



Green Camel Bell Annual Report 2012

Gansu Green Camel Bell Environment
Development Center

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1. Overview

Gansu Green Camel Bell Environment Development Center (Green Camel Bell) has achieved a great deal in 2012 through the dedicated efforts of our directors, consultants, volunteers and staff. We are indebted to the leadership of the Gansu Secretary of Home Affairs, the guidance of Gansu Young Volunteers Association and Gansu Environmental Protection Department for our continued progress.

We have continued to face difficulties and setbacks in 2012. However, Green Camel Bell has steadily developed through constant reflection and improvement. Through our ongoing development we hope to make a greater contribution to environmental protection work in Gansu in 2013.



2. Organizational development and growth

i. Personnel structure and changes

There have been a number of personnel changes this year: Peiyanming, the Huining Ecological Agricultural Cooperatives Project Officer resigned from her position in June. Luoxiang, our public service lawyer was appointed following an open competition in April 2012. However, she resigned from the position at the end of August. In addition Yuchao, the Water Resources Conservation Assistant resigned in November.

We are pleased to welcome Jinyali, who has joined Green Camel Bell as our part-time public service lawyer. Currently, there are 4 full-time staff members at Green Camel Bell: Xudingyan is responsible for the Jinyuan Water Program in her role as Leading Officer; Kangxiaofeng has retained her position as Administrative Officer and Lanzhou Air Quality Monitoring Officer; Gesangjinba is responsible for Maqu Grassland Protection program, and Huyi, a former volunteer joins us as our Water Program Assistant. Finally, Green Camel Bell also has two part-time staff members

The significant changes in Green Camel Bell's human resources in 2012 led us to consider our shortcomings and rethink our management style. We strive for a work culture that promotes organizational equality, participation, pragmatism, as well as innovation. We have worked to provide greater opportunities for employees in regards to learning and self-development, and sought to enhance internal communication and integration. Our goal is to build a stable and highly efficient team to promote the development of Green Camel Bell.

ii. Organizational development

In 2012 Green Camel Bell carried out various capacity-building activities, including internal training and discussion, telephone supervision, group learning activities, financial training, and external workshops. These efforts have enhanced the sense of belonging for staff members, developed their abilities and inspired greater initiative.

Green Camel Bell has successfully established an atmosphere of learning and debate: meetings and project discussions are held regularly to encourage active learning and information sharing amongst our employees and trainees. In the past year GCB has organized 8 training sessions on topics including civil society, the sources of pollution, governmental information disclosure, policy assessment, and project design and management.

Our consultants regularly speak with employees and provide support for their concerns, so as to strengthen communication and mutual supervision. In July 2012, Green Camel Bell organized a team-building trip for employees and trainees to Wushan in Tianshui City in order to give staff members the chance to relax and to promote greater internal communication and integration.

In March 2012, we invited Hanmanrong, Financial Director of the Capacity Building & Assessment Centre (CBAC) to run a training session on financial management and project budgets. Green Camel Bell also sent staff to take part in 27 external training activities, covering subjects such as water resource protection, carbon trading, community development and social

“Green Camel Bell has successfully become an NGO partner of 1% for the Planet.”

policy advocacy. In December 2012, GCB employee Kangxiaofeng went to study at the Beijing Water Conservation Foundation for two weeks. During this time, she also visited relevant NGOs in Beijing, strengthening Green Camel Bell’s external relationships.

iii. International communication and cooperation

The form and content of environmental protection have changed rapidly. As a result, the aim to “strengthen international communication and cooperation” has become one of Green Camel Bell’s key targets in our five-year strategic plan.

In 2012 GCB received considerable media attention, with 12 stories in various media outlets. 28 people from 14 non-government organizations and scientific research institutions visited our office, working with our staff members on environmental protection issues. We also established a partnership with the Northwest University for Nationalities, launching Green Camel Bell as the “Northwest University for Nationalities teaching



GCB worker and volunteer took part in the shenzhen welfare charity session. Picture by a volunteer from ShenZhen University.

practice base”.

The first Charity and Public Welfare Exchange exhibition was held in Shenzhen in July. Green Camel Bell was lucky enough to be given a free booth, and took the opportunity to meet other NGOs, foundations and businesses, establishing productive relationships for future partnerships.

This year Green Camel Bell has also actively sought cooperation with the outdoor sports industry to find a path of mutual benefit between outdoor sports and environmental protection. In January our consultant Zhaozhong was invited to join the “Outdoor Retailer Summer Market 2012” in Salt Lake City, USA where he generated publicity, ran an exhibition and delivered a lecture, establishing valuable connections with international sports brands.

Also in July, Green Camel Bell took part in the “Outdoor Retailer Asia 2012” exhibition in Nanjing, introducing environmentalism and our work to the public and to participating businesses. While we were there, GCB delivered a report entitled “How can outdoor retailers participate in environmental protection?” Contacts were made with outdoor brands, and relevant discussions held. By playing a positive role in environmental protection through closer connections with businesses and consumers Green Camel Bell has successfully become an NGO partner of 1% for the Planet.



3. Green Camel Bell's key projects

i. Volunteer program

Over the years, Green Camel Bell has placed great importance on actively providing a platform for volunteers to understand the environment and participate in environmental protection. Simultaneously, we have offered public environmental education, support for volunteers' development, promotion of public participation and action for environmental protection as part of our five-year strategic plan.

Green Camel Bell has continued to launch important initiatives with the Beijing Water Conservation Foundation and advance our volunteers' activities in 2012, based on the lessons learnt from past joint initiatives.



GCB launched the “Reject fur, Protect Biodiversity” campaign. Picture by Wang Meng.

In 2012 Green Camel Bell successfully organized 25 different excursions, involving over 540 volunteers and attracting 9 media mentions, including the 'Maqu photography Exhibition', the 'Lanzhou Green Heart International Forum', the 'Lanzhou Air Observation Series', the 'Yellow River Water Travel' program and the 'Reject Fur, Protect Biodiversity' campaign.

Our volunteers went into communities, schools, parks and landfills to carry out public education campaigns on subjects like low carbon living, green travel, water resource protection, and PM2.5 prevention. This has proved positive in helping our volunteers, benefitting the public by increasing their knowledge of environmental protection and promoting greater awareness, and effectively improving Green Camel Bell's credibility.

“Nearly one hundred people committed to rejecting fur, and pledged to be responsible consumers”

In November 2012, under Green Camel Bell's "Spectators of Change in the Future" group, volunteers took part in the "Qingbaishi Landfill Spectators" field survey, discovering spontaneous combustion and other pollution related problems at the landfill. The volunteers had originally aimed to make the public aware of what happens to our household garbage. The investigation was held in three phases. After the first phase Chengguan Sanitation Bureau dealt with the problem of spontaneous combustion at Qingbaishi Landfill and released a letter titled "A Letter For Lanzhou Air Observation Mission" on Weibo. In return, Lanzhou Air Observation Mission answered the letter and published their views and suggestions for the Chengguan Sanitation Bureau.

On December 16th Green Camel Bell, Gansu GEF Taohe Office and ACT Asia launched the "Reject fur, Protect Biodiversity" campaign. Green Camel Bell depicted the plight of animals by showing a video of the fur-making process, and performed a skit called "Please respect my life", highlighting the great contrast between the glamour and the darker side of the fur industry. The cause was further publicized by holding a quiz, puzzle competition and by folding paper cranes to inform the public through entertainment. These games achieved good results: nearly one hundred people committed to rejecting fur, and pledged to be responsible consumers who care for life and for nature.

ii. Gansu's water resources conservation

Green Camel Bell's Water Resources Protection project is in its seventh year. The project's 3 objectives for 2012 have been: social supervision, sustained attention to the problem of water pollution, and maintaining the safety of the water environment. Water pollution has been

a serious issue in Lanzhou this year. On the back of this interest, GCB carried out the 'Lanzhou municipal sewage treatment conditions' follow-up survey, the 'Yellow River Happy Water' series of promotional and educational activities, and the International Theatre Education Forum, alongside regular pollution monitoring and control.

Lanzhou implemented the 'Full Sewage Collection and Treatment' project in 2009, laying 357 kilometers of rain water pipe network and constructing five sewage pump stations and three sewage treatment plants.



Site of activity about the "2012 Lanzhou International Community Drama Environmental Education Forum". Picture by Kang Xiaofeng.

Green Camel Bell volunteers conducted a follow-up survey on the effectiveness of the project's implementation. They monitored the news for relevant items, visited experts, completed field surveys, and interviewed members of the public and government. From the findings GCB produced a 10,000-word report, "Lanzhou's Yellow River sewage discharge, collection, and management survey".

The survey found that the urban sewage network is continually improving. In Lanzhou's Yanerwan, Qilihe Anning, Xigu and Yanchangbu areas, sewage treatment plants have been operating well. The positive effects of sewage collection, treatment, and management along the Yellow River in Lanzhou have been noticeable in recent years, and the Xigu sewage stream that Green Camel Bell was most concerned about is demonstrating effective waste storage and handling.

However, the urban sewage system still has a long way to go. There remain some small alley sewage pipes in Lanzhou that cannot be processed centrally, and further improvement to rain and sewage diversion is needed. Green Camel Bell will actively play the role of social supervision, ensuring that sustained attention is paid until the sewage discharge problem has been solved.

Volunteer activities have focused on the Upper Yellow River water environment. "Happy Water" has become one of Green Camel Bell's most well known water conservation projects, through exposure on Weibo, Douban and other social media sites. In the future the 'Happy Water' program will share more water protection tips, and more about the culture of the Yellow River. The 'Happy Water' project hopes to use the Yellow River as an outdoor classroom, raising public awareness of Lanzhou's main waterway.

Green Camel Bell has recently experimented with using drama as an education platform. In June 2011 Feng Leran from the American Community Drama Education came to Lanzhou to research and promote community drama education in communities, schools and other forums, with the help of GCB. Together we held a series of workshops, training more than 30 outstanding drama education volunteers. In June this year Green Camel Bell and Feng Leran held the weeklong "2012 Lanzhou International Community Drama Environmental Education Forum" in Lanzhou. Drama education experts from the United States, Spain, Hong Kong and other countries were invited to bring their depth of experience in environmental protection and drama education to the volunteers. The forum attracted widespread media attention and coverage in Lanzhou. The success of the forum in promoting environmental education was a valuable experience.

Green Camel Bell regularly surveys the Yellow River sewage outlets, taking photos and notes so that GCB can create a file and number for each outlet. Through this work, we have been able to compile a detailed sewage distribution map of the Yellow River in Lanzhou. In the process, Green Camel Bell has worked closely with the Lanzhou Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, operating as social supervisors.

Green Camel Bell's work continues to gain recognition and trust from the public and volunteers: in May 2012, we received a report that there were a number of Silicon Carbide production factories causing serious air and water pollution in the villages near the Liujiaxia Industrial Park in Linxia Yongjing County. Green Camel Bell staff immediately went to the Industrial Park



GCB project officer YuChao fetch the polluted water and test it .Picture by Luo Xiang.

to investigate the pollution and apply for public environmental information. We further communicated with government departments, and publicised health protection. The industrial park suspended production in July 2012 and by September most of the pollution had been greatly alleviated. However, in October the factory started production again. There is still a long way to go to solve this problem, and Green Camel Bell will continue to focus on the region's pollution issues.

Beginning in April environmental societies from 6 of Lanzhou's colleges began cooperating with Green Camel Bell on our Yellow River water resources conservation project, working on campaigns including the "Lanzhou Yellow River Biodiversity Statistics", "Happy Water", "Environmental Education", "Campus Conservation" and "The Yellow River Wetland Publicity" programs. Furthermore, we have held two society meet-ups and university eco-group support training. These activities have served to strengthen our links with NGOs and environmental groups to a certain extent, but have also increased youth

participation in environmental protection.

iii. Huining Ecological Agriculture Project

Green Camel Bell has put a lot of manpower, materials and financial resources into the Huining Ecological Agriculture and Cooperatives project since its launch in 2008, and it has yielded good results. The project has facilitated the establishment of ecological agriculture cooperatives in Huining's Niuhe village. The cooperatives feature an elected Council and Board of Supervisors. Women are full participants in the electoral process of the Council, and the co-op has elected a woman as a representative.

The project carried out a series of capacity-building training sessions to support the community, helping it to run independently through cooperatives. In addition, Green Camel Bell has held a series of cultural and recreational activities for our target groups of women and children to enhance community cohesion and participation. Many female representatives dedicated to serving the villagers have emerged through the process, and the mental outlook of women in the village has greatly improved.

In support of the 'Sixth Leaders' youth project, Green Camel Bell youth practitioner Wang Xuesong and community practitioner Liu Xiaomei launched a

series of women's interest groups in Niuhe village this year, donating audio equipment, CDs and other materials to the community. Group activities have included embroidery meet-ups, women's dance sessions, and crafts workshops. Under the leadership of Liu Xiaomei 15 female representatives are now actively involved in the organization. These activities enrich the cultural lives of the women, and provide the village's women with opportunities and a platform for self-expression.



GCB worker and volunteer teach the women dance to rich their free life. Picture by Xu Dingyan.

Between May 28 and June 10, the Student Services group of Hong Kong Baptist University came to visit the Niuhe village. GCB staff worked with the HKBU teachers and students to conduct agriculture and teaching support workshops in Niuhe village. These included one-on-one tutoring, women's craft activities, a community carnival and gatherings for the elderly. The villagers praised the workshops as a productive way of transferring knowledge and information.

“The mental outlook of the women in the village has greatly improved”

However, the arid climate has created problems once again and sunflower sales have presented significant challenges for the cooperatives. With this in mind, in February Green Camel Bell organized experts and volunteers to reassess the needs of the project. The team researched the community's use of energy, investigated women's cultural activities, and analyzed local environmental issues, the villager's knowledge of cooperatives and their relationship with loans. Our results showed that the development needs of the farmers and full adoption of environmental protection are still not working together effectively in Niuhe.

GCB staff have studied the technical aspects of carbon and carbon reduction, but we still lack the capacity to carry out environmental protection and livelihood development project work. Therefore after 4 years, in June 2012 GCB concluded the Huining Ecological Agriculture and Cooperatives Demonstration project. This does not mean we lose focus however - GCB will continue to enhance our operational capacity and find the right opportunity to contribute to the development of Huining.

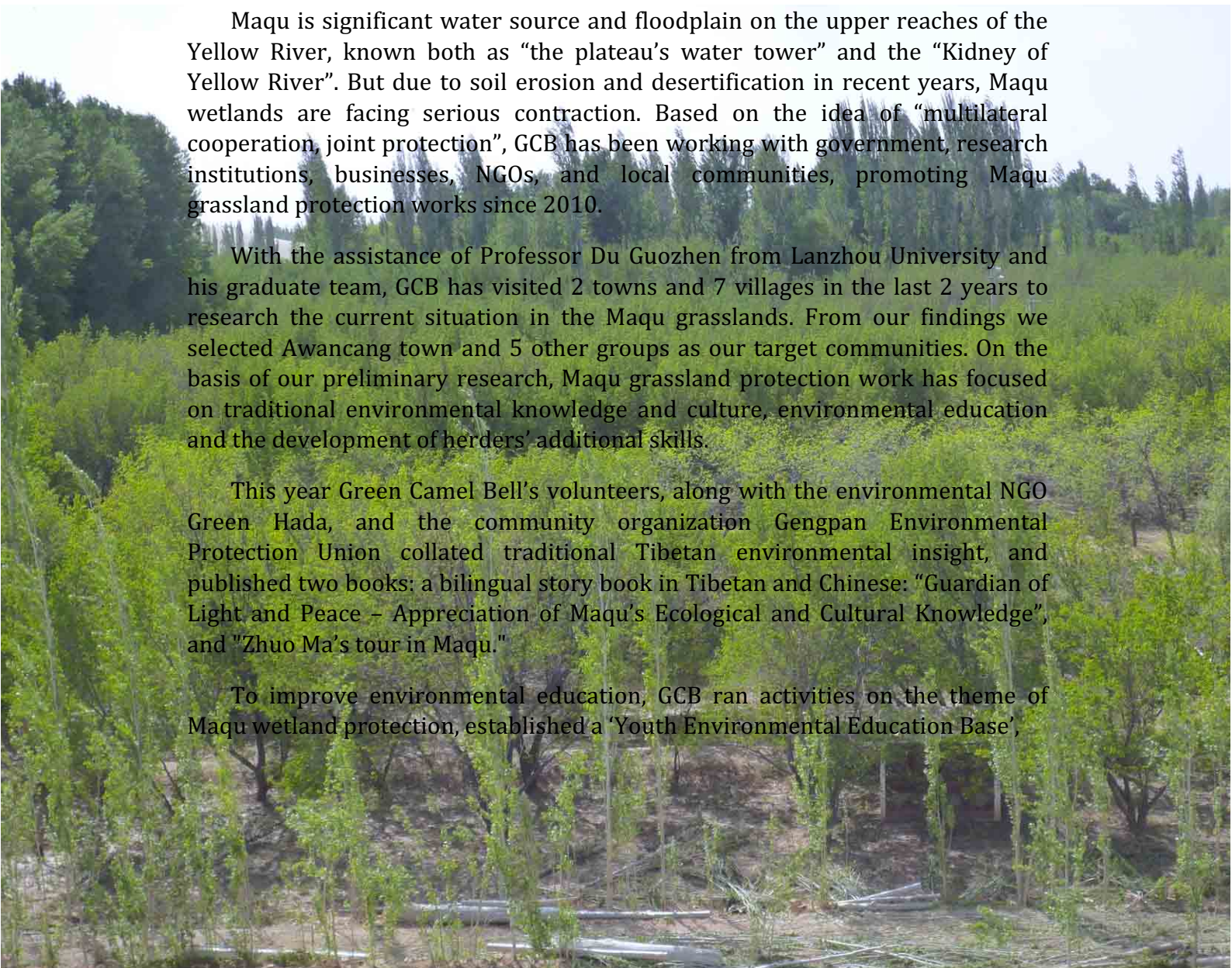
iv. Ma Qu Grassland Conservation Project

Maqu is significant water source and floodplain on the upper reaches of the Yellow River, known both as "the plateau's water tower" and the "Kidney of Yellow River". But due to soil erosion and desertification in recent years, Maqu wetlands are facing serious contraction. Based on the idea of "multilateral cooperation, joint protection", GCB has been working with government, research institutions, businesses, NGOs, and local communities, promoting Maqu grassland protection works since 2010.

With the assistance of Professor Du Guozhen from Lanzhou University and his graduate team, GCB has visited 2 towns and 7 villages in the last 2 years to research the current situation in the Maqu grasslands. From our findings we selected Awancang town and 5 other groups as our target communities. On the basis of our preliminary research, Maqu grassland protection work has focused on traditional environmental knowledge and culture, environmental education and the development of herders' additional skills.

This year Green Camel Bell's volunteers, along with the environmental NGO Green Hada, and the community organization Gengpan Environmental Protection Union collated traditional Tibetan environmental insight, and published two books: a bilingual story book in Tibetan and Chinese: "Guardian of Light and Peace - Appreciation of Maqu's Ecological and Cultural Knowledge", and "Zhuo Ma's tour in Maqu."

To improve environmental education, GCB ran activities on the theme of Maqu wetland protection, established a 'Youth Environmental Education Base',



and built the 'Local Youth Environment Education Platform' in Maqu County's Awancang Primary School. On the 1-3 August 2012, GCB also held a 'Bilateral Forum on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development - looking at our water sources' in Awancang town, encouraging communications between Maqu and the outside world.



Some environment educational books made by GCB.
Picture by Gesang Jinba.

Community building is another aim of the Green Camel Bell's work in Maqu. This year GCB launched the Gesang Community Learning Project as a starting point, and having established their needs, we held six community education events for herders. Lessons included: geographical knowledge and shooting skills, healthcare, basic skills, and external learning activities.

GCB provided herders with free cameras to enhance community participation and strengthen herders' sense of local pride. After two months of photography techniques lessons, the herders shot landscapes, animals and the culture of their hometowns from their own perspective. GCB selected the best photos published them in an illustrated book: "Nostalgia - Maqu herders' original photo collection." GCB held photography exhibitions in Maqu's Ge Saer Square, Qilihe in Lanzhou, at the Lanzhou University Library (United Lanzhou University Green Association) and at the Lanzhou Flowers Theatre to raise public awareness about Maqu and incentivize them to protect the grasslands, stirring significant public interest.

With environmental protection as its starting point, community at its center, and demand as its guide, the project has been able to carry out a wide range of community activities. GCB invited professional doctors to teach general knowledge of family hygiene, prevention and treatment of common diseases, precautions in caring for children and the elderly, and physiological and reproductive health guidance for herders. In basic skills training, Green Camel Bell organized for herders to learn basic computing skills, held sewing lessons for the women, and helped herders develop other skills that could support their livelihood. Additionally,



GCB launched the community learning activities. Picture by Gesang Jinba.

GCB staff members and members of Gengpan Environmental Protection Union in Maqu made a joint visit to the “Nuole” production plant where herders produce handmade yaks wool scarves.

We will continue to take care of the Maqu grasslands, The “Kidney of Yellow River”, just as we will continue to protect our own bodies.

v. Lanzhou Air Quality Observation Mission

In August 2012, Green Camel Bell joined the "measuring air quality for China" group, launched by the Beijing Green Beagle Environment Institute, and set up the Lanzhou Air Observation Mission. The network is committed to detecting and evaluating the city's air quality, to build a platform for the citizens, and impart a better scientific understanding of air quality to the city's inhabitants.

The Lanzhou Air Observation Mission was officially set up in September 2012 to investigate the formulation and implementation of Lanzhou's air pollution control policy, to keep the public informed and to undertake a public evaluation. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation were submitted to the relevant government departments.



GCB volunteer teach the resident in community how to test the PM2.5. Picture by Kang Xiaofeng .

The Mission has monitored PM2.5 levels, visited the Lanzhou Environmental Protection Agency air monitoring point, held meetings and activities with environmental protection departments, and enhanced scientific understanding of atmospheric monitoring amongst the public. These initiatives have helped to increase public participation in atmospheric monitoring, and to improve local air pollution control policy formulation and implementation. Green Camel Bell has also investigated motor vehicles, landfills and other sources of atmospheric

pollution in order raise public concern.

The "Measuring Air Quality for Lanzhou" campaign began in March 2012: volunteers used the CW-HAT200 portable PM2.5 detector at a fixed time and location every day to test air quality. The data was published on the Sina Weibo account @兰州空气观察团 and analysed weekly, designed to help the public understand real-time air pollution levels and take appropriate protective measures to avoid the hazards of PM2.5. The campaign also enhanced public participation in environmental monitoring, promoted disclosure of information, and used social media to interact with the public and students. During holidays GCB took the PM2.5 detector to schools, communities, parks and other public areas and held PM2.5 prevention campaigns in public. The campaign was covered by Chinanews.com, Fortune Magazine and other media outlets.

“Our independence and professional abilities are gradually being recognized by society”

Following the establishment of The Air Observation Mission, research began on the Clean Air Program's 'industrial boiler reform' and 'petrol to gas' campaigns. The Lanzhou Air Observation Mission has assessed many pollution sources in the city including as coal and landfill sites. In 2012 we focused on the Qilihe Garage and petrol stations, the Fulongping, Xijinning and Qingbaishi landfills, the Yehugou waste disposal sites and the proposed Zhongbuzi garbage incineration plant.

As a result of the investigation, the Lanzhou Air Observation Mission has submitted 5 applications to the Lanzhou Environmental Protection Bureau and other relevant departments to apply for relevant information disclosure. Through their efforts the Mission has been successful in receiving requested information and a response. In 2012, Lanzhou Air Observation Mission also initiated 'Qingbaishi landfill observers', 'record our Lanzhou sky', 'send Lanzhou traffic police face masks', and other activities to get the attention and support of friends from all walks of life.



vi. Sustainable rural transformation project

In May 2011, the Green Camel Bell Lingzhi Foundation began a consultation and evaluation of poverty alleviation in Ruoli Village in Baiyin City, Jingyuan County. This is the first independent consultation project undertaken by Green Camel Bell, demonstrating that our professional abilities are gradually being recognized by society. Through this project consultation, GCB are constantly enhancing their business skills and strengthening the dialogue between the government, NGOs and foundations.

Ruoli village is located in the southwest of Jingyuan County. The territory has sparse vegetation, steep mountains, deep valleys and weak conditions for agricultural production. The Lingzhi Foundation and Baiyin municipal government reached an agreement: to strive for sustainability and on the basis of rural poverty alleviation and sustainable rural life, with the specific aims of improving production and living conditions of 178 farmers in Ruoli village by developing the use of water resources, and promoting sustainable agricultural development. The project includes the renovation of old houses, road

building, tap water in homes, the construction of a village center cultural square, micro-credit, and technical training.

Through this project Green Camel Bell hope that NGOs might become better integrated into rural areas, that the farmers understand the project's content, and in particular to ensure that women participate, whilst making sure that the implementation process is fair, open, just and and ultimately promoting sustainable community development.



GCB expert and volunteer do the evaluation in Jingyuan .Picture by Xu Dingyan.

Since the project began, Green Camel Bell has organized experts and volunteers to visit Ruoli village, conducting in-home interviews, group interviews, drawing a community season calendar and community resource map, and holding a discussion on the interests of stakeholders. From these investigations GCB was able to give their assessment and recommendations for the community.

On the whole, the project has addressed the needs of the farmers, and benefitted the community and so the farmers are enthusiastic in their participation. The Foundation, project executors and NGOs are devoted to fully improving production and living conditions in Ruoli village, and promote the sustainable development of the community.

vii. Public welfare law

Environmental problems in Gansu are complex and diverse, and the resolution of many of them requires the involvement of legal action. One of Green Camel Bell's greatest practical challenges is how to use legal measures to carry out environmental protection work. Due to the lack of staff with legal backgrounds the operation and the management of our organization confront potential legal risks. In January, with support of the US Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), Green Camel Bell conducted the "Cooperative Project with Lawyers in the Environment Field" project in Gansu. This aimed to enhance legal knowledge amongst Green Camel Bell's staff, promote regional environmental protection work within legal regulations, and to ensure lawful practices play an even greater role in environmental protection organizations.

First, Green Camel Bell extended the understanding of laws and regulations. Our public welfare lawyer regularly holds public lectures, and learning and sharing activities for Green Camel Bell staff and volunteers. Staff and volunteers gained basic knowledge of environmental laws and regulations, the government's information disclosure system, and the law of environmental impact assessment, and so on. These studies have significantly helped Green Camel Bell to carry out its work.



GCB staff apply the information disclosed to government. Picture by Yu Chao.

Secondly, Green Camel Bell has put a lot of effort into seeking government environmental information disclosure: between 2008 and 2012 GCB staff submitted 35 applications for information disclosure to 23 government departments. Through the application system it is evident that the government is trying to legally improve environmental information disclosure, step by step. In the meantime the majority of government departments are establishing a standardized channel and independent directors for environmental information disclosure. Although there have been some improvements, most government departments exceed the time limit for response, they are often unwilling to reply, and require applicants to constantly call or follow-up in person. It is clear that we still need greater public participation and further efforts to promote environmental information disclosure.

Of course our public welfare law work has encountered many difficulties and setbacks, such as the departure of our public welfare lawyer, a shortage of experience, and an underestimation of the risks and problems. Nonetheless Green Camel Bell still believes that only by understanding and abiding by the law can non-governmental environmental protection organizations promote their work in Gansu.

4. Acknowledgements

Green Camel Bell's achievements over the past year would not have been possible without the help and support of many organisations and people. We would like to extend our most sincere thanks once again to the following organizations and individuals:

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GCB volunteer support:

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We would like to sincerely thank all the friends of the non-governmental organizations, the director of Green Camel Bell, consultants, staff, interns and volunteers. It is only through our joint efforts that Green Camel Bell has developed and grown to where it is today, that public environmental awareness is where it is, that environmental protection has been promoted in the West of China, and that Green Camel Bell has such bright prospects for development.

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Thank you!

Green Camel Bell, Gansu Province, Environment and Development Center

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