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2006 Green Camel Bell Project Summary

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1. A Brief Introduction to Green Camel Bell

When Green Camel Bell (GCB) was established on November 4, 2004, it was the first civic environmental organization in the Gansu region. It is devoted to environmental protection in western China, and it contributes to the improvement of the compromised and declining ecosystems of western China. In keeping with its constitution, purpose, and objectives, GCB has focused on the following work since its establishment: promoting environmental protection in Gansu, adopting effective measures to resolve environmental problems in Gansu, educating elementary and secondary school students in environmental protection, promoting the development of environmental associations in Gansu's colleges and universities, and organizing training and capacity building projects for environmental volunteers. GCB plays an active role in Gansu's environmental protection, environmental education, and the growth of local environmental organizations.



Since its establishment, Green Camel Bell has successfully conducted activities including "Fruit for Greeting Cards", the "Gansu Flash Design Contest for Environmental Protection", "A Green China Welcomes the Olympics – Protecting our Mother Rivers", the "Gansu College Students' Green Camps of 2005 and 2006", and the "Cropland Conversion to Forest and Grassland, and the College Students Forum". In addition, GCB has completed the first and second "Saiga Antelope Horn Market Surveys", and has conducted a series of environmental education projects including "Environmental Education in Minqin County", the "Antelope Car Environmental Education Training Project", "Building an Environmental Education Base in Lanzhou", and "Speaking at the Lanzhou Zoo". GCB has drawn up the first "green map" of Lanzhou and has published and distributed materials on environmental protection such as the "Green Camel Bell Newsletter" and the "Collected Works of the Gansu College Students' Green Camp". GCB's current projects include the "Gansu Water Protection Project", the "Local Environmental Teaching Materials on Desertification in Minqin, Gansu Project", and the "Capacity Building Project for Environmental Organizations in Gansu".

2. Routine Duties and Organizational Growth

1) Office



With the financial help of the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF), Green Camel Bell took possession of a permanent office in March 2006. The office is located in Room 102, Unit 4, Building 17, MingRen HuaYuan, in the Qilihe District of Lanzhou City, and it neighbors the Lanzhou University of Technology and Lanzhou's south bus station. The GCB office serves as a Gansu environmental resource center. Since its opening, GCB has held a series of exchanges on environmental protection including GCB regular meetings, training sessions, and discussions. In July 2006,

GCB and the Lanzhou University Community Development Center held the "Sixth Gansu NGO Tea House — How to Implement Capacity Building" in its office. Representatives from over ten NGOs attended the forum, including Oxfam Hong Kong, the Gansu NGO Alliance, the Donghua Community Service Center of Huating County, and the Lanzhou Muslim Association for Cultural Education.

2) Environmental Resource Center

With the support of various organizations and institutions, GCB's supply of books and video resources on the environment was further enriched in 2006. Today, the Green Camel Bell Environmental Resource Center boasts nearly 200 VCD disks and over two-thousand books, magazines and newsletters.

Meanwhile, we are procuring books and audio-visual materials regarding Gansu's water environment through the Gansu Water Environment Project and the Capacity Building Project for Gansu Environmental Protection Associations, providing environmental protection organizations and volunteers with a Gansu water environment database for study and consultation. We plan on a 20% increase in the number of books and audio-visual materials in the Green Camel Bell Environmental Resource Center by October 2007, when the Capacity Building Project for Gansu Environmental Protection Associations will come to an end.

However, the 2006 borrowing rate for GCB's environmental resources was not very high. In 2007, GCB will use publicity and dissemination to raise the material utilization rate and enable the Environmental Resource Center to play a greater role.

3) Organizational Development

With the support of the Gansu Water Environment Project, Green Camel Bell was equipped with full-time staff members in July 2006. Currently, there are two full-time personnel in charge of administration and programs. In addition, there are nearly one hundred volunteers, including over ten core volunteers. These volunteers come from all walks of life and include students, teachers, government workers, business staff, and members of the media

In March 2006, GCB registered member associations. A total of thirteen environmental protection associations from twelve colleges and universities in Lanzhou have registered as GCB member associations.

After consulting with experts and studying other organizations, the first Green Camel Bell Board of Directors was established. This was done in order to improve internal supervision and to stay connected to the greater society by means of promotion, advocacy, financing, and credibility, ensuring the organization's sustainable development. Members of the GCB Board of Directors come from Gansu's local colleges, universities, and institutes, social organizations, government departments, and businesses. Some are experts in environmental science and ecology, while others are active participants and observers of Gansu's environmental and ecological issues. In June 2006, GCB held its first Board of Directors meeting, and the Board of Directors interviewed and selected full-time staffers for Green Camel Bell.

In 2006, GCB made progress in its civil affairs registration work. We have consulted with the Gansu Department of Civil Affairs regarding the civil affairs registration procedures and formalities for social organizations. We submitted a report to the Gansu Environmental Protection Bureau requesting that it serve as the department in charge of GCB.

At the same time, the work of Green Camel Bell in organizational development during 2006 was lacking in several aspects. These primarily included: a lack of stability, professional knowledge, and experience in project and organizational management among the full-time staff and volunteers; poor participation by volunteers in the organization's various projects and development programs; a lack of open, democratic discussion within GCB; a severe decline in volunteer training during the second half of the year; gravely insufficient contact with and support for GCB member associations; a failure to fully utilize the managerial and supervisory functions of the Board of Directors; the general suspension of the Board's work after August 2006; the need for more directors who identify with GCB's philosophies; and the suspension of civil affairs registration work after August 2006.

Because deficiencies in organizational development have greatly impeded the growth of GCB, strengthening its organizational development will be vital task for the immediate future. The key points of GCB's organizational development in 2007 will be: recruiting long-term, stable, full-time personnel; enhancing member capabilities; mobilizing volunteer participation; giving full rein to the Board of Directors; and completing civil affairs registration as quickly as possible. Due to the limited energies of the organization and the short-term developmental focus, GCB will temporarily suspend the individual and association membership system in 2007.

3. Environmental Protection Exchanges

1) Environmental Education

Green Camel Bell adjusted its environmental education in 2006. In 2005, GCB sent volunteers from Lanzhou's colleges and universities to a school to conduct environmental education. Now, we help college and university associations independently conduct environmental education in their neighboring elementary and secondary schools. In early 2006, we evaluated environmental education volunteers. Based on the evaluation results, we organized training in areas such as the psychology of environmental education and expanding team capabilities. Meanwhile, we combined environmental education with GCB projects, enriching the format and content of environmental education. For example, in 2006 GCB added a component of environmental education to the Green Map Project and Speaking at the Lanzhou Zoo, which was popular with elementary students and volunteers.

Through meetings, training sessions, mailings, and phone calls, GCB maintained ties and cooperation with other environmental education NGOs. Our environmental education capabilities were heightened through constant study and sharing.

The keystone of GCB environmental education in 2007 will be coordinating with the Gansu Water Environment Project. This project will involve primary environmental education on the topics of water conservation, safe drinking water, and reducing daily and agricultural pollution.

2) Local Environmental Teaching Materials on Desertification in Minqin, Gansu

In August 2005, with the financial help of the CECPA (China Environmental Culture Promotion Association), Green Camel Bell launched the Local Environmental Teaching Materials on Desertification in Minqin, Gansu Project. The purpose of this project is to write local teaching materials on desertification for Minqin County students in grades 7 ~ 9, to disseminate information on desertification, and to promote effective means of preventing desertification. The purpose is also to incorporate environmental education into local education, raising its overall quality and creating the sentiment and desire to support one's hometown. In addition, this experience with teaching materials can be assimilated and referenced by other regions of desertification as it uses the creation of teaching materials as a demonstration point and resource for desertification-prevention and local education.



In October 2006, GCB completed a first draft of the Local Environmental Teaching Materials on Desertification in Minqin, Gansu. This draft is approximately 36,000 characters and is divided into three parts -- Problems and Concepts, Main Text, and After School Activities. Images make up about 35% of the material. It covers five topics: Recognizing the Desert, Types of Desertification, The Influence of Desertification on Daily Life, Desertification Prevention, and Case Studies.

However, there are some problems with this first draft. For instance, certain expressions would

seem strange to the students, and it lacks regional characters. What is more, it requires professional guidance in terms of editing, geography, etc. In 2007, GCB will work together with the Sustainable Development Education Center of Northwest Normal University to further improve the content of the Local Environmental Teaching Materials on Desertification in Minqin, Gansu and will try it out in a Minqin County junior high school.

3) Speaking at the Lanzhou Zoo

In April 2006, Green Camel Bell held a two-week training program involving volunteers from various colleges and universities in Lanzhou. The program, called the Lanzhou Zoo Speech Training Project for University Student Volunteers, invited Mr. Zhang Lixun (School of Life Science, Lanzhou University), Mr. Zhang Xu (head of the of Lanzhou Zoo animal management team) and Mr. Zhang Guilin (Wildlife Management Section of the Gansu Wild Animals and Plants Bureau) to share with the volunteers their knowledge of issues such as the habits and characteristics of animals in the Lanzhou Zoo, a brief introduction to the zoo, its special features and interesting anecdotes, and wildlife protection and management. Following the theory portion of the training, we went to the zoo where Lanzhou Zoo Director Zhang Yulin and Ms. He Li, manager of the Gansu China Travel Service, conducted theory training in animal habits and the responsibilities of the zoo guides, and practical training in how to speak at the zoo. A total of 51 volunteers from nine universities and colleges in Lanzhou participated in the training. Following field work and examinations, 26 of these student volunteers became official speakers for the Lanzhou Zoo. On May Day, they took advantage of the holiday to stroll around the zoo and present visitors with talks. They received good reviews from the visitors and were welcomed by the zoo.



On the foundation of the student volunteer speaking activities at the Lanzhou Zoo, GCB initiated the Lanzhou Zoo Youth Speaking Project in October 2006. In speaking activities lasting a month, over fifty student volunteers from Donggang Xilu School No. 2 went to the Lanzhou Zoo where they shared their knowledge of wildlife protection and advised against inappropriate visitor behavior. Over ten university student volunteers from Lanzhou University, Northwest University for Nationalities, and Gansu Lianhe University helped the young volunteers with their speeches. GCB printed 8,000 bookmarks with images of Gansu's rare wild animals, which volunteers handed out to visitors.

The Speaking at the Lanzhou Zoo Project not only spreads the word about environmental protection, it also cultivates volunteers and provides them with an opportunity for volunteer service. Through their service, they are influencing the individuals around them and their society.

At the invitation of the Lanzhou Zoo, GCB will organize volunteers to come to the zoo and conduct talks during May Day and October 1st.

4) Green Map System

In early 2006, Green Camel Bell applied with Green Map headquarters in New York City to become the sole entity in Lanzhou (and the third on the mainland) authorized for the GREEN MAP SYSTEM and began drawing up the first green map of the Lanzhou region. GCB would like to encourage others to make their own green-life maps and, via map-making, better observe, care for, respect, and protect the environments in which they live. We hope that more people will come to understand green concepts through this fun process, and that the seeds of cherishing the earth will be

sown and grow to full bloom.



We selected Lanzhou's Waterwheel Museum and Sports Theme Park along the Yellow River as "testing fields". Following recruitment and special training, there were over ten volunteers from schools including Lanzhou Commercial College, Lanzhou University, and Lanzhou Polytechnical College to participate in creating green maps. In June 2006, after three months of hard work, GCB finished two maps of the areas near Lanzhou's Zhongli Bridge. Each map is approximately 2 meters long and 1.5 meters wide and details the green spaces, gardens, and bird-watching

spots to the east and west of Zhongli Bridge. They also include unique buildings, community centers, playgrounds, bike lanes, etc. In addition, as an environmental education activity, we organized and guided fourth-grade students from Zhanjiaying Elementary School in drawing up 23 green maps of their school.

Afterwards, the green maps created by volunteers and primary students were exhibited at Northwest Normal University and Lanzhou Resource & Environment Voc-tech College. We had originally planned on the desktop publishing of the Lanzhou green maps. However, this plan was not carried out due to personnel changes at Green Camel Bell.

In 2007, we will continue to combine the green map activity with environmental education. As a part of its environmental education activities, GCB has students draw beautiful campuses and towns.

5) Green Camel Bell Electronic Newsletter

Green Camel Bell started to issue the "Green Camel Bell Electronic Newsletter" (<http://www.greencambell.ngo.cn/newsletter>) in March 2006 on the foundation of two issues of the "Green Camel Bell Newsletter" edited and published in 2005. The newsletter serves as a way for Gansu's environmental protection organizations and volunteers to study environmental information, and as a window for outsiders to understand environmental problems and the growth of civic environmental protection organizations in Gansu. The "Green Camel Bell Electronic Newsletter" is issued every one to two months. Seven editions have been issued. The newsletter covers the latest trends, GCB documents, project descriptions, press releases, study materials, environmental impressions, notes on important events, etc. It is sent swiftly and inexpensively to GCB members and other organizations and individuals through network dissemination methods such as websites, e-mails, and BBS.



In December of 2006, GCB conducted the 2006 "Green Camel Bell Electronic Newsletter" reader survey. In keeping with everyone's suggestions, the Newsletter in 2007 will be richer and have more knowledge-based content, guaranteeing both original information and more practical knowledge on environmental protection for the readers to enjoy. In addition, we will conduct in-depth investigations and analyses of certain environmental problems in and around Gansu. If funds are sufficient, Green Camel Bell will select the best of the electronic newsletter items and publish them in conjunction with GCB projects.

6) Communication with other Groups and Individuals

In 2006, Green Camel Bell maintained lasting and stable contact with other organizations and individuals in China and abroad. Through measures such as meetings, training sessions, emails, and

phone calls, we studied the successful experiences of other organizations and individuals and shared our own failures and successes with everyone, promoting the growth of more organizations.

Bai Shengxia, a volunteer from South Korea's Konyang University, completed a three-month NGO internship in Lanzhou. He was invited by GCB in February 2006. This activity promoted contacts with volunteers abroad and provided experience in recruiting interns.

4. Green Camel Bell Projects

1) Gansu Water Environment Project

In July 2006, Green Camel Bell started a two-year Gansu Water Environment Project. This project has five components: 1) establishing a Gansu water environment database and a list of Gansu's water polluters; 2) publicizing and educating about the water environment in the city; 3) publicizing and educating about the water environment in rural areas; 4) conducting organizational capacity building, training green personnel, and improving the capabilities of environmental volunteers; and 5) promoting public participation in policy and the public's right to know. Its purpose is to increase awareness among the public residing along the banks of the Yellow River regarding how to prevent polluting the Yellow River and how to conserve water resources. Another goal is to influence people's life views and production awareness through actual actions and promote a harmonious society of environmental protection throughout the Yellow River watershed.



The following tasks have been completed within the scope of this project: 1) Collecting and compiling information from press reports since November 2006 about problems with the water environment in Gansu Province; 2) collecting and compiling a list of 39 water polluting businesses in the two cities of Lanzhou and Baiyin, conducting GPS location of 34 of these water polluters, and posting them on the GCB website and the China Water Pollution Map (<http://www.ipe.org.cn>); 3) conducting a needs assessment for the residents of Mingren Huayuan in terms of a "green community", for which a total of 113 valid surveys were returned; 4) collecting and testing eight water samples in an investigation of the pollution problems of the Baiyin section of the Yellow River and



conducting a survey of 62 local residents which involved collecting 22 valid surveys regarding pollution in the Baiyin section and completing a survey report; 5) setting specific projects for the investigation of the Jingyuan county and Guochengyi – Huining county sections of the Zuli River – a Yellow River tributary – as follow-up work upon completion of the current project.

Because the Gansu water environment project was GCB's first independent long-term project, there was a lack of experience in project management. In addition, there was a marked lack of professionalism in the project's implementation. More participation by personnel with professional knowledge is required.

In 2007, GCB will continue to investigate water polluting businesses, conduct educational activities in rural and municipal communities, and promote the concept of "green consumption", prompting consumers to reject the products of water polluting businesses.

2) Green Journalists' Salon

Beijing Green Earth launched the Green Journalists' Salon Project throughout China, and Green Camel Bell served as its main entity in the Gansu region. Following preliminary study and preparations,

the Green Journalists' Salon Project will be an important item of work for GCB in 2007. Specific tasks will include:

- 1) Establishing a Gansu Green News Network and ensuring timely maintenance and regular updates with Gansu's latest environmental news;
- 2) Promoting openness regarding environmental information;
- 3) Regularly holding journalists' salons, inviting reporters to discuss Gansu's environmental problems and events with experts, volunteers, and everyday people;
- 4) Recruiting an environmental news specialist, training him/her in news editing, and posting his/her reactions to local environmental issues;
- 5) Strengthening the exchange between Gansu's "salon" and the national network to reflect the active role that should be played by Gansu's Green Journalists' Salon network as an integral part of the nationwide Green Journalists' Salon network, and stepping up the contributions of the Gansu network to the national network.

3) Gansu College Students' Green Camp

In June 2006, Green Camel Bell published 200 copies of the 170,000-character "Collected Works of the Gansu College Students' Green Camp 2005" to exchange with green camp organizations and environmental organizations and individuals around the country.

The Gansu College Students' Green Camp formally opened on July 24, 2006. Forty-five college volunteers from Gansu Province and beyond, including Lanzhou University, Northwest Normal University, Gansu Agricultural University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Beijing Jiaotong University, and Huazhong Agricultural University, were divided into two teams. One group went to the Gannan Ruogai Wetlands, and the other went to Xiaolongshan National Nature Reserve in Tianshui for fifteen days of environmental investigation and promotional activities.



In the afternoon of July 28, a team arrived at the Yellow River where Gansu's Maqu County borders Sichuan Province. At approximately 1:30 pm, three members of the team swam out to an island in the middle of the river. After swimming to the island, a female team member, Miss Xu, felt that her strength had given out and that she had no energy to swim back to the river bank, and so asked for assistance from her teammates on the shore. To help his teammate in distress, Gao Fulang volunteered to swim to the island and bring a "lifesaver" (a rescue item made of over ten empty plastic bottles). Around 4:00 pm, while swimming back with Miss Xu, Gao Fulang was carried away by the waters of the Yellow River. It was an unspeakable tragedy. He was only 21 years old. The activity was stopped immediately, and most of the team members returned to Lanzhou. On August 1, Gao Fulang's family members arrived in Maqu County. The team members who stayed behind gave a detailed description of the incident and accompanied them to the accident site. On August 4, the Maqu County police issued a death certificate for Gao Fulang. The Lanzhou Evening News, Huaxing Times, and Jinghua Times reported on Gao Fulang's bravery. In August and October, Green Camp teammates of Gao Fulang went to Ningxia to visit his family. In November, Beijing's Haidian District Civil Administration Bureau bestowed on Gao Fulang the title "Acting Courageously for a Just Cause". GCB has established a "Gao Fulang Memorial" on the internet, proposed donations to the Gao family, and invited assistant professor of psychology Pan Aiying from Lanzhou University to provide counseling for Green Camp members.

In 2007, GCB will continue to look back on the 2006 Gansu College Students' Green Camp

accident, on the insufficiencies of GCB's preparations and organization, and on the lessons learned. We will also support the family of Gao Fulang in making arrangements such as insurance claims and by raising money for them through various means.

4) The Second Saiga Antelope Horn Market Survey



On the foundation of the first Saiga antelope horn market survey, Green Camel Bell, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in China, and the Environmental Protection Association of the Gansu College of Traditional Chinese Medicine together conducted a second survey of the Saiga antelope horn market in Gansu in 2006. In this survey of Gansu's Saiga antelope horn market, we analyzed the threat to Saiga antelopes posed by the horn trade, examined the sources of illegal trading, and proposed possible solutions.

By sampling more than twenty businesses in Lanzhou's Chinese herbal medicine market and more than thirty pharmacies, the project's team members came to a basic understanding of the Saiga antelope horn market distribution in Lanzhou. They consulted with experts from Gansu's Wildlife Administration and the Gansu College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and provided reliable data to further protect these animals.

5. Capacity Building

1) Training and Practice

In 2006, Green Camel Bell sent over fifty people to attend civic organization training sessions in Lanzhou, Beijing, and Xi'an to enhance our capabilities and strengthen our ties with other environmental protection organizations. This training boosted our ties and communications with other organizations, expanded our volunteer corps, and greatly enhanced the capabilities of our members.

In March 2006, GCB conducted a capacity building needs assessment for Gansu's student environmental associations in order to explore the common problems faced by those associations, discuss solutions, reach consensus, and make specific plans for improving the capabilities of Gansu's student environmental associations. Based on these assessment results, GCB organized fourteen training sessions in 2006 in conjunction with its projects, and over 450 volunteers participated.



2) Promoting the Growth of Environmental Associations in Local Colleges and Universities

The main force behind Green Camel Bell is student volunteers. GCB was established and built up on the foundation of Gansu's college and university environmental associations through the consolidation of resources, the establishment of exchange platforms, and the joint hosting of activities. In 2006, with GCB's further development and organizational shifts, more and more citizens joined us in our work, and the location of GCB projects extended from the campus to urban and rural communities. However, promoting the growth of Gansu's college and university environmental associations is still one of our most important tasks.



GCB made full use of the Lanzhou Environmental Resource Center, sharing its books, materials, funds, and information sources with environmental associations. We supported associations in designing activities based on their own special characteristics and strengths and provided them with timely guidance and help. We spread information about small-scale funding such as the GreenSOS Fund and encouraged associations to raise money through various channels. In mid-2006, members of Green Camel Bell went to

the Lanzhou Resource & Environment Voc-tech College to deliver a course of lectures on environmental protection and assisted in training team members for Lanzhou University's Darwin Association Wetlands Project. In addition, as a partner in the College Environmental Forum, GCB recommended nine core members of Gansu's student environmental organizations to attend the "Third College Environmental Forum" in Xi'an. In this way, these students' overall capabilities in association and project management were enhanced, and communication and cooperation between Gansu's university organizations and the organizations of other regions were promoted.

Over the past year, environmental volunteers from Lanzhou's colleges and universities have actively participated in the training sessions organized by GCB, and all of our projects have involved student volunteers. These volunteers were core members of college and university environmental associations, and they will use the theoretical knowledge and practical experiences gained here to grow their groups.

Furthermore, projects such as Speaking at the Lanzhou Zoo (in which the Environmental Protection Association of Northwest University for Nationalities participated) and the Saiga antelope horn market survey (in which the Environmental Protection Association of the Gansu College of Traditional Chinese Medicine participated) provided these associations with precious opportunities to study and practice.

3) Advancing the Development of NGOs in Gansu

Due to regional, economic, and historical factors, NGOs in Gansu got off to a late start and are relatively backward. Green Camel Bell was the first civic environmental protection organization in Gansu Province and is the only environmental protection NGO in Lanzhou with a professional staff, permanent office, stable capital, and long-term projects. As an environmental NGO, all of GCB's projects aimed at environmental protection in western China are quite innovative for Gansu. Because no pre-existing experiences conform to the realities of Gansu, we have had to feel our way through the growing process by studying the development of other organizations. And GCB has shared with other NGOs our own story regarding the experiences accumulated and problems encountered along the way. New NGOs such as the "Lanzhou Friends of Harmony Development Center", the "Save Minqin Association", and the "Jincheng Environmental Protection Network" have grown with the help of GCB. We have also provided resources such as the Lanzhou Environmental Resource Center to other NGOs free-of-charge.

6. Promoting Public Participation in Policy and the Public's Right to Know

The May 29 Lanzhou Petrochemical explosion and the Lanzhou Trolley Bus Preservation Initiative served as milestones in the history of Green Camel Bell in mid-2006. These two incidents marked the beginnings of GCB's attempts to participate in social issues and promote public

participation in policy and the public's right to know in addition to its conventional activities of publicity, education, and training.

1) The May 29 Lanzhou Petrochemical Explosion

On May 29, 2006 at 3:32 pm, a fire broke out in the aniline waste unit of the Lanzhou Petrochemical Company's organic chemical plant, which had halted production for an overhaul. The company took measures immediately following the accident, activating fire dams and closing the waste water system, preventing water contamination. An analysis conducted by the Environmental Protection Department indicated that the quality of the waters in proximity of the drain valves still met national standards. In the early morning of May 30, the Gansu Provincial People's Government used its official website and other means of communication to report on accident management and water quality monitoring and to keep the provinces and regions situated along the Yellow River informed. Meanwhile, people from Lanzhou and other cities downriver started to store water as soon as they heard about the contamination of the river on the evening of the incident. Due to a lack of information, a degree of panic took hold of the citizens.

Midday on May 30, Green Camel Bell gathered for an emergency meeting to discuss the issue. The members present at this meeting agreed to treat this matter as an acute crisis for the environment and public. Given the strengths of the environmental NGO, they decided to get involved in this matter on the three levels of information transmission, conducting surveys, and supervising public participation. Their tasks were detailed as follows:

1) Getting in touch with government authorities and related units to gather first-hand information and making announcements on the internet, on college campuses, and in public places to keep the people up-to-date and to prevent any rumor-related panic.

2) Conducting surveys to learn the opinions and sentiments of the people and forwarding the results to the respective authorities, giving a voice to the people and encouraging public participation.

3) Using all available information channels to heighten awareness among the inhabitants of the cities and towns downriver.

4) Establishing mechanisms for environmental NGOs to deal with the long-term consequences of acute environmental problems.

In view of the pressing nature of the issue, GCB also set tasks for the immediate future, summoning all its resources to:

1) Collect pictures (of the site, the nearby river and air, and of Lanzhou city and surroundings), official data (from monitoring stations and sociological surveys), and resources on the danger posed by aniline to the human body, as well as second-hand materials (on the categorization of environmental disasters and on previous incidents of contamination in the Yellow River.) Additionally, GCB decided to create maps (illustrating the exact location of the accident, the plant's drain valves, and Lanzhou city's water intakes.)

2) Spread information via posters, the internet, community announcements, etc. (At a later stage, these would be accompanied by lectures, press releases, and exchanges.)

3) Participate in this matter primarily as a representative of the people, performing and supervising activities and keeping an eye on any new developments. Moreover, GCB aimed at working closely with the authorities and looked for opportunities to participate in research, press conferences, etc.

Green Camel Bell searched the public media, the internet, and other documents for news reports, commentaries, information on the measures taken following the accident, press releases, relevant legal documents, on-site photos, information regarding the characteristics of the chemical substances

involved and their environmental effects, and a definition and examples of acute water pollution. This information was published via the GCB website and newsletter. At the same time, we designed large notices that included a brief introduction to the issue, countermeasures for acute water pollution, and background information on the water sources of Lanzhou city. As it turned out, this accident did not have any serious environmental ramifications, so the panic quickly subsided and we did not carry out our original plan to inform the public via posters and notices. Regrettably, both the government and company declined our requests for information and our offers to participate. We were hoping offices such as the Gansu Environmental Protection Bureau or the Gansu Environmental Monitoring Station would provide water quality data for the Yellow River following the incident, and we were hoping to gain access to the plant to have a look at the fire dams and the closed waste water system, but those hopes were not realized.

For this incident, Green Camel Bell's "sense of participation exceeded the actual actions taken". Even though our attempts at public participation and the sharing of government information did not go smoothly, GCB took an extremely important step. We shared our information and our plan of action with other organizations, providing a reference for measures to be taken by NGOs in the event of future environmental incidents.

2) Preserving the Trolley Buses of Lanzhou

On July 22, a front page article in the Lanzhou Daily announced "Upcoming Changes in the Public Bus System", reporting that the city of Lanzhou intended to officially stop trolley bus No. 32 on July 26, 2006, followed by No. 34 on October 26, 2006. There are two different opinions regarding the environmental friendliness of trolley buses. Some people view them as an ecologically sound transportation option due to advantages such as zero emissions. Others disagree, pointing out that trolley buses are vulnerable to power outages and disconnection, causing traffic jams which result in high emissions from the stopped vehicles. They consider the idea of "environment-friendly" trolley buses to be a misconception. These people also indicate that Lanzhou city's public transport is mainly running on natural gas now – a relatively clean energy source.

Consequently, we resolved first to collect official scientific data on the benefits of trolley buses. If we were able to prove the environmental friendliness of trolley buses, we would present the government and businesses with a proposal to preserve Lanzhou's trolley buses. But if we failed to prove the ecological benefits, we would not try to save the trolley buses simply for the sake of saving them. We would discontinue the initiative right away and start a new project on green public transport. Taking advantage of how the trolley bus issue had gained the public's attention and sentimentality, we would urge people to consider selecting greener and more environmentally friendly modes of travel.

We received a great deal of vital information from clean energy and sustainable transportation experts of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), from the Green Volunteer League of Chongqing which had held the "Chongqing trolley bus preservation" initiative, and from trolley bus enthusiasts on the internet. This information proved that trolley buses are better than public transport running on diesel (natural gas) in terms of overall benefits, including life cycle, environmental friendliness, city and tourism development, and quality of life.

With financial support from the NRDC, a "Green Journalists' Salon" was held in Lanzhou on August 15, 2006, with the participation of China Green Earth volunteers, the China Environmental Culture Promotion Association and the Gansu Broadcast Association. Professor Li Dun from Qinghua University held a lecture on the topic "Healing the Environment – A Mock Hearing", clearly explaining the different aspects of the "hearing" step in the decision-making process, and conducting an analysis and introduction. The question of whether Lanzhou city should stop trolley buses No. 32 and 34

served as the case at hand. The participants of this lecture were divided into groups, each group representing a different opinion. The group members argued in favor of their group's position and participated in a mock "hearing". At the end, Professor Li gave individual feedback.

In October 2006, Green Camel Bell conducted an online survey in cooperation with the Lanzhou Internet Portal and the Lanzhou Information Harbor (<http://www.lzxxg.com/diaocha.asp>) to ascertain attitudes toward the discontinuation of some of the trolley buses in Lanzhou. The poll indicated that 460 out of 874 respondents (66%) clearly supported the idea of expanding the trolley bus system, while only 17% disapproved of trolley buses.

On October 12, 2006, Green Camel Bell submitted "A proposal to preserve and expand the Lanzhou trolley bus system" and the results of the online survey to the Lanzhou Public Transport Group. This group replied that they were still investigating the decision to stop the No. 34 bus.

On October 26, the day originally set for its discontinuation, the No. 34 bus line was still running. The Lanzhou Public Transport Group stated that since the planned discontinuation of bus No. 34 was announced, they had received a good deal of feedback for the preservation of the bus, the announcement had aroused the interest of the media, and many people had even called the mayor's hotline speaking in favor of trolley buses. Therefore, they decided to continue running the bus for the time being.

But the number of passengers did not rise and the benefits did not increase, so the Public Transport Group only announced a temporary continuation of the No. 34 bus, the future of which was still very uncertain. In December 2006, Green Camel Bell sent out an internet appeal to submit suggestions regarding bus No. 34. We were hoping that an optimization of the bus line network might lead to a higher number of passengers, and thus to the preservation and expansion of the trolley bus system. This project was very well received among the population of Lanzhou, Xi'an, Nanjing and other cities, and we received highly constructive advice.

On December 28, 2006, GCB submitted "A second proposal to preserve and expand the Lanzhou trolley bus system" to the Lanzhou Public Transport Group. It gave a detailed overview of even more of the ecological and economic benefits of trolley buses, and it forwarded four optimization schemes for the No. 34 bus, based on the suggestions of our online friends. The Lanzhou Public Transport Group said that the discontinuation of the line was not an easy decision for them either. On one hand, they were suffering serious financial losses; on the other hand, they were confronted with great public pressure. In addition, what would they do with the intact but useless cable after stopping the bus? This would be wasteful. They expressed the hope that GCB would be able to enlist the help of the authorities and citizens in enhancing the "Public Transport System", and that we would help establish a "Public Transport First" mindset among the people to reduce pollution and pressure on the city's roads resulting from the private car boom and bring blue skies back to Lanzhou!

In January 2007, Green Camel Bell submitted "A second proposal to preserve and expand the Lanzhou trolley bus system" and "An appeal to reestablish the trolley bus system for a healthy environment - Suggestions for the preservation and expansion of the Lanzhou trolley buses submitted by Green Camel Bell environmental organization" to the Lanzhou Committee for Building and Planning as well as the municipal government.

On January 23, 2007, Green Camel Bell and Zhou Yingping, a member of the CPPCC Lanzhou Municipal Committee, presented our "Suggestions for the preservation and expansion of the Lanzhou trolley buses" to the 12th Lanzhou Municipal Committee of the CPPCC. After the proposal was submitted to the CPPCC, the Lanzhou Committee for Building and Planning and other authorities said they would respond to the proposal by October 2007.

So far, the "preservation of the trolley buses of Lanzhou" has been covered nine times by the

media, including the Lanzhou Evening News, the Lanzhou Morning Post, and the Western Economic Daily.

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