

TIBETAN PLATEAU

The Tibetan Plateau is the highest and most extensive plateau in the world. It covers 25% of the land area of China and comprises the headwaters of many important Asian rivers. The Tibetan Plateau also is home to several million nomadic pastoralists (livestock herders) who have long been ignored because of the remoteness of their mountainous homeland.

THREE GREAT RIVERS

Three major rivers have their source in the centre of the Tibetan Plateau: the Yangtze River, longest in Asia and fifth longest in the world; the Yellow River, Mother of China; and the Mekong River, an important axis of development for all Southeast Asia. The grassland region also comprises many endangered wildlife species and a unique cultural heritage. Now, China's newest and largest protected area, the Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve, has just been established, a reserve that comprises the entire project area. It is within this ecological and socio-political context that the project is set.



For donations, please make cheques payable to "Plateau Perspectives"



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PLATEAU PERSPECTIVES

QINGHAI PROJECT, PHASE II
(2003 - 2008)

*Building Partnerships with
Tibetan Nomads*



THE PROJECT

Plateau Perspectives has worked in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in southwest Qinghai Province (see map, below) since 1998. During this time we have built up long-term partnerships with Tibetan communities and the government in the project area. Now, at the request of local authorities, we are entering a new phase of work, which aims to improve the quality of life of Tibetan herders and protect the biodiversity of the Tibetan Plateau.



TRAINING CENTRE

An important part of this work will be to build a Training Centre that will serve to train health workers, teachers, local leaders and others in conservation, health and sustainable development. The Centre will also be used for basic research, project management and accommodation.

BASIC EDUCATION

The project will expand our earlier work, which included the establishment of local schools (such as Muqu Tent School) and teacher training workshops on environment and health. Educational centres, whether tents or buildings, can also become broader 'community centres' where local community meetings are held, adult education (incl. literacy teaching) is provided, and basic environmental research is conducted to help guide conservation and rangeland management.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Like education, community health is a multi-disciplinary field of work, which requires an integrated approach. A health needs assessment is already underway, conducted together with the prefecture health bureau and a grassroots non-government organization. The outcome of this survey will likely lead to training health workers and doctors, and may also direct us to veterinary care (mainly sheep, yak and horses), poverty alleviation projects and improving access to basic education.



In this and other areas of work, special attention will be focused on the condition of women and children.

NATURE CONSERVATION



Another area of work that is important in the project area is conservation and the sustainable use of grassland resources. Nature

conservation includes the protection of wildlife and biodiversity, ecological sustainability, environmental awareness, policy-level advocacy and working closely with local people. To protect the environment, it may also be necessary to establish 'protected areas' as indeed has already been done. The main challenge now is to integrate conservation and development objectives within a single, comprehensive plan.

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF PLATEAU PERSPECTIVES

- Integrates conservation and sustainable development
- Seeks sustainability in all fields of work
- Aims to develop successful, replicable models of development
- Develops partnerships with local communities, government and NGOs

