入均属于当地社区所有，自主经营收益可观，而公园只做生态系统的监测、研究，并说服社区参与生态恢复工作，如班夫国家公园。

五、在生态保护的同时尊重文化保护。很多公园在保护生态系统的同时，十分重视保护当地文化多样性，对原住民文化的保留和研究是公园的一项重要工作。

Short English summary: The first two paragraphs of her report described the number of participants, where they visited and the duration of the study tour. The third paragraph is about some of the areas the study tour particularly focused on, such as administration establishment, legislation and implementation on environmental protection, nature reserve monitoring, scientific research and community co-management.

From the following paragraph is more detailed how Parks Canada have applied various approaches in park management, in environmental protection and in ecotourism development. Each paragraph is respectively about how Parks Canada have applied various approaches in park management, in environmental protection and in ecotourism development and important lessons that they have learned:

- 1) Public participation in park management;
- 2) Co-management of two countries in Waterton National Park;
- 3) Monitoring methodology in environmental management, wildlife protection and marine ecosystem.
- 4) Important features of ecotourism: educational to the tourists and maximizing the benefit to the local community.
- 5) Importance of cultural conservation in ecotourism development.

Canada Study Tour Report

By Yixi Songbao

Canada study tour was organized for the purpose of providing learning opportunities for participants in areas of protected area management, resource management, environmental conservation, ecotourism development and cultural conservation.

The study tour covered most of Canadian national parks, protected areas, communities of first nations and some farming areas as well as some of institutes in west Canada, we have visited those places and attended many of presentations which were provided by Parks of Canada and individuals on topics of wildlife protection, grassland management, ecotourism development, resource management and management of protected areas.

First of all, I was amazed by their willingness of sharing their experiences and programs, the availability of those information certainly improved the efficiency and sufficiency of their work, creating a common belief in collaboration and communication.

Secondly, the recognition and respect for the knowledge from various sources made people have strong commitment and dedication to the positions they hold, thus giving the people a sense of importance in the big picture. Throughout the whole study tour, all the presenters have a strong sense of importance and connection to their works, therefore every one of them feels equally important in their works, rather than feeling disconnected and being a small role to their works. I think those are ideas that are worth spreading and to adapt, especially in establishing an efficient work team.

Furthermore, the most important lesson that I have learned about environmental conservation and protection during the study tour is we have to always keep in mind that the real solution only comes from real understanding. Therefore, we have to allow sufficient time and resource in finding the causes and reasons for environmental matters, rather than making quick decisions and take quick actions. However, according the experiences from parks Canada, even a small step in reaching a consensus among stakeholders may take decades to become true.

Specifically there are few locations which I found greatly relevant to my hometown (Yushu) and could be learned from them as good examples for Yushu's ecotourism development and Cultural conservation.

One of the locations is a first nation community where they have their own cultural center and research staff, the center provides opportunity to both their own community members and outsiders to acquaint themselves with their traditional knowledge and the way of their life. In addition, the staffs at the center conduct various researches to develop locally made products which could directly benefit local economy and promote the local culture at the same time. I thought the operation at Columbia ice-field could be a very good example for community based ecotourism, from setting the time limitation for tourists to be in those environmentally vulnerable places and vehicle limitation that the tourists can only enter the area through transportation that provided by the community. Thus, reducing the human disturbance and generating more income for the community at the same time.

However, the things that make Canada one of the most successful nations in ecotourism are close collaboration between different parties: decision makers, academics, local communities and NGOs.

At last, Canada study tour has broadened our understanding of ecotourism and many valuable lessons that we have learned will certainly influenced our behavior and ideas in the area of environment protection and ecotourism. Myself as one of the study tour participants felt great responsibility to disseminate those valuable lessons to my own community.



Parks Canada

Chief Executive Officer

Parcs Canada

Directeur général

Dr. J. Marc Foggin
Director
Plateau Perspectives
200 Walnut Avenue
St. Lambert QC J4P 2T1

OCT 27 2010

Dear Dr. Foggin:

Thank you for your letter of October 18, via Mr. John Pinkerton, regarding your study tour to national parks in Alberta and British Columbia. Parks Canada was pleased to assist, and the exchange of information was extremely beneficial for its staff also.

I was pleased to learn the experience was a fruitful one for the team that accompanied you from the Tibetan Plateau region of China. I appreciate your kind words about the effective support and assistance provided by Parks Canada staff on behalf of the Agency. Parks Canada has a commitment to excellence, and I am gratified to know that the service you received helped make your tour both professionally and personally rewarding. Your remarks will, of course, be shared with all those involved.

I look forward to hearing of future tours to build on this experience.

Yours sincerely,



For Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada





PLATEAU PERSPECTIVES

Community Development & Conservation

From: Plateau Perspectives Canada
To: Canadian Embassy in Beijing
Date: 25 January 2011

Re: Grant in support of *Study Tour to Canada*, co-hosted by Parks Canada

Plateau Perspectives Canada would like to thank the Canadian Embassy in Beijing and DFAIT for their financial support in 2010, which allowed us to organize and co-host a study tour to Canada in September 2010.

A more detailed trip report is attached.

The final list of participants who joined the study tour is:

- Mr Haibo Secretary-General, Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture
- Mr Yiqing Director, FAO of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture
- Mr Li Ruofan Director, Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve (SNNR)
- Ms Basang Lamao Section Head, Management Bureau of the SNNR
- Ms Wangmu Professor of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Tibet University
- Prof Gongbu Zhaxi Professor of Environmental Resource Management, Tibet Univ
- Mr Yixi Songbao Community representative; also translator for the study tour
- Dr Marion Torrance Community Health specialist; Medical Director, PP Canada
- Dr J Marc Foggin Director, Plateau Perspectives; team leader

The delegation's final itinerary was Calgary – Lethbridge – Waterton NP – Banff NP – Yoho NP – Kamloops – Vancouver – Pacific Rim NP. A detailed itinerary is included in the attached report, as well as the specific sites/colleagues visited and the presentations given. A narrative overview and assessment of the immediate and longer-term outcomes are given below.

In September 2010, Plateau Perspectives Canada led a **study tour** to visit several of the mountain national parks/regions in western Canada, co-hosted by *Parks Canada* and several other institutions. Key participants were from the government of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, the Sanjiangyuan nature reserve (which can influence grassland and livelihood-related development policy), local community, and academic researchers with relevant expertise in natural resource management and community development.

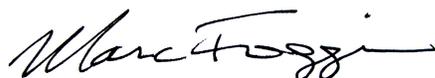
The focus of the tour was (1) to see and learn from several models of conservation and community partnership in the Waterton, Banff, Yoho and Pacific Rim national parks (a vast area of southern Qinghai Province is now encompassed within the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, and we are invited to assist as they plan, develop and refine their approach to community partnerships), and (2) to explore and adapt new ideas for income generation, particularly in ecotourism (the Yushu area is now re-focusing its economy and livelihoods on the tourism sector; the visit to Canada allowed us to draw special attention to the role and potential benefits of community-based and -operated tourism ventures, as opposed to only investment by external operators).

We were also hosted by *Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada* (in Lethbridge, Alberta) and the *Thompson Rivers University* (in Kamloops, British Columbia). With their assistance, we were able to meet a third objective of the study tour, namely (3) to visit and interact with members of several First Nations, including the Blackfoot and Haisla nations. This allowed us to give special attention to the past and present of aboriginal issues in Canada, including matters of development (such as community health, education, income), sense of identity, the importance of 'cultural continuity' and other long-term consequences of (former) development policies.

Overall, the program was very busy with around 50 visits and presentations in under two weeks. Many new ideas and ways of operating were raised throughout the trip, pertaining especially to natural resource management and to poverty reduction. Even after the study tour, much useful discussion has continued among the participants, and also shared with others. Most pertinently, Plateau Perspectives Canada then organized and co-hosted (with Qinghai Normal University) the *Yushu International Ecotourism Workshop* in November 2010, which was informed in part from several of study tour participants' observations. The goal of the Ecotourism Workshop was to identify and promote approaches to tourism deemed most suitable to benefit local Tibetan communities and environmental protection; a summary document of the Workshop is also available on request. Lessons learned and policy suggestions made during the Workshop were taken back to Yushu (by the tourism bureau leaders), with plans to share with government colleagues in order to incorporate in current government discussions in Yushu about development of new tourism policies and regulations.

Many thanks are hereby extended to the Canadian Embassy and DFAIT for their support of this project in 2010. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Fogg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.