Collaborative management on the Tibetan Plateau — Pastoralists and planners working together for a-sustainable future

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### Background

 Plateau Perspectives has worked in the Tibetan Plateau region since 1998, with geographic focus on the headwaters of the Yangtze River

Collaboration with local communities in establishing 'community conserved areas'
CCA's subsequently incorporated in SNNR

 Plateau Perspectives' main focus has been geographic, not thematic; such that work is *collaborative in nature* – i.e., working and walking alongside our partners (including local herders, government bureaus, conservation authorities such as the SNNR), not bringing or imposing our own external agenda

 Collaborative approach is especially important for developing *genuine partnerships* with local herding communities – i.e., hearing and responding to felt needs

- Our main areas of work have included
  - Environ. management / conservation
  - Community health, education, etc.
  - Emergency relief (cf. earthquake)









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#### Yushu Earth Quake Relief

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- Major 'ingredients' for success include
  - Engaging most/all the key stakeholders

 Working on appropriate timescales, not only according to formal project plans and funders' cycles

Learning from ours / others' experiences

#### **Collaborative management**

- Managing natural resources involves understanding complex systems containing both human and natural components
- Collaboration among multiple stakeholders crucial for successful resource management
  To manage these systems, groups with divergent
  - interests must work together

(Blumenthal & Jannink 2000)-

'Co-management' enables different groups to share in the management of natural resources within agreed structure and processes.

The parties' different capacities – knowledge, skills, resources, etc. – can thus be brought together for mutual advantage (Ross & Powell 2008)

#### The Sanjiangyuan region

• Ecological region = 40 percent of province

Nature Reserve established in 2000, with State-level (national) status given in 2003
Nature Reserve divided in ~18 sub-areas, each with three management zones

 Overlapping with several prior 'community conserved areas' – now incorporated under trial 'collaborative management' schemes

#### Several models trialed so far...

- 'Community Co-Management' (shiqu gongguan)
- 'Contract Conservation' (boahu xieyi)
- and other forms of community conservation (e.g., through development of community associations, NGOs, cooperatives, etc.)

#### Case #1: Muqu village

- Since 1998
- Designation of local protected areas (PAs); monitoring of wildlife species; awareness raising; anti-poaching (monitoring) patrols

Integration with community development
Partnership with field station of SNNR for data collection; also partnership with NGOs

### Case #2: Cuochi village

- Since 1999
- Monitoring of wildlife species; designation of local protected area; local regulations
- Partnership with SNNR field station, but mainly as contractual arrangement whereby the community is compensated in return for meeting agreed conservation goals Partnerships with NGOs (capacity building)

Based on these initial trials, SNNR (under the Forest Bureau) now is expanding the scope of experimenting with collaborative approaches to natural resource management and wildlife conservation; with the goal of learning how *Collaborative Management* could more effectively by introduced and used widely in the SNNR as well as other protected areas (PAs) in the province

• To this end, a regional project to enhance the effectiveness of PAs is being developed

- It is important, more than ever, to protect the natural resources and proper ecological functioning of the Sanjiangyuan region...
- Local communities are key stakeholders, and are potential partners in conservation

 'Collaborative management' approaches may offer the best solution to date – not only to increase manpower, but also to help find/develop solutions for the sustainable use and effective protection of the natural heritage of the plateau region; as well as to enhance local people's sense of well-being



• By partnering with all segments of society, we can achieve greater sustainability, conservation, and long-term socio-economic development

(Foggin 2011)



# Thank you!



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