



Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Final Report

June 2004

**RESEARCH, SURVEY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ON THE
TIBET-QINGHAI PLATEAU, CHINA**

DI 162/10/009

A Project Undertaken By Fauna & Flora International



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1. Darwin Project Information

Project title	RESEARCH, SURVEY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ON THE TIBET-QINGHAI PLATEAU, CHINA
Country	China
Contractor	Fauna and Flora International
Project Reference No.	162/10/009
Grant Value	£162,647
Start/Finishing dates	April 2001-March 2003 (extension to March 2004 granted)

2. Project Background/Rationale

Location and circumstances: The project focuses on conservation issues in Suojia Tibetan Autonomous Township, Qinghai Province, China. Suojia Township covers 10,854 km of the Upper Yangtze Valley in the southwest of Qinghai. Ecologically, the Project Area forms part of the Tibetan Plateau and its fauna and flora are characteristic of that biome. The project area is also located in the San Jiang Yuan (Three Great Rivers Headwaters) Nature Reserve covering the upper reaches of the Yangtze, Yellow, and Mekong rivers. Suojia is home to 5,315 (2002) people, nearly all of whom are Tibetans, and most of those nomadic herders. The area is remote, and until recently, isolated. The full community of wildlife of the Tibetan-Qinghai Plateau, including large ungulates and their predators, still exists in the project area.

The problem to be addressed: Development on the Tibetan-Qinghai Plateau, particularly transportation improvements, have led to environmental deterioration across much of the region, including increased hunting and pasture degradation due to over-stocking on fragile pastures and abandonment of traditional nomadic practices. Until the last decade, Suojia region was largely spared these concerns because of its remote location and the traditional life-styles of local people there. Improved roads and widespread use of motor vehicles has broken down this protection, placing Suojia's biodiversity at risk.

Until this project began, there was no integrated planning for the area, no recognition of the international importance of the wildlife here and no attempt at sustainable management of natural resources. Capacity for resource management among the various Chinese authorities at Provincial and Local levels was low.

The Project sought to address these issues as described in the application Log Frame attached.

Identification of need and local commitment: The request for assistance arose from local organisations. The work grew from early discussions with the Qinghai Environmental Protection Bureau when a number of conservation issues were discussed at a workshop on the conservation of Tibetan Antelope held in Xining, Qinghai, in 1998. A local Tibetan NGO, the Upper Yangtze Organization (UYO) and

the Biodiversity Working Group of the China Council for International Cooperation for Environment and Development (BWG) were also working on similar issues in the project area. There was insufficient funding at the time to take the project forward and hence the project was further developed by FFI. The concept of developing a biodiversity conservation project was discussed, and later, a short workshop to develop a problem analysis was held. From this, the log framework was developed and the application to the Darwin Fund made. The award was made and the project commenced in 2001.

Local commitment is strong. The Upper Yangtze Organization was instrumental in moving the project ahead, and was eager to demonstrate that local people could handle the logistics and process of the surveys. Commitment from the Qinghai Environmental Protection Bureau was high at first, but waned after it was revealed that the Qinghai Forestry Bureau, and not the EPB, would be given jurisdiction over the new Three Great Rivers Headwater Nature Reserve, which encompasses the project area.

3. Project Summary

Project Purpose: The project purpose was to assist the rural communities of Yushu prefecture in southern Qinghai to manage sustainably the habitats of the high Tibetan plateau.

Objectives: The Project proposed to:

- Develop a detailed understanding of the link between the socio-economic condition of the rural communities and the management of the rangelands.
- Provide an assessment of the current condition of the plateau habitats and key species within the project area, identifying priorities for restoration of damaged areas.
- Improve awareness among stakeholders of the economic and biological benefits of sound rangeland management.
- Increase the institutional capacity for the survey, monitoring and management of the biological resources in the plateau area.
- Provide a 1st stage landscape level management plan through a participatory planning process.
- Identify potential protected areas and specify management structures for them.
- Produce an assessment of alternative income streams for rural communities to relieve pressure on biological resources.

Please see original Logframe attached as an appendix for additional detail.

Modifications:

The original objectives remained the same throughout the project.

Regarding the operational plan, the timing of the implementation plan and budget were modified because working in the project area proved to be logistically more difficult and much more costly than was envisaged. The area is more than 1,000 km over mostly unmetalled roads from the nearest airport in the provincial capital, Xining. In winter, the area is bitterly cold but frozen. In summer, the climate is more congenial but roads are boggy. Long periods were required to achieve useful work because of the necessity for acclimatization to the altitude (4,500m) and the extreme remoteness (at least 4 days in a 4WD).

In addition, transfer of responsibility from the Environmental Protection Bureau to the

Forestry Bureau for environmental conservation of the project area, and a much larger surrounding area, mid-way through the project presented a range of technical, practical and political problems which took time and considerable effort to solve. Essentially, Government Departments work competitively (which can be fierce) and not co-operatively. Because our initial partners were the EPB, Forestry were disinclined to work with us or adopt the project, while the loss of jurisdiction meant that EPB lost much of their initial enthusiasm for the project. We had no involvement in or forewarning of the decision to change the responsible authority.

Approval for the change to schedule and budget was given in a letter from Sylvia Smith (25 June 2002) and an e-mail from Carrie Haloun (13 October 2003).

Relationship to the Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

The Project has contribution directly to helping China to achieve the goals under several Articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- Article 6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use
- Article 7. Identification and Monitoring
- Article 8. In-situ Conservation (the major focus of this project)
- Article 10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity
- Article 12. Research and Training
- Article 13. Public Education and Awareness

Success of the project in meeting objectives and additional accomplishments:

The project was completely or largely successful in achieving all of the objectives:

- Develop a detailed understanding of the link between the socio-economic condition of the rural communities and the management of the rangelands.

This was successful. During the summer field trip we collected a wide range of field data on the socio-economic conditions of the project area. This was correlated with published statistics, which are of dubious reliability. We employed a specialist to co-ordinate this work. Data on use of the rangelands was also collected during this period and links made with the work undertaken on the extent and condition of the habitats.

- Provide an assessment of the current condition of the plateau habitats and key species within the project area, identifying priorities for restoration of damaged areas.

Fieldwork undertaken in summer and winter was used to assess the condition of sample areas of the rangelands and its habitats. We employed a UK specialist to coordinate this work. Data was collected on the range and numbers of key wildlife species, as far as was possible with the resources available. Threats to key species and habitats were evaluated.

While this element was successfully achieved, the limitation of resources and the problems of remoteness and access to this enormous area meant that the coverage of fieldwork was not comprehensive.

- Improve awareness among stakeholders of the economic and biological benefits of sound rangeland management.

This was largely successful, with substantial progress in introducing these concepts to the many government offices whose activities impact rangeland management in the region. The process of compiling the Co-Management Plan, which involved the coming together of all the stakeholders at National, Provincial and Township levels, was perhaps the single most useful tool in the raising of awareness, both in terms of the importance of natural resources and also of the need for their sustainable management.

However, national policies and well-funded national programmes are still promoting

questionable practices such as permanent settlement of grazers, large-scale fencing of rangelands, and poisoning of pikas and rodents. Follow-on activities will focus on promoting the Suojia model of sound management practice within the project area and beyond.

- Increase the institutional capacity for the survey, monitoring and management of the biological resources in the plateau area.

This was entirely successful. Voluntary community monitoring teams were established and received training. Follow-on activities will focus on ensuring that these monitoring activities are sustainable, on providing further specialised training, and on facilitating deputization of local monitors as part-time nature reserve “Wildlife Guards”.

Capacity building in Provincial level organisations was problematic because of (a) changing staff and priorities and (b) changing institutional responsibilities and (c) the remoteness of the provincial offices from the project site. Hence, we decided at the mid-stage to focus on the local organisations.

- Provide a 1st stage landscape level management plan through a participatory planning process.

This was entirely successful, with the recent publication of the Collaborative Management Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Community Livelihoods for Suojia Region.

This is the first time such a plan has been developed with such comprehensive cross-sectoral involvement on the Plateau. Not only has it provided the basis for the future sustainable management of the project area, but has also been an important tool in raising awareness of the conservation needs of the area and developing working partnerships among agencies that previously did not work together.

- Identify potential protected areas and specify management structures for them.

In this the project was largely successful. UYO has helped to set up a Suojia Ecological Protection Committee, (EPC). Five Local Protected Areas (LPA) have been designated and EPC members monitor the wildlife in these areas. These Local Protected Areas have now been recognized in the government-approved Master Plan for the region.

- An assessment of alternative income streams for rural communities to relieve pressure on biological resources.

This objective was only partly achieved, since the opportunities for alternative income in this remote region are severely limited by the lack of access to markets.

Ecotourism, for example, is probably not a viable option in the near term. However, a closely related objective emerged to form a focus of project activities; to prevent adoption of unsustainable development alternatives that are currently being promoted by government agencies. In this, the project made substantial progress, by bringing stakeholders together to consider the impacts of such practices as poisoning of pikas and rodents, large scale fencing of rangelands, and encouraging breakdown of traditional patterns of pastoralism that insured regular movement of herds and prevented local over-grazing.

A related additional objective emerged during the course of the project, when the entire project area was included within the newly gazetted Three Great Rivers Source National Nature Reserve:

- Develop, test and disseminate an alternative collaborative, community-based approach to wildlife and grassland protection and sustainable rangeland management

that does not necessitate relocation of local nomadic herders from their traditional grazing lands.

The project made substantial progress towards achieving this objective. While provincial government policy required many communities to relocate from their lands to newly developed rural urban centres, few if any herders will be required to relocate in the Suojia Township area. Other neighbouring townships have expressed interest in the Suojia model and wish to learn more, as have higher level government agencies, such as the Provincial Forestry Bureau that manages the new nature reserve. Follow-on activities will build on the progress made towards this objective.

4. Scientific, Training, and Technical Assessment

Research Methods:

A series of field expeditions were carried out to collect the bulk of the biological and socio-economic data. Dr. David Mallon took the lead, and organized, directed and trained the local team for biodiversity survey. Professor Nassan Bayar did the same for social surveys. Dr. Mike Harding and Dr. William Bleisch accompanied the team on the first and last field expedition respectively.

A short preliminary field visit of ten days (Xining to Xining) was made in November 2001 by a joint FFI, EPB and UYO team, but adverse weather limited the time spent in the Project Area. A subsequent expedition spent seven weeks in the field. A final evaluation mission in December, 2003 involved 15 days in the region. Most parts of the Project Area were visited during the course of the field work. Wildlife surveys and assessment of habitats, vegetation communities, and rangeland condition were also carried out in other areas. Socio-economic surveys were carried out in three parts of the Project Area. Formal meetings were held with UYO and relevant government agencies at the beginning and end of each field trip to collect information and discuss results. Additional interviews and desktop research work related to the project was carried out in Xining, Beijing and UK.

For safety, two four-wheel drive vehicles were used for travel into and around the Project Area and an independent fuel supply was transported to Suojia. A ten-day tour through the mountains of the Snow Leopard LPA was made on horseback and foot surveys were carried out where appropriate. Very wet roads, deep mud and high rivers hindered vehicle travel and prevented access to some parts of the Project Area altogether. However, all four Herder Brigades and all five Local Protected Areas were visited. No large-scale maps of the Project Area were available and the relevant Operational Navigational Charts at 1:1,000,000 and Tactical Pilotage Charts at 1:500,000 were used. Individual locations were recorded using a GPS.

The extent of each habitat in the Project Area was estimated and condition was assessed using qualitative and quantitative methods (production, cover and density). Principal vegetation communities in each habitat were identified and a photographic record made of each one and the important constituent components of the flora. Vegetation cover was assessed in 2x2m quadrats against standard cover cards. The presence of unpalatable or toxic species present was also noted. Sod depth and sward height were measured and the degree of grazing estimated using standard indicators.

Wildlife was observed using 10x binoculars and a 20-60x telescope. A baseline inventory of the mammals occurring in the Project Area that was drawn up on the November 2001 field trip, in collaboration with UYO, was refined and amended with the help of other local informants. Mammal records were obtained from direct

observations, field signs and local reports. Additional information was subsequently obtained from mammal collections in the Institute of Zoology and distribution maps on the China Species Information Service database and the zoological literature. Birds were recorded by direct observation. Information on the fauna and flora of the Project Area was also obtained from printed sources with the help of a translator. Density estimates for large mammals were based on calculations made on transects, block counts and point scans as appropriate. Standard Snow Leopard Information Monitoring System (SLIMS) transects were used to record snow leopard sign density. Human land use and grazing impacts were documented at individual sites. The invertebrate fauna of the Project Area was not investigated and no information was gathered on bryophytes, lichens or fungi.

Stakeholder analysis involved a combination of approaches, including participant observation, interviews with key stakeholders and a sociological assessment of the socio-economic situation. On both field expeditions the experts collected data on the local economy, culture and society through unstructured interviews with informants and surveys. This understanding of the local situation was further developed by interviews with knowledgeable members of the community, including leaders, who provided additional insights and observations into the social circumstances of the Project Area.

Research Findings:

The Project Area was found to be rich in wildlife, including several rare and endangered species, and to have relatively intact ecosystems.

Good quantities of Snow Leopard sign and excellent populations of blue sheep, the major prey species, were found in the Snow Leopard LPA, which protects a globally significant population of this endangered species. The Black-necked Crane LPA contained 17 pairs of cranes and large numbers of other wetland species. A further seven pairs of black-necked cranes were observed in the Wetland LPA. Several hundred Tibetan Wild Ass were seen. Around 70 Tibetan antelopes were observed in the Tibetan antelope LPA, which consists of an extensive area of ungrazed steppe. A small colony of White-lipped Deer was found. No Argali and only one Wild Yak were seen, but locals indicate that Wild Yak are still present in more remote areas. Tibetan Gazelle, fox (both Tibetan and Red), Wolf, and several smaller mammal species were often recorded, and presence of Lynx was confirmed. 45 species of breeding birds were confirmed. The variety and abundance of mammal species present in the Project Area was markedly higher than in all the adjoining areas to the east.

The prevailing vegetation type is alpine (high-cold) meadow dominated by Kobresia sedge, with extensive areas of high-cold steppe on drier, sandy soils. There are two large wetland areas as well as a number of small lakes in the project area. Extensive areas of rangeland in the project area are in good condition with light or no grazing and high species diversity. The quality of some heavily grazed areas is deteriorating, but relatively few completely degraded areas were found. Less than 5% of the rangeland has been fenced.

The human population in the Project Area has fallen over the past 17 years as a result of emigration. Social changes and changes in livestock grazing practices are complex and their effects vary. For example, a trend towards year-round grazing of the same area, induced by a government programme that encourages winter houses rather than tents, has led to over-use of some pastures, but the effective abandonment of others. There is a marked contrast between the quality of the rangeland in the Project Area

and in the areas to the east which are predominantly heavily grazed (short sward, prevalence of unpalatable species, high densities of livestock, little wildlife) and where extensive areas of pasture have been fenced.

Attitudes towards wildlife are generally positive and there is a sound basis for managing the rangelands in a sustainable way for the future benefit of local people and wildlife. Hunting has been banned in Suojia and all guns collected. Some issues of poverty and social welfare affect the relationship and impact of people on wildlife and ecosystems, and some of these need to be addressed to ensure continued co-existence of people and wildlife. The Biodiversity Conservation and Community Livelihood Co-management Plan for the Suojia Area of Qinghai China outlines a framework for addressing these issues. Additional details of results are also included in the background sections of that report.

Research findings were peer reviewed internally, with detailed comments provided on the field survey report by Michael Harding and William Bleisch.

Training and capacity building:

Training was organised in a range of subjects including biodiversity issues and conservation for a variety of stakeholders, practical management for people responsible for local PAs, grassland ecology, rangeland management and effects of grazing for local herders, and project planning and management for local NGOs.

Much of the training element of the project was based on participation in workshops, with practical learning by doing between these. As detailed in prior reports, these included:

- Field Survey Training, November 2001
- Project Planning Workshop, March 2002
- Workshop to Progress Research and Survey Topics: June 2002
- Training Workshop and Field Training: July-September 2002.
- Workshop to Stakeholder and Problem Analysis: January 2003
- Workshop for Compile Co-Management Plan: March 2003
- Workshop to evaluate and revise the Co-management Plan: Feb. 2004
- Conservation Project Management for NGO: Feb. 2004

Participants included representatives from all of the major stakeholders, including Tibetan community representatives from local NGOS, and were selected by the partners following discussion with FFI.

Materials were prepared on the biodiversity, habitat and skills appropriate for the project area and translated into Chinese. Formal and informal training sessions were also organised on a range of topics for members of UYO, the Suojia Environmental Protection Committee, and local herdsmen. During this training more than 40 people received some basic training in general topics including: an introduction to biodiversity conservation, observational skills and note-taking, basic ecology of focal species, field identification of species occurring in the Project Area, use of telescope and GPS, and rangeland ecology. More in-depth sessions covered sign surveys and identification of tracks, basic survey and census techniques, habitat assessment and

plant identification, and management of local protected areas. Workshops in the Snow Leopard LPA demonstrated snow leopard sign survey methodology, standard SLIMS transects and methods of distinguishing wolf and snow leopard kills. A formal classroom session was organised in the Black-Necked Crane LPA for five local herdsmen and members of the EPC with responsibility for monitoring the cranes, and two members of UYO. This covered the ecology of black-necked cranes, census and monitoring, use of telescope, and advice on management.

A final training was provided to 24 trainees comprising members of UYO and three other local grass-roots NGOs. During a five day experiential training course trainees learned skills needed for conservation project management. The training was delivered by three FFI staff and an additional foreign expert (Dr. Marc Foggin, Plateau Perspectives), in Jiegu, Yushu in February 2004. Topics included problem analysis and selection of objectives, design of implementation plans, design and analysis for ecological monitoring, and log frame analysis, budgeting and donor relations.

5. Project Impacts

Evidence that project achievements have led to accomplishments of the project purpose and other impacts:

The UYO members and principal stakeholder government agencies have now gone through all of the critical stages in planning for the conservation and management of key biological resources, including four key species of wildlife (Snow Leopard, Tibetan Antelope, Wild Ass and Black-necked Cranes), as well as pasture resources.

The project outputs – surveys, assessments, training materials and of course the Co-Management Plan – provide physical evidence of the accomplishment of the purposes. These documents and plans will have long lasting benefit as they will be usable for many years to come. The surveys provide baseline data and the overall foundation for the management of the area.

The coincidence between this project and the designation of the project area as a national level nature reserve brought several unexpected benefits. Originally we anticipated a simple project structure, but this was inadequate to deal with the complex situation post-designation. The management planning process became a collaborative management planning process, and this in turn served as a forum for multiple Government Agencies to work together with local communities, drawing the normally exclusive Forestry Bureau into the mix. The project facilitated the integration of national level agencies with provincial and township level organisations, closer working of ethnic Tibetans with Han Chinese government officials, and the development of a truly multi-stakeholder Co-Management plan. Originally seen to be a significant problem, the new situation provided some of the most unexpected and perhaps most beneficial aspects of the project. These benefits will be long lasting because the individuals appreciated, perhaps for the first time, the full benefits of working with others. This will stay with them even when they move to other agencies/jobs.

Contribution of the project to China in meeting its obligations under the CBD:

One of the major outputs was the comprehensive report Biodiversity Conservation and Community Livelihood Co-management Plan for the Suojia Area of Qinghai China, which was formulated by government agencies, experts and local stakeholders. Although the plan was only published in June 2004, the process of research and

workshops that went in to formulating the plan have already had an impact on plans and policies of the Qinghai Provincial government. It is our hope and expectation that this will eventually influence national strategies for Tibetan pastoral areas. It has already influenced formulation of the national Master Plan for the Three Great Rivers Source National Nature Reserve, which was revised so that zonation in the Suojia area was based on recommendations for Local Protected Areas and did not require relocation of nomadic herders. The project also provided institutional capacity building and training to support the management of the Three Great Rivers Source Nature Reserve, through creation and training of local Environmental Monitoring Groups.

Additional contributions assisting China to meet its obligations under the CBD are detailed in the following table:

Article No./Title	Description of contribution
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use	Provided input into formulation of the Master Plan for the Three Great Rivers Source National Protected Area so as to promote community based conservation. The project may subsequently provide a model of community participation for the national policy for the Tibetan grasslands.
7. Identification and Monitoring	Inventoried key species in the project area and established a monitoring programme, specifically for Snow Leopard, Black-necked Crane, and Tibetan Antelope, all of which require urgent conservation attention. The project identified government policy as a major threats to biodiversity and grassland ecosystems in the region.
8. In-situ Conservation	Established a system of local protected areas within the Three Great Rivers Source Nature Reserve, and formulated guidelines for management of these reserves. Education and training activities promoted protection of habitats, restoration of degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species. The project emphasized the need for compatibility between sustainable use of these fragile grasslands and their conservation.

10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	Through its influence on the Master Plan for the region, the project was able to help integrate conservation and sustainable use and to protect sustainable customary uses by local nomads. The project supported the local communities to implement remedial actions to restore the grasslands and protect habitats at key sites. Throughout, the project encouraged co-operation between government agencies and herders. The project found a key approach for future efforts; promotion of sustainable pastoralism based in traditional lifestyles and knowledge of the grazing ecosystem.
12. Research and Training	In this remote developing region, the project promoted field research and monitoring that will contribute to conservation and increase sustainability of use of the grassland ecosystems. The project provided institutional capacity building and training to support the management of the Three Great Rivers Source Nature Reserve, through creation and training of local Environmental Monitoring Groups.
13. Public Education and Awareness	The project provided opportunities to promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity on the Tibetan Plateau and helped to propagate these measures through television and local media.

See Appendix I for a Table showing the contribution components of the project to the measures for biodiversity conservation defined in the CBD Articles.

Impact of training on local capacity for biodiversity conservation:

Capacity building under the project mainly took the form of training in skills and knowledge that local trainees will need for their new roles as environmental monitors and protected areas stewards for the Local Protected Areas. Evidence that this is considered valuable locally includes a request from the new Three Great Rivers Source National Nature Reserve to FFI to organize similar training for other areas.

Government agencies also benefited from training and learning through participation in the multi-stakeholder planning processes. Evidence that this is considered valuable includes requests from both the nature reserve and the provincial EPB to undertake similar processes in two new areas, Qumalai Township and Qinghai Lake.

Training also increased the capacity of local people to plan, develop and manage biodiversity conservation projects. Assessing the current work and future plans of the trainees indicates that the training will continue to benefit them as they become more active in biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. Current work units and occupation of some of the trainees who participated in the 2001 and 2002 Darwin field training in Suojia, Qinghai:

Name	Occupation	Current work
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Zhaxiduojie	President of UYO, Secretary of Snowlands Great Rivers Source Environmental Protection Association NGO (full time)	Biodiversity and cultural conservation, NGO management, communications, cooperation and fund raising
Wenzha	Vice-president of UYO, Zhiduo Township government official	Project management, co-operation, project monitoring and evaluation
Zhaxi	Secretary of UYO, headmaster of middle school	Project review, writing project concept notes and proposals, project budget management
Zhu Jiangcai	Member of UYO, Zhiduo Township government official	Government work. Has left UYO for one year
Ajia	Member of UYO, government official	Environmental education in local community, law enforcement
Nimacairen	Member of UYO, government official	Environmental education in local community, law enforcement
Zhaxibangba	Translator	Graduate student of Qinghai Normal University

Current affiliation, work unit and anticipated future work of the 24 trainees from the 2004 Darwin Initiative Capacity Building for NGO Conservation Projects Course in Jiegu Qinghai.

Name	NGO Affiliation and Work Unit	Anticipated future work
Zhaxiduojie	President UYO, Secretary Snowland Great Rivers Source Environmental Protection Association (Snowland GRSEPA)	Publication, communication cooperation and fund raising
Wenzha	Vice-president of UYO, Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Government	Project management, cooperation, feed back about the project
Zhaxi	Secretary of UYO, headmaster of middle school	Project supervision, writing project plans, project budget
Cairenzhandou	Member of council of UYO. A teacher of Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County National Middle School	Administration
Danzhengcairen	Member of council of UYO. Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Duocai Township Government	Environmental education in community, in charge of community village school project
Ricai	Member of council of UYO. Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Suojia Township Primary School	Environmental education in community and in charge of community village school project and village clinic project
Caidan	Member of UYO. Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Duocai Township Government, headmaster of a primary school	Teacher of environmental education and collector of local stories and legends

Mengde	Member of UYO. Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Suojia Township Primary School	Teacher of environmental education
Wenzhou	Member of UYO. Teacher of Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Suojia Township Primary School	Teacher of environmental education
Caisong	Member of UYO. Headmaster Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Suojia Township Primary School	Teacher of environmental education
Naoguo	Member of UYO. Headmaster of Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Lixin Township Primary School	Teacher of environmental education
Zhoucuo	UYO member. Yushu Prefecture Zhiduo County Financial Office	
Suonanzhande	Snowlands GRSEPA (NGO) member. Yushu Prefecture Tourism Bureau	
Jiangduo	Snowlands member	Wildlife survey, project planning and project budget management.
Nisong	Snowlands member (full time)	Project management (using new manual). Intends to do wildlife surveys
Deqing Li	Snowlands member (full time)	Project management (using new manual). Intends to do wildlife surveys
Baima	Snowlands member (full time)	
Cairennaowa	Snowlands member, Yushu Prefecture Yushu County Financial Bureau	
Gepengcuo	Snowlands member, Yushu Prefecture Tibetan Medicine Orphan School	
Wujincairen	Snowlands member, Zhajian County Huangnan Prefecture Qinghai Province	Wildlife survey, biodiversity conservation. Intends to do wildlife protection.
Caiwenrenzhen	Snowlands member, Yushu Prefecture National Normal School	
Wenyang	Snowlands member, Yushu Prefecture Tibetan Medicine Orphan School	
Pengcuodawa	President of Yuguzonglie Yellow River Source NGO. Yushu Prefecture Qumalai County Maduo Township Government	
Zhaxidongzhou	President of Black Tent NGO. Yushu Prefecture Qumalai County Government	

Impact of the project on collaboration between FFI and local partners:

The project has resulted in formation of several new linkages between FFI (an NGO based in the UK) and local biodiversity stakeholders in Qinghai.

FFI continues to work with the local NGO UYO, and has added three new partners

since the project ended, based on the success of this collaboration. The Snowlands NGO, based in the Prefecture Capitol, focuses on environmental education and policy, and is working with FFI to implement a survey of wildlife trade in the region, and to develop a participatory evaluation of the impact of government policy on rangeland ecology and local livelihoods.

Qumolai Township, to the north of the project area, is now host to two newly formed NGOs. One of these focuses on environmental protection of the Yellow River source region. The other, called Black Tents, has proposed to create Local Protected Areas similar to those successfully created under this project.

In addition to those activities that directly follow-on from this project, FFI has been approached by both the Qinghai Provincial Forestry Bureau and Environmental Protection Bureau about additional project activities in other areas of the Tibetan Plateau. FFI intends to explore and develop these relationships in the coming year.

Impact of the project on local collaboration:

The project also led to improved linkages between the UYO and government agencies, including the Qinghai Three Great Rivers Source Nature Reserve management office, a new administrative body that did not exist at the start of the project, which has new jurisdiction over the Suojia area. UYO is now recognized and respected as a representative of local community interests on environmental issues. The Nature Reserve is also exploring the possibility of enlisting UYO and local environmental monitoring groups that the project set up as deputized part-time wildlife guards.

Other improved linkages, between Government sectors and between different levels of Government administration, have been described above. These groups, many for the first time, worked together in workshops and writing to produce a collaborative management plan for the region. Overall, the project has fostered a culture of partnership among implementing agencies that have traditionally been rivals.

Social impacts of the project:

Capacity building for local community NGOs to plan, develop and manage projects will also provide a vehicle for them to provide social services to these remote communities. Experience of several development organizations in Qinghai and elsewhere on the Tibetan Plateau indicates that local herders organizations are often better able to deliver social services than government agencies.

The project contributed substantially to the swelling debate over range-land management policy in the region. Several recent sources suggest that mis-guided and poorly implemented government policies may be the root cause of much of the degradation of the grassland ecosystem in this area. This is, of course, an issue for biodiversity conservation, and so was a central focus of the research and training delivered by the project. Grassland degradation is also a major threat to the livelihoods of local herders, so the project, through its input into understanding and managing grasslands, may contribute substantially to finding sustainable solutions to preventing rangeland degradation and improving herders incomes.

The project has also benefited the local herder community in Suojia in an entirely unexpected way. During the project period, the entire Township was placed inside a nature reserve, and the draft Master Plan for the area called for moving many nomadic herder communities out of remote areas of the new protected area and into new urban centres. This is in line with government policy of “ecological migration” and depopulation of nature reserve core areas. We interviewed residents of neighbouring Qumolai Township about the proposed move. While some young people reportedly

look forward to relocation, many older residents expressed concern about their ability to adapt to an urban life-style.

As a result of this project, UYO and the residents of Suojia Township were able to bring to the attention of government their commitment to environmental protection and wildlife conservation, and to demonstrate their new abilities to act as environmental monitors and wildlife wardens in remote, inaccessible areas. The revised Master Plan does not call for their relocation, and this is reportedly a direct result of the project activities, which introduced government experts to the collaborative management concept and the reality of community-managed Local Protected Areas.

6. Project Outputs

See Appendix II for a quantification of project outputs using standard Darwin Initiative measures.

Differences in actual outputs against those in the agreed schedule:

The agreed proposed Outputs were as follows:

- Develop a detailed understanding of the link between the socio-economic condition of the rural communities and the management of the rangelands.

This was achieved and details are provided in the report by Nassan Bayur and in Chapters 1-4 of the Co-Management Plan.

- Provide an assessment of the current condition of the plateau habitats and key species within the project area, identifying priorities for restoration of damaged areas.

This was achieved and details are provided in the report by David Mallon and in Chapters 1-4 of the Co-Management Plan.

- Improve awareness among stakeholders of the economic and biological benefits of sound rangeland management.

This was successful, although additional stakeholders need to be reached by more intensive activities in the future, including additional tent-holds in the project area, and government policy makers at provincial and national levels.

- Increase the institutional capacity for the survey, monitoring and management of the biological resources in the plateau area.

This was largely successful, based on the Environmental Monitoring Groups.

- Provide a 1st stage landscape level management plan through a participatory planning process.

This was entirely successful, and the results have largely been incorporated into the government approved Master Plan for the region. The plan is detailed in the Co-management Plan.

- Identify potential protected areas and specify management structures for them.

This was partially successful. Local Protected Areas were identified and mapped and these have been recognized in the government approved Master Plan for the region. Management structure was specified, based on community Environmental Management Groups. Future work will concentrate on securing government recognition and deputisation of these EMGs, and ensuring sustainability of the structure.

- An assessment of alternative income streams for rural communities to relieve pressure on biological resources.

This has been an especially difficult area to address. There are so few resources in the project area, it is so remote and the habitats and environment so fragile, that few alternatives could be identified that would not in their own right have

significant environmental impact. Soujia is very remote and accessible only at limited times of the year so is unlikely to develop tourism except for the most hardy adventure travellers. Upgrading transport and facilities would have significant environmental impacts.

However, by providing a model for maintenance of traditional, sustainable pastoral system within the project area and increasing the resilience of this system in the face of pressures for change to unsustainable approaches, the project has gone some ways towards relieving pressures on biological resources.

Appendix III provides details of all publications and material

Dissemination of project outputs and outcomes:

The project culminated with the publication of the comprehensive report and action plan, the Biodiversity Conservation and Community Livelihood Co-management Plan for the Suojia Area of Qinghai China.

The project has featured on local press and TV within Qinghai province. This is not an area that has received much attention in the past. The current activity is developing interest in biodiversity, both in Government Sectors and in local communities.

The project was featured in the winter-spring 2003/2004 issue of China Development Brief, a publication that disseminates information about international development projects in China.

7. Project Expenditure

Budget Category	Original budget¹	Actual expenditure²
Total	162,647	194,697

Notes:

1. Including additional £6,594 for 2002/03 agreed in letter of 25 June 2002.
2. Includes £32,000 co-financing.

Agreed changes to the budget:

FFI requested a grant increase from the Darwin fund to cover the additional costs of (a) the summer field trip and (b) involving a new partner, the Forest Bureau. It was explained that such additional monies could not be added, although it was appreciated that the budget was trimmed at the request of the Fund at the time of the application. We therefore had to accommodate the extra costs of the field trip in the above budget.

The changes to the specification of budgets and activities were agreed principally with Sylvia Smith through meetings, telephone calls and notes, and were confirmed in letters from Sylvia Smith (25 June 2002) and Carrie Haloun (13 October 2003). The allocation between budget categories was revised after the first year (in first annual report) and then again when the project was extended to a third year with an allowed carry-over of £20,000.

8. Project Operation and Partnerships

Local partners:

Main project partners include:

Qinghai Environmental Protection Bureau (EPB) and its associated civil society organization (the Environmental Protection Promotion Council For The Great Rivers Headwaters Organisation, EPPCGRHA): the EPB is the Provincial Government department responsible for biodiversity conservation and environmental management within the area. The EPB oversaw the project, were the official liaison with the government, and participated actively in biodiversity planning.

Upper Yangtze Organisation (UYO), an NGO based entirely in the project area with a membership made up of ethnic Tibetan herders. UYO worked in close partnership with FFI in local delivery of the objectives throughout the project. UYO was by far the most active partner.

Biodiversity Working Group (BWG), a working group of the China Council for International Cooperation in Environment and Development, provided input into the planning process through participation of key members in planning workshops.

In the early phases of the project, the Beijing-based NGO Green Voice assisted the project by undertaking local co-ordination. Once the project was well established, this role was not needed and Green Voice moved on to work on other partnership projects.

We were also joined in the early phase by Dr. Marc Foggin, a representative of the Canadian NGO Plateau Perspectives. Marc undertook his PhD in the project area and helped UYO over a number of years. Marc assisted the project with liaison, guidance and advice, but Marc left the region in 2002 and did not return until 2004. Marc took part in the 2004 NGO training workshop as an expert trainer on ecology. FFI and Plateau Perspectives are now working together to insure that the Co-management Plan for Suojia is implemented.

During project implementation, two modifications were made as a result of local consultation and experience: 1) For reasons outlined below, the Qinghai EPB and EPPCGRHA proved to be less than dedicated to the project, and it was necessary to shift much of the responsibility for local logistics to the less powerful and experienced local NGO, UYO. This actually proved to be a boon to the project, and clearly demonstrated the potential of UYO to handle larger projects and partnerships. 2) the Qinghai Forestry Bureau became a key stakeholder in 2002 when the Forestry Bureau, and not the EPB, was given responsibility for the new Three Great Rivers Source National Nature Reserve, which encompasses the project area. Because of interagency rivalries, it was difficult to include them as a direct partner, but their participation in planning workshops was solicited and obtained. FFI is in close discussions with the nature reserve management office, and they are a key partner in the next phase of activities.

Collaboration with similar projects in China:

The project provided cross-fertilization of ideas with a UK government supported project for a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Dujiangyan Municipality in Sichuan. Two staff from Qinghai EPB attended a participatory workshop in Dujiangyan to observe multi-stakeholder planning in action. Their new experience helped in planning and organization of workshops for the Suojia Co-management Plan under this project. Professor Deng Weijie from the Sichuan Natural Resource Conservation and Development Training Centre provided training and

facilitated production of both plans.

Two staff from the Arjin Mountain Nature Reserve in Xinjiang observed the first planning workshop for the Suojia Co-management Plan and returned enthusiastic about conducting a similar activity for their nature reserve. Arjin Mountain Nature Reserve is a protected area for wildlife of the Tibetan Plateau where FFI is also working,

Consultation with the China CBD Office:

The FFI project team consulted with the relevant office of the State Environmental Protection Agency of China (SEPA), which is responsible for reporting to the Convention on Biodiversity and which facilitated the national Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan. Arising from the project, Vice-Minister Zhu, a senior official in SEPA, undertook a study tour in the UK in April 2002. Vice-Minister Zhu, was made aware of the project during a UK Study Day for the Vice Minister, hosted by FFI. FFI was able to show his team the benefits of partnership through site visits to working nature conservation activities in the UK. The site visit emphasized the value of working with local NGOs through practical demonstration projects.

International partners participating:

Dr. Mike Harding (UK), Ecology, Land & People. FFI Project Manager.

Dr. David Mallon (UK), IUCN-SSC Antelope Specialist Group and Cat Specialist Group. Biodiversity survey specialist.

Inner Asia Studies Institute(UK), part of Cambridge University. Advisors on stakeholder and socio-economic analysis.

Dr. Marc Foggin, Director, Plateau Perspectives. Advisor on local ecology and logistics. Trainer.

Helene Barnes (UK), FFI Asia Pacific Regional Office, Trainer and supervisor

Bill Bleisch (USA) FFI-China Programme Office, Trainer and supervisor, and recently, Project Manager

Actions of local partnerships after the end of the Darwin Project:

The project only ended in April 2004, but the local partner NGO, UYO, is clearly committed, in fact, dedicated, to continuing their involvement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood development in the project area. FFI and Plateau Perspectives have both pledged to work together with UYO to see that essential projects proposed in the Co-management Plan are implemented.

Additional community participation is seen as a key part of implementation.

Dissemination of the process of collaborative multi-stakeholder planning to other Townships in the region during the next phase will require participation by these communities as well.

The private sector is not very active in this remote region, aside from small local businesses. However, support from international corporate donors is being actively sought by FFI.

The involvement of the Qinghai EPB is less likely to continue. Their ambivalence to continued work in the project area is probably based on the inter-agency rivalry with the Qinghai Forestry Bureau, which has now been given jurisdiction over the new nature reserve that includes the project site. EPB staff are also reluctant to work in such a remote location without substantial additional donor support. However, the EPB has requested assistance in implementing a similar process of multi-stakeholder participatory planning to solve the acute environmental problems of the Qinghai Lake region. **A project concept has been generated by the EPB and submitted to FFI.** In

this region, which is being rapidly developed for tourism, the private sector has an important role to play in ensuring that development is sustainable, and many government agencies have jurisdictions and agendas that are sometimes in conflict.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation, Lesson learning

Strategy for monitoring and evaluation (M&E):

Progress with the project was monitored through frequent in-country visits. Tasks for the various partners were set by a visit and then reviewed through participatory workshops during subsequent visits. The workshops evaluated the quality and achievements of the work as the project progressed.

Demonstration of the value of the project arose through the production of the outputs, as described above. The final achievement, which was the reason for undertaking of the surveys and planning workshops, was the development of the *Co-Management Plan*, which is included separately. This plan serves as a key means of verification of the impact of project activities in accumulating vital information, in capacity building for planning, and in increasing cooperation between stakeholders (see log-frame attached).

A range of baseline studies were undertaken on the biodiversity and socio-economic conditions of the project area. Details are outlined above and in the accompanying field report. These surveys also provided a baseline for continued community-based monitoring of long-term impacts.

Other monitoring targets and measures arose through the structure of the Darwin Grant itself. As stated in the application, these targets were monitored through back-to-office reports, field expedition reports and annual reports.

FFI-China conducted an internal evaluation of the project in December 2003. The results are summarized below.

The Darwin Initiative also submitted reports for the standard external review.

Outline of impact monitoring results:

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Verification
Goal: To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention	China will have a model on which it can base institutional capacity building and conservation projects elsewhere in similar circumstances.	The field survey reports and the <i>Suojia Co-management Plan</i> (attached) document the process of data collection and multi-stakeholder participation that can serve as a model to be used elsewhere in China.
.	.	Interest in adopting this model has been expressed by the Qinghai EPB, the Three Great Rivers National Nature Reserve, and the communities of Qumolai Township. Dissemination of results is expected to lead to more widespread awareness and interest in the model.
Purpose: The project will assist the rural communities of Yushu prefecture in southern Qinghai to manage sustainably the habitats of the high Tibetan plateau.	By the end of the end of the project, the stakeholders and principal organisations will have gone through all of the critical stages in planning the conservation and management of a key biological resource.	The <i>Suojia Co-management Plan</i> provides documentation of the planning process and results.

Key lessons:

A key lesson for FFI has been that work in remote parts of the Tibetan Plateau requires more time than originally thought, and larger budgets.

Pump-priming funding to develop the project proposal and budgets is required to enable field trips to the project area and to develop closer liaison with project partners, so as to ensure the project is more reliably specified and costed.

Greater flexibility and an easier system for agreeing on movement of budgets between sub-heads would be helpful. The project was characterised by a high degree of uncertainty. Capping budgets at the start of a 3-year project taking place in a difficult and remote area is unrealistic.

FFI learned relatively quickly that managing the project from the UK would not deliver benefits cost-effectively in-country. Consequently, an in-country office was established in part as a response to the need for closer liaison with project partners.

More attention needs to be paid to local management structures, with more flexibility to adapt the project to the changing landscape of the Chinese administrative system under reform.

Finally, the value of allocating project funding for a directed project development effort, to resource the action plan generated by the project and to enable local partners to participate in its implementation, was realized too late to allow re-design. To ensure sustainability, projects should be encouraged to include these development

activities in the project design.

10. Darwin Identity:

Efforts to publicise the Darwin Initiative:

The Darwin Initiative logo is prominently featured on the cover of all reports and plans generated by the project, including the *Collaborative Management Plan*, which has been published in 1000 copies and which is being distributed throughout China.

On 17 February 2004, Dr. Yingyi Zhang from Fauna & Flora International presented a summary of the approach and results of this project in Kuala Lumpur to an audience of participants in the Convention on BioDiversity Conference of Parties (CBD CoP) meeting. Among the audience was Elliot Morley MP, Minister of State for Environment and Agri-Environment. The Darwin logo was featured at the beginning of the presentation and the Darwin identify was highlighted throughout the presentation.

Awareness of the Darwin Initiative:

Awareness among the stakeholders of the project is high. Each workshop began with an explanation of the Darwin Initiative and its role in making the project possible. All communications referred to the project as the Darwin Project. Liaison meetings with government offices and local NGOs all began with an explanation of the Darwin Initiative and its vital role in making the project a reality.

The line agencies responsible for biodiversity protection, particularly the State Environmental Protection Agency and its provincial and local subordinates, are likely to be particularly familiar with the Darwin Initiative.

Aside from the initial project design phase, this project was supported entirely by the Darwin Initiative, and the project was recognized as a Darwin project from beginning to the end.

11. Leverage

Additional funding:

FFI-China has submitted several applications for follow-on work based on this project, including a large proposal to the Japan Fund for the Global Environment. FFI was unable to raise additional funding during the lifetime of the project. This was partly because of the change in policy of many international donors, including Japan, towards development projects in China, which is now considered a newly industrialized country.

As detailed below, FFI has submitted proposals for small grants to support follow-on activities from the Darwin Initiative. These proposals are now pending.

Strengthening of capacity of partners to secure further funding:

Capacity building for UYO included training that was specifically focused on project design, management and development. This training was organized by the project and included UYO and three other local Tibetan NGOs. As part of the training course, UYO members developed a project concept and proposal for monitoring of the community-managed Snow Leopard Local Protected Area. This concept served as the basis for submission of a small grant proposal prepared by FFI for an international donor. UYO is also currently preparing applications for Global Green Grants, a foundation specifically for local NGOs.

12. Sustainability and Legacy

Enduring achievements:

Lasting legacies from this project are likely to include:

- Increased capacity for biodiversity conservation, especially among local organisations.
- The *Co-Management Plan*, which provides a basis for biodiversity conservation and sustainable rangeland management in the project area for the next five years, and a model for other multi-stakeholder planning for biodiversity conservation in other regions.
- Development of working partnerships among the stakeholders, including government agencies and local NGOs.
- Development of working partnerships between FFI and the stakeholders as the basis for future projects in this and other areas.

We expect partnerships developed within this project to be maintained into the future. FFI intends to follow up this first phase with additional projects, designed to both implement the Co-management Plan, and to replicate the multi-stakeholder planning process in at least one additional area. In addition, the designation of the new nature reserve should ensure that formal structures are put in place to guarantee opportunities for additional collaborative work.

Application of the conclusions and outputs of the project:

The project design team and UYO concluded early in the project design that local communities could take the lead in active wildlife protection in the project area, and establishing a mechanism to make this a reality was one of the main outputs of the project. The project field survey team came to the conclusion that over-grazing and pasture degradation within the project area were local phenomenon that were manageable. These results were communicated to the team of national experts who prepared a Master Plan for the proposed Three Great Rivers Source National Nature Reserve, now approved. This led the team to revise their initial recommendations so as to allow local herder communities to remain in place and to take the lead in protecting designated Local Protected Areas within the larger nature reserve.

Application of the project's conclusions have so far been mainly within the project area. However, now that the Nature Reserve has been accepted by the State Government, we expect the Co-Management Plan to be applied as a model for the wider area and as a regional model. The Qinghai EPB and Three Rivers Source Nature Reserve have both approached FFI about the possibility of replicating this project's in other areas, indicating that the project's approach has been recognized and may be applied elsewhere.

Additional funds being sought:

- DGIS has committed USD \$5,000 for continuation of community-based conservation initiatives in Suojia, as part of the “Resources for Improved Livelihoods” project.
- FFI has requested USD\$21,000 in funds from the Disney Foundation to provide training and other support to UYO for monitoring and surveys in the Snow Leopard LPA and elsewhere in the region.
- A project concept is now being considered by the DfID Civil Society Challenge Fund for a project to implement key aspects of the Co-management Plan.

- FFI has entered into a partnership for a application to the USAID initiative Supporting Sustainable Development, Environmental Conservation and Cultural Preservation in Tibetan Areas of China that, if funded, would allow replication of the project's approach in a new area of the Tibetan Plateau.
- Corporate funding is being sought to support FFI in facilitating replication of the Co-management approach used here at Qinghai Lake. Donation of one round trip international plane ticket and additional support has been pledged by BP.

13. Post-Project Follow up Activities

Through this project, FFI worked together with a local community-based NGO and all relevant government departments to produce a framework for collaborative management for conservation in a remote biodiversity-rich area on the Tibetan Plateau. We are now hoping to be able to work together with the same local NGO and the newly established nature reserve to implement key aspects of the *Collaborative Management Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods* that this project produced.

Additional key actions that still need support are further improvements in the capacity of local NGOs for conservation project management. These NGOs need training and support for planning and development of projects, for wildlife monitoring and protection, for organizing village conservation educational programmes, and for setting up new structures in the villages to carry out conservation action.

The director of the new Three Great Rivers Source National Nature Reserve has also requested FFI support to build capacity for the nature reserve staff and for development of a five-year management plan for the nature reserve. While government support provides basic salaries and funds for infrastructure development for the nature reserve, this reserve, like most in China, has no reliable source of funding for training and planning initiatives.

Although China is now considered a newly industrialized nation, Suojia Tibetan Autonomous Township is one of the poorest regions of one of the poorest provinces in China. Additional project activities could leverage government investment in biodiversity protection in the area (mainly to the new nature reserve) and prevent poverty alleviation and development activities from irreversibly damaging the fragile grassland ecosystems here.

Follow-up activities could demonstrate successful implementation of the Suojia Co-management Plan, and replicate the process elsewhere on the Tibetan Plateau. This would serve as a demonstration of an alternative, collaborative approach to wildlife conservation and grassland ecosystem protection that still provides opportunities for sustainable use of portions of the rangelands and does not necessitate forced relocation and settlement of Tibetan nomads. This is in close accord with the aim and objectives of the Darwin Initiative, and the CBD.

Commitment and capacity of host country partners for follow-up activities:

The Qinghai Environmental Protection Bureau and the Three Great Rivers Source Nature Reserve have each requested FFI support for training and for replication of the collaborative planning process in two additional regions, Qumalai and Qinghai Lake respectively.

The success of the collaborative planning process in helping the local Tibetan environmental NGO, UYO, to gain a voice and a hearing from local government agencies has given rise to requests for help and for capacity building for two newly

formed environmental NGOs in a neighbouring township.

Local capacity is not high, but follow-up activities would focus on capacity building for local NGOs and for the newly recruited nature reserve staff.

14. Value for money

The project has been criticized by an independent evaluator as being low value for money. We do not concur. The difficulties of working in such a remote area, four days from the nearest airport and two days from any metalled road, necessitated extra expenditure. Of course, bringing experienced expert consultants from the UK required substantial costs, and perhaps that could have been avoided had less experienced local consultants been used. FFI also recognizes that setting up an office in-country has substantially improved cost-effectiveness in the final months of the project. However, given the constraints imposed by the project area and the pioneering nature of this work, we believe that costs were modest. Considering the benefits of the project on conservation in this wildlife-rich project area, its impacts on practice in the province, and given the high potential impacts of the project on policy throughout the Tibetan Plateau region, we believe that this project achieved remarkable benefits at modest cost.

Author(s) / Date

Mike Harding and William Bleisch

1 June 2004

Appendix I: Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity		
Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use	5%	Develop national strategies which integrate conservation and sustainable use.
7. Identification and Monitoring	20%	Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities which have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.
8. In-situ Conservation	30%	Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.
9. Ex-situ Conservation	0%	Adopt ex-situ measures to conserve and research components of biological diversity, preferably in country of origin; facilitate recovery of threatened species; regulate and manage collection of biological resources.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	15%	Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.
11. Incentive Measures	0%	Establish economically and socially sound incentives to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity.
12. Research and Training	20%	Establish programmes for scientific and technical education in identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components; promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries (in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations).
13. Public Education and Awareness	10%	Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.

14. Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts	0%	Introduce EIAs of appropriate projects and allow public participation; take into account environmental consequences of policies; exchange information on impacts beyond State boundaries and work to reduce hazards; promote emergency responses to hazards; examine mechanisms for re-dress of international damage.
15. Access to Genetic Resources	0%	Whilst governments control access to their genetic resources they should also facilitate access of environmentally sound uses on mutually agreed terms; scientific research based on a country's genetic resources should ensure sharing in a fair and equitable way of results and benefits.
16. Access to and Transfer of Technology	0%	Countries shall ensure access to technologies relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under fair and most favourable terms to the source countries (subject to patents and intellectual property rights) and ensure the private sector facilitates such assess and joint development of technologies.
17. Exchange of Information	0%	Countries shall facilitate information exchange and repatriation including technical scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surveying programmes and local knowledge
19. Bio-safety Protocol	0%	Countries shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities and to ensure all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis, especially where they provide the genetic resources for such research.
Total %	100%	Check % = total 100

Appendix II Outputs

Code	Total to date (reduce box)	Detail (←expand box)
Training Outputs		
1a	Number of people to submit PhD thesis	0
1b	Number of PhD qualifications obtained	0
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained	0
3	Number of other qualifications obtained	0
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training	0
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students	0
4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)	0
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students	0
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification(i.e not categories 1-4 above)	0
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (i.e not categories 1-5 above)	5+25
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	$2*5 + 7*7 + 1*24$ ++ = more than 83 person weeks
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	1
Research Outputs		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	$2*2+2+7+2 = 15$ person weeks
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	1
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.	1
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals	0
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere	0
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country	0
12b	Number of computer-based databases enhanced (containing species/genetic information) and handed over to host country	0
13a	Number of species reference collections established and handed over to host country(s)	0
13b	Number of species reference collections enhanced and handed over to host country(s)	0

Dissemination Outputs		
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	3
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	2
15a	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	1
15b	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	2
15c	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in UK	0
15d	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in UK	0
16a	Number of issues of newsletters produced in the host country(s)	0
16b	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(s)	0
16c	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	0
17a	Number of dissemination networks established	0
17b	Number of dissemination networks enhanced or extended	0
18a	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	1
18b	Number of national TV programme/features in the UK	0
18c	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	0
18d	Number of local TV programme features in the UK	0
19a	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	0
19b	Number of national radio interviews/features in the UK	0
19c	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country (s)	0
19d	Number of local radio interviews/features in the UK	0
Physical Outputs		
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	£ 3,000 BPS
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	0
22	Number of permanent field plots established	0
23	Value of additional resources raised for project	\$5,000 USD received from DGIS. Proposal submitted to Disney Foundation for \$21,000 USD. ~\$300,000 USD portion of a proposal submitted for replication in Sichuan.

Appendix III: Publications

Publications and other material included with this report are marked with a *.

Type (e.g. journal paper, book, manual, CD)	Detail (e.g. title, authors, journal, year, pages)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, email address, website)	Cost £
Report* (Included as an annex to the Co-management Plan below)	Mallon, D, and Bayar, N (2002) <i>Field Trip and Training Workshops, July- September 2002</i>	Fauna and Flora International, Cambridge	FFI, Great Eastern House, Tenison Rd, Cambridge CB1 2TT	£20
Report*	FFI (2004) <i>Biodiversity Conservation and Community Livelihood Co-management Plan for the Suojia Area of Qinghai China</i>	Fauna and Flora International, Cambridge	FFI, Great Eastern House, Tenison Rd, Cambridge CB1 2TT	£45
Manual*	Appleton, M. et al. (2004) <i>Conservation Project Manual</i> (in Chinese)	Fauna and Flora International, Cambridge	FFI, Great Eastern House, Tenison Rd, Cambridge CB1 2TT	£25

Appendix IV: Darwin Contacts

To assist us with future evaluation work and feedback on your report, please provide contact details below.

Project Title	RESEARCH, SURVEY AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ON THE TIBET-QINGHAI PLATEAU, CHINA
Ref. No.	162/10/009
UK Leader Details	
Name	Mike Harding
Role within Darwin Project	Project Coordinator. Planned, coordinated and facilitated all activities.
Address	33 Upland Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9JY
Phone	01473 723848
Fax	01473 723848
Email	mike.harding@eco-land-people.demon.co.uk
Other UK Contact (if relevant)	
Name	David Mallon
Role within Darwin Project	Technical advisor. Field scientist, trainer.
Address	3 Acre Street, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 8JS
Phone	
Fax	
Email	
Partner 1	
Name	Zashi Dorje
Organisation	Upper Yangtze Organization
Website address	www.uyo-wildyak.org
Role within Darwin Project	Facilitator. Wildlife surveys. Co-founder and Secretary of the Upper Yangtze Organization.
Address	Zhiduo County National Middle School, Zhiduo County, Yushu Prefecture, Qinghai Province, PR China
Fax	
Email	
Partner 2 (if relevant)	
Name	Jieren Mei
Organisation	Qinghai Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau
Role within Darwin Project	Project liaison with government, field survey, workshop facilitation.
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APPENDIX V: Original Project Log Frame

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Goal: To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention.</p>	<p>China will have a model on which it can base institutional capacity building and conservation projects elsewhere in similar circumstances.</p>	<p>End of project report.</p>	<p>Assumes Qinghai Province in China has insufficient resources (capacity and finance) to undertake such a project without assistance.</p>
<p>Purpose: The project will assist the rural communities of Yushu prefecture in southern Qinghai to manage sustainably the habitats of the high Tibetan plateau.</p>	<p>By the end of the end of the project, the stakeholders and principal organisations will have gone through all of the critical stages in planning the conservation and management of a key biological resource.</p>	<p>End of project report</p>	<p>Habitat condition is directly related to socio-economic processes. External processes (e.g. climate change) can be accommodated through amended rangeland management.</p>
<p>Outputs: The Project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a detailed understanding of the link between the socio-economic condition of the rural communities and the management of the rangelands. • Provide an assessment of the current condition of the plateau habitats and key species within the project area, identifying priorities for restoration of 	<p>A single report will summarise the findings of the stakeholder and socio-economic analyses. A report will be produced that will provide an assessment of key habitats and wildlife populations, their condition, extent, location, management data, restoration requirements, and their ecological relationship with other habitat units. Data presented will be map based where possible.</p> <p>By the end of the project, key</p>	<p>Survey reports and materials. Stakeholders Analysis Report. Survey of the biological resources of the project area.</p> <p>Copies of the public</p>	<p>The socio-economic conditions of local communities can be significantly influenced by local institutions and personal choices.</p>

<p>damaged areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness among stakeholders of the economic and biological benefits of sound rangeland management. • Increase the institutional capacity for the survey, monitoring and management of the biological resources in the plateau area. • Provide a 1st stage landscape level management plan through a participatory planning process. • Identify potential protected areas and specify management structures for them.. • An assessment of alternative income streams for rural communities to relieve pressure on biological resources. 	<p>messages will be relayed to the 5,000 residents and key stakeholders in the project area, using the methods developed during the project.</p> <p>By the end of the first year to have undertaken training in biological survey, monitoring and management of rangeland habitats and wildlife for 4 key staff in each of the partner organisations. Production of summary manual.</p> <p>By the end of the project, to have gone through a participatory planning workshop involving all of the key stakeholders and organisations and compiled a landscape level management plan for the project area.</p> <p>To produce a protected areas Report by the end of year 2.</p> <p>By the end of the second year, provide a feasibility study for alternative income sources that assesses impacts and provides an outline development plan.</p>	<p>awareness strategy and any materials produced.</p> <p>Summary report of the implementation activity.</p> <p>Training course materials, including manual.</p> <p>Workshop materials.</p> <p>Summary report on the planning workshop.</p> <p>Copy of Management Plan.</p> <p>Copy of the protected areas report.</p> <p>Feasibility Study and Ecological Impacts Assessment for alternative incomes.</p>	<p>There are sufficient networks and means of communication among the rural stakeholders to allow effective public awareness programmes.</p> <p>The size of the project area and the difficulties of access to key areas still allow meaningful surveys to be made.</p> <p>Local communities have the desire to protect their biological resources and to diversify their income streams away from traditional pastoralism.</p>
<p>Activities:</p> <p>Undertake a Stakeholder Analysis for the project area.</p> <p>Analyse the link between traditional rangeland</p>	<p>10,500</p> <p>13,500</p>	<p>Stakeholder Analysis Report</p> <p>Section of the Stakeholder</p>	<p>Access to the area is possible at the times when the activities need to be undertaken.</p>

management, the needs of the rural communities and recent changes. Link this to ecological condition of the plateau habitats. Combine information from the project area and the whole plateau.		Analysis Report providing socio-economic context for the project area.	Physical access during summer required for field survey (thawing of frozen ground can make access difficult and expensive).
Undertake documentary research and field survey of the key plateau habitats.	10,300	Biological Survey Report.	There is sufficient institutional will in key organisations to ensure full co-operation, and that this will be maintained.
Compile map of habitat type and condition, and location of key wildlife populations.	6,400		Other controlling
Undertake training of key institutions in ecological survey techniques, including rapid assessment.	8,800	Training course materials and summary report.	Government sectors will not impede progress of the project with beaurocratic
Identify priority areas for restoration management.	8,500	Map (in Biological Survey Report) of key areas for restoration management.	impediments, or changes of policy that affect either the project area or co-operation with external organisations.
Assess the most appropriate public awareness methods for stakeholders.	7,000	Copies of public awareness materials. Report summarising public awareness programme.	Suitable maps and baseline information is available and not restricted, and that access to local people and to survey areas is unrestricted.
Identify key messages and develop awareness materials and implement programme.	24,000	Invoices for equipment. Photos of equipment in use. Skills Audit report.	
Provide necessary equipment for key institutions to build capacity for management of the project area.	9,000	Workshop materials. Workshop Report.	
Undertake audit of skills in key institutions.	7,000		
Using a participatory workshop, develop a	18,000		

preliminary landscape level management plan, which integrates the needs of all stakeholders and maintains the biological resource of the protected area.		Photographs of the event. Finalised Landscape Management Plan.	
Review the protected areas network. Compare with ecological survey and make recommendations for extensions/additions/zoning of management.	13,000	Protected Areas Report.	
Investigate possible alternative income sources, in particular eco-tourism and local crafts.	12,500	Feasibility Study and Ecological Impacts Assessment for alternative incomes	
Assess infrastructure and skills required for alternatives, compare with those available in the project area.	7,000		
Identify the most appropriate options and the capacity building required to develop them.	5,300		
Undertake training of key personnel through workshops and in-situ training.	15,800		
Project management, administration and support not covered under specific activities	32,006		
Vehicle	5,000		