

Expanding Successes in Community Conservation



FutureGenerations China

2011 FACT SHEET

WHAT WE DO

We expand regional successes in community conservation that link rural social development with the protection of biological diversity for a more sustainable China.

HOW WE WORK

We build capacity and strengthen partnerships among communities and governments to implement community-based approaches to nature conservation and rural social development.

IMPACT AREAS

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable income generation
- Primary health
- Youth leadership and applied research skills

WHERE WE WORK



Program Areas in the Tibet Autonomous Region
1. Qomolangma (Everest) National Nature Preserve
2. Four Great Rivers conservation area



Mekong River Valley in the Four Great Rivers region of the Tibet Autonomous Region, China. Photo by Qi Yun.

BACKGROUND

More than 18 million people live within or surrounding China's 5,000 protected areas. These rural communities seek to create sustainable livelihoods while protecting natural resources and biological diversity, but in most cases lack the skills to shape sustainable futures. With four major activities, Future Generations China: 1) Builds from its successes in the Tibet Autonomous Region to link rural social development with nature conservation; 2) Mentors youth to identify and expand other conservation successes across China; 3) Expands lessons through regional training sites known as "Model Eco-Communities"; and 4) Promotes policy-level dialogue through the China Forum for Nature.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN TIBET

In 20 years, the Tibet Autonomous Region of China in partnership with Future Generations has achieved major conservation success. Large protected areas are managed with the active participation of local people. In addition, endangered species, including the snow leopard and Tibetan antelope, are rebounding.

In 2011, Future Generations partners with communities and governments to build long-term capacity for integrated conservation and development. The organization trains *Pendebas*, Tibetan for "workers who benefit the village." More than 700 *Pendebas* in the Everest and Four Great Rivers regions promote environmental stewardship, improve primary health, and enable families to identify opportunities for local income generation. A locally registered non-profit *Pendeba Society* (www.pendeba.org) coordinates this training in the Everest Region. In 2011, Future Generations China works to establish two new *Pendeba Societies* in Linzhi and Chamdo Prefectures of southeastern Tibet.

2011 MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Tibet Community Conservation:

Establish new *Pendebe Societies* in the Four Great Rivers region to train and support conservation and community service volunteers.

Youth Program: Mentor and fund the applied research projects of Chinese youth to identify and expand best practices in sustainability.

Model Eco-Communities: Train community and government partners in selected sites to integrate rural social development with nature conservation and expand lessons through regional training centers.

China Forum for Nature: Provide an opportunity for national dialogue on nature conservation and protected area management

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



Country Director, Dr. Guangchun Lei, has deep connections to China's leading environmental academics, major

international environmental and bilateral organizations, and leading government policy makers. He has significant international experience, having worked in Geneva as the Senior Advisor for Asia-Pacific for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. He serves as Vice Chairman of the National Wetland Science Committee and as a task force member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.

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5,000 youth from 80 universities have participated in the Green Long March to raise environmental awareness across China.

YOUTH PROGRAM

A core objective of Future Generations China is to mentor university students across China as they seek environmental solutions on campuses and in communities. In 2007, Future Generations initiated the Green Long March, which over four years provided 5,000 youth from 80 universities with opportunities to dialogue, travel, and learn from China's environmental successes. In 2011, Future Generations China shifts its focus to an applied learning program for China's most promising environmental youth scholars. Youth will compete for GEN Fellowships (in Chinese "Green Roots Awards") to study and implement sustainability projects. For one year, GEN Fellows will research and implement their projects with mentorship from Future Generations, university faculty, and representatives from government agencies and civil society organizations.

MODEL ECO-COMMUNITIES

The Model Eco-Community (MEC) Project brings sustainable development to rural communities throughout China, particularly those within sensitive ecologies and designated nature preserves. The MEC project provides critical resources, training, and support to these communities, helping them develop social and economic capacity while safeguarding the environment.

In 2008, Future Generations China initiated Model Eco-Communities in 35 villages in four provinces to expand conservation projects including energy-saving Kang systems, water safety projects, public toilet development, garbage disposal management, biogas projects development, and agricultural plastic tarp recycling.

In 2011, the organization shifts its Model Eco-Community focus to rural communities in regions of high biodiversity.

CHINA FORUM FOR NATURE

The China Forum for Nature provides a major platform for national dialogue on nature conservation with a special focus on the role of communities. This annual event, with more than 200 participating governmental officials, academics, non-government organizations, and protected area site managers, occurs annually on May 22nd, International Biodiversity Day.