



Green Camel Bell

Tel: +86-931-2650202

Fax: +86-931-2650202

Website: <http://www.gcb.ngo.cn>

Email: greencambell@126.com ; greencambell@126.com

Add: Room 102, Unit 4, 17th Building, MingRen HuaYuan,
Qilihe District, Lanzhou, Gansu Province 730050, China

2008 Green Camel Bell Project Summary

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I. Brief Introduction to Green Camel Bell (GCB)

In 2008, under the lead of Gansu Administration Bureau of NGOs and Gansu Science and Technology Associations, with the support of research institutions, university experts, scholars, entrepreneurs and citizens, Gansu Green Camel Bell Environmental Development Center (GCB) initiated various projects to protect the environment and achieved significant results.

In order to improve environmental awareness of the general public, to protect civil rights and to promote civic participation in environmental protection, GCB has launched a series of activities in 2008. Focusing on local environmental issues, GCB is exploring sustainable ways in which people and the nature could coexist harmoniously, and aiming at building a sustainable environment. With the supervision of the general public, GCB has also contributed in promoting a harmonious society as a NGO.

II. Routine Duties and Organizational Growth

1. Office

GCB office has achieved regularized operation and administration in 2008. Routine duties are running normally and in order. Based on the works of past two years, the office has become the heart of all GCB activities, as well as the information center and supply base of GCB.

The GCB office is the learning and communication center of GCB staff and volunteers. All the activities, including staff capacity building, projects research and design, volunteer recruiting and discussions of organization development, are held in the office area. In 2008, journalists from 11 different media have visited the GCB office, interviewed the staff and reported the work of GCB. In addition, 48 guests from 25 different NGOs and universities have visited GCB to exchange ideas, experiences and resources.



In October of 2008, GCB staff spent 3 weeks rearranging and decorating the office. The staffs set up 6 recycle garbage bins, posted signs for conserving water, power and energy, made display cabinets from cardboard boxes to present environment-friendly products, grew 15 pots of plants and decorated a “thanksgiving wall” to acknowledge the supporters of GCB. The redecorated office is elegant and comfortable, showcases an environment-friendly “Green family” and “Green Office”, and also established a model of promoting healthier and more environment-friendly lifestyle for ordinary families.

2. Environmental Multimedia Resource Center

The resource center broadened its collection on the basis of 2007’s works, and added 250 books (Chinese and English) and 27 multimedia resources on environmental protection. In addition, the books and multimedia resources were classified into 17 categories, such as the environment, education, law, rural communities, urban communities, capacity building, projects and documents, for the convenience of browsing. GCB also continued to simplify the loan system and borrowing process, improved the effective utilization of resources to some level. In 2008, the center made 65 book loans without missing of or damages to any books.

At the same time, GCB is selling books such as “Lanzou Green Map”, “Everything Starts from Changing Oneself” and “Don’t Blame the Head of the Environmental Protection Bureau”, and donated the income into environmental protection activities. The charity sale program received

extensive support from the public, 18 books and maps were sold and the total income was 524 yuan (RMB). In addition, GCB has given out 13 “China Dialog” magazines (in both Chinese and English) to environmental protection organizations, companies, the media, the government and individuals who are interested in environmental issues.

3. Organization Growth

2008 is GCB’s first year to implement environment protection work normally and comprehensively, under the lead of Bureau of Administration of NGOs and Gansu Technology and Science Associations.

At present, there are 29 council members, 3 full-time employees and 2 part-time employees in GCB. On January 19, 2008, GCB held the 2007 Annual Summary Meeting and the 1st Council Member meeting. A total of 30 attendees, including leaders from superintendent departments, Council members, consultants, reporters and representatives from partner organizations, listened to GCB’s Annual Summary and the outlook to 2008’s work. GCB representatives also shared suggestions and opinions about GCB’s work from the attendees. In the past years, due to the lack of professional technique and staff liquidity, GCB’s organization development has been limited. In 2008, GCB strengthened learning and staff training, improved the professional technique level and capacity of solving practical problems.

III. Environmental Protection Communications

1. Voluntary Speeches at Lanzhou Zoo



As one of GCB’s regular activities, speeches by volunteers were organized in Lanzhou Zoo during the May and October holidays. In 2008, 135 volunteers participated in these activities and 3000 citizens listened to the speeches.

At the same time, GCB carried out cleaning-up-surroundings activity with the theme “Clean the Planet, Love Our home”. Our volunteers set examples for the public by their participation in environment protection, and were appreciated and supported by tourists.

However, we need to keep in mind that improving public awareness in environmental and animal protection is a long-term process, which needs volunteers’ persistent efforts. GCB is planning to make a “Lanzhou Zoo Map” in 2009, to improve people’s animal protection awareness in a lively way.

2. Green Journalists Salon

GCB has been a member organization of Green Journalists Salon Network since 2006. As a member, GCB shared information with “green” journalists nationwide, and strengthened communication with media when pollution accidents happen. By building networks with other conservation NGOs, the media and volunteers, as well as gaining support from governments, GCB has contributed to improving the worsened and worsening environment of western China.

In 2008, GCB collected in total 3200 news regarding Gansu water environment and other environmental conditions, and published them on Green Journalists Salon website in time. The news collected provided first-hand material concerning environment problems, and made possible the quick respond of NGOs to environment emergencies. Some of the news is, for example, the ethylenediamine leak accident on July 27, 2008 in Lanzhou Cargo Distribution Center, the peroxyacetic acid leak accident in Xiuchuan on August 16, and the acetic acid water leak accident on

August 19, 2008 in Lanzhou Yisheng. After these serious pollution, which posted severe health risks to citizens, GCB responded rapidly and investigated the causes. Through thorough investigation, we discovered a lot of problems in these locations, such as improper management and supervision on shipping of hazardous chemicals, responsible parties' lack of law knowledge and security awareness, and the market managers' lack of prevention measures and emergency back up plans. On the basis of this investigation, GCB submitted a ten-thousand-words report and contacted the media. The actions drew the attention of the public and drove more people to participate in environmental protection. As a local environment NGO, GCB is still committed to building a bridge between citizens and relevant government departments, to push public supervision and participation forward.

3. Promoting the Growth of Environmental Protection Groups in Lanzhou Colleges and Universities

Environmental groups in Lanzhou Colleges and universities developed slowly because of many serious problems, such as the lack of management abilities, lack of motivation among group members, low participation rates and lack of fund.



In order to help these environmental groups overcome difficulties and increase capacity, GCB carried out a series of training workshops at late 2008. GCB encouraged these groups to design training activities according to their own characteristics and strengths, and continued to apply fund to support these college organizations. Meanwhile, we made use of the Environment Resource Center to share books and information resources with the groups to help them develop.

(1) Capacity Building Training

In 2008, in order to promote growth of environmental groups in colleges and universities, GCB held 4 capacity building training workshops in Lanzhou University of Technology and Northwest Normal University aiming at key group members. Until now, over 210 volunteers were trained. Through these training workshops, GCB established closer relationships with the environmental groups. Key group member's management capacity has been improved, and their ability to launch related activities advanced too.

(2) Project Support Exercise

The availability of fund plays an important role in student groups' development. After capacity training, GCB, along with other NGOs, raised fund to support student groups' activities three times. More than 2000 people participated in these student group activities, which served as great opportunities for group members' learning and growth. We also provided donation information to these groups 5 times, strengthened the liaison between college groups and donation institutions. Meanwhile GCB guided the key group members to apply the knowledge and skills to practical activities so as to further their development, improve administrative levels, and enrich activity.

(3) Exploit Resources to Promote Development

GCB took the advantage of Environmental Resource Center to share resources with environmental groups of colleges and universities, providing them with timely help and support. Meanwhile, GCB has been involving group members in ongoing projects, which provided precious practice opportunity for them. Through these programs, GCB fostered a lot of key members and reserve force for groups, who played important roles in the activities.

IV. Green Camel Bell Projects

1. Nature Universities

Nature University is a simulated college whose purpose is to encourage the community resident to investigate local situations and provided them with opportunities to do research about nature and environment while learning to face environment problems directly. In this way people can learn about nature, care about the environment changes around them, appreciate and cherish nature, and get involved into activities that deal with pollution control.

In 2008, GCB carried out many significant activities, providing a forum for the public to participate in environmental protection. These activities include mountain climbing, birds observing, trees planting, speaks at the zoo, and water environment seminars. In total 14 activities were carried out, involving over 1700 residents and volunteers, benefiting 20,000 citizens. By their own practical work, the public realized that environmental protection requires the joint effort of everyone. Also, these programs deepened people's understanding of environmental protection.

2. Green Transportation

Lanzhou Municipal Government declared to stop the trolleybus service in April 2008. For the purpose of preserving trolleybus because of its environmental, economic and cultural benefits, GCB initiated a series of advocating activities, including handing out pamphlets to the public, making special designed website, initiating signing events, and submitting proposals to Construction Committee about postponing the cancellation of service. In addition, through detailed survey and analysis by GCB volunteers, a 60,000-word "Suggestions to Keep Lanzhou Trolleybus" was proposed, and was submitted to 13 relevant government departments, including Gansu Provincial Government, Lanzhou Municipal Government, Lanzhou City Construction Committee, the Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, and the Transportation Bureau.



However, all the trolleybus services were stopped in May 6, 2008. Later, according to "The People's Republic of China on Open Government Information (Trial)", GCB submitted an application to Lanzhou Government and the Construction Committee, requesting the disclosure of "The Lanzhou Municipal Government's Resolution to Stop Trolleybus Services from the 5th Executive Meeting of 2008", as well as the reasons to stop the services and expert demonstration documents. As a result, we obtained the resolution document, but not the reasons or expert demonstration documents, even though we submitted three applications in total. In September 2008, according to "The People's Republic of China Administrative Review Law", GCB applied for administrative review to Lanzhou Municipal Government, and obtained the reply documents from Lanzhou Municipal Government concerning the cancellation of trolleybus services. However, Gansu Provincial Government rejected GCB's application, with the reason that the applicant did not have direct concerns over the administrative actions which GCB applied to review.

The actions of promoting keeping trolleybuses by GCB deepened the public's understanding of environmental protection. It also encouraged the public to combine the Green Transportation concept with their daily lives. Although the government didn't adopt the suggestions from the citizens and NGOs, the voice of grassroots was heard by the decision makers. For NGO, this was a positive attempt to apply the tool of law in order to protect public welfare. At the same time, the trolleybus

demonstration material we collected during the activities increased the public's understanding of trolleybus, and is a valuable reference for other cities in keeping trolley.

3. Green Communities

In 2008, in collaboration with Lanzhou Yizhen Property Management Co., Ltd. and Mingren Huayuan Kindergarten, GCB initiated Green Community project in Mingren Huayuan Community, where GCB is located. This project strengthened the cooperation of environmental protection NGO with enterprises, improved the environmental protection awareness of residents, and built a green, civilized, and harmonious community atmosphere.



GCB implemented this project in 4 aspects, as following:

(1) Children Environmental Education

In cooperation with Mingren Huayuan Kindergarten, GCB gave 3-month long environmental education classes to 120 children, whose ages range from 3 to 6. A total of 180 class hours were given. The lessons concerned relationship between water, human being and animal, saving water, saving papers, and garbage classification. In addition, GCB carried out the project in forms welcomed by children and teachers, such as children's song, story telling, games, and handcrafting.

(2) Green Community Display Windows for Publicizing

In cooperation with Yizhen Property Management Co., Ltd., GCB set up display windows in front of Mingren Huayuan Community's newspaper boxes. Drawing materials from national and international environmental hot topics and city environmental administration, GCB showcased 4 terms of posters with topics like green transportation, garbage classification, and Lanzhou 100-day environmental remediation. The display window is becoming a channel for residents to understand environmental protection and to care about the environment. As a result, it increased the environmental awareness of residents to some extent.

(3) Organic Fertilizer Kitchen Residue

In 2008, based on other organization's experience, GCB attempted to experiment with turning kitchen residue into organic fertilizer. The activity gained great support from some residents. We used fruit skins, vegetable leaves, residues, falling leaves and grassroots as raw material, produced primary fertilizer by simple covering up these organic materials with earth for fermenting. The product was then provided to residents for free, to plant vegetation and to green the surroundings. Through the experiment, residents realized the utilization value of garbage and built up the awareness to classify garbage, so that the amount of garbage could be reduced.

(4) Environmental Protection Promotion Activities

Based on Mingren Huayuan community, GCB initiated various environmental protection promotion activities, provided a forum for residents to gain environment knowledge and to take action. Volunteers gave speeches about Earth Day in Mingren Huayuan kindergarten on April 22, 2008 (Earth Day), and organized children to fly the "China-Canada friendship earth kites". On May 17, GCB launched a battery recycle activity in Mingren Huayuan community. The detriment effects of waste batteries were explained to the residents and more than 100 waste batteries were recycled. As a result of volunteer's hard work, over 100 batteries were recycled. In addition, other GCB-organized volunteer activities were routinely released to residents on internet or in other forms. Residents were called on to join environmental protection activities, and the program received great support from the

community.

However, GCB's influence on constructing green community still needs to be improved. The enthusiasm of more residents is needed to be improved. In the coming year, we will launch Green Community construction activities in more novel styles and with more life-oriented features.

4. Gansu Water Environment Project

After completed the first stage of Water Environment Project in 2007, GCB cooperated with the Pacific Environment Organization again in 2008, and launched the second stage of Gansu Water Environment Project.

The second stage of water project started in July, 2007 and ended in October, 2008, basically completed the project objectives. A more advanced concept of following water environment was also formed as a result. The water environment project consisted of 2 parts, the "Countryside Water Vaults Improvement Project" and the "City Water Pollution Project". The objectives of the water vault improvement project were to improve residents' life qualities and their awareness to the environment, and to build positive interactions between communities and the environment; the city water pollution project encouraged citizens' participation, drove the opening of government information, and contributed to building a democratic society.



(1) Main Achievements

- i. Collected over 3200 pieces of news and information concerning Gansu water environment and the environment, accumulated a rich collection of first-hand documents for project activities.
- ii. Wrote and edited environmental education textbook for Huining County; completed a week-long environmental education program in Huining county Taohuashan Nanzui Middle School; finished a summary report about environmental protection education.
- iii. Focusing attentions on the effects of Chaijiaxia Power Station in Lanzhou Xigu District on Liangjiawang Village, visited Chaijiaxia Power Station, CDM Consultant Company, Xigu District Water Bureau, and Xigu District Dongchuan Village Government, to coordinate and solve the clean water supply issues; investigated the opinions of villages, surveyed on wealth and health, analyzed the correlation of local water and residents' health; took local water samples and sent the samples to be tested by authorities; contacted water purification companies, and distributed to villagers for free, 240 bags of water-purifying chemicals and a water-purifying machine.
- iv. According to the news collected and cooperating with the Public Environment Research Center, added Tianshui Benma Beer Co. Ltd. to China Water Pollution Map; from July 8, 2008 to July 9, 2008, international audit company URS examined and verified documents, and conducted investigation, concerning the water polluting conditions of Tianshui Benma Beer Co. Ltd.; GCB was invited to, participated in and supervised the investigation as an independent third party.
- v. From September 19th to September 22th in 2008, GCB held the 2008 Annual Water Environment Meeting, with the support of Pacific Environment Organization. Representatives of conservation organizations from various regions exchanged ideas and discussed project experience and the future direction of water projects.
- vi. Established liaisons with water environment experts and obtained consultation service for over 50 persons/times.
- vii. Collected material for Water Vault Management Handbook; contacted and visited 3 water

purification companies.

viii. Carried out comprehensive investigations of the Yellow River Lanzhou region; found out and recorded the pollution conditions along the river bank.

(2) Project Results

i. Based on the completion of two stages, GCB developed its own ways and characteristics in water environment project—focusing on water vault quality management and polluting enterprise supervision, examination and verification.

ii. Established two water project pilot areas in Huining County and Lanzhou City

iii. Successfully launched the localization of pollution enterprises participated in the third party audit of pollution enterprises; took a firmest step in supervising enterprises.

iv. Established good cooperating relationships with two water purifying equipment supply companies and provided a certain amount of water-purifying products to GCB project sites, improved local water qualities.

v. Staff capacity was increasing constantly; the ability to coordinate was improved.

vi. Drew the government's attention to water environment of project areas.

(3) Areas to Improve

i. The staff didn't get deep into community and needs to build more close relationship with residents.

ii. Due to technique difficulties of purifying water vaults, the ability to write and edit a Water Vault Management Handbook is still lacking; the Water Vault Project is still in its research and investigation stage, a real resolution is not found.

iii. The high liquidity of staffs and volunteers made it hard for project to go further.

(4) The Third Stage Plan of Gansu Water Environment Project

i. To improve the project's level of specialization; to cooperate with the Public Environment Research Center; to supervise polluting enterprises.

ii. To continue capacity building training for environmental groups in colleges and universities and to help them grow with fund support.

iii. To develop more complete water projects and better activity plans.

5. Clean Energy Project

GCB is launching the "Treating Solid Waste, Make Them Harmless, and Comprehensive Utilization of Resources in Huining County" project, in collaboration with Huining County Baolin Cleaning Company Ltd. Baolin Company is a private enterprise specializes in cleaning excrement. Since the construction of County Polluted Water Treatment Plant and Landfill is not completed, dealing with the excrement becomes an issue for Baolin Company. The company hoped for a project aims at dealing with and making use of waste water and waste solid waste in eco-friendly ways, in order to produce clean mash gas and organic mash fertilizer.



According to its own strength, GCB acted as the bridge between Baolin Company and outside expertise, contacted relevant experts and research institutes, and aided fund application during project application stage. GCB is planning to provide technique support and training of staff and residents during the project launching stage, to ensure the project running normally.

6. Ecological Agriculture Project

The “Sunflower Planting and Ecological Agriculture Demonstration and Extension Project” is launched by GCB, and is directed towards Huining County, one of the poorest counties in Gansu Province. Project activities include developing ecological agriculture centered on sunflower planting; utilizing farmer cooperatives as the main body, integrating seed purchasing, technique support, product purchasing, processing and sale; establishing an ideal model of “NGO + Cooperatives + Peasants “ and social corporation operating mode; utilizing plant functions and ecological agriculture techniques to lower soil salinization level, and to decrease soil and plant pollution; guiding villagers to use sunflower discs to feed livestock, and to use sunflower stems to make marsh gas. Furthermore, these project activities improved the livelihood of local farmers, and promoted the sustainable development in the long run.



GCB bought a sunflower seeds refining machine in July, 2008. Since October, 2008, GCB has been cooperating with a local farmer cooperative to buy sunflower seeds from farmers, and already purchased a total of 73-ton sunflower seeds. In addition, GCB volunteers investigated farmers’ livelihood, agriculture structure, and current environment conditions in local areas, collected peasants’ opinions about the project, and established the basis for future projects.

7. Earthquake Combating and Disaster Relief projects

GCB and some other NGOs in Lanzhou consistently contacted with the disaster region --ZhongMiao Town, Wen County in south of Gansu Province after the “5.12” earthquake and went there to make the disaster evaluation. After a 5-day investigation, GCB obtained the firsthand materials about the victims’ demands and the disaster evaluation, and gave feedback to other organizations immediately. After that, “Gansu Grassroots United Action Group” was founded to participate in rescuing and advocating for other organizations and the public to help the sufferers. After the dissolution of “Gansu Grassroots United Action Group” on June 13th, GCB plans to facilitate ecological toilets, buildings and clean water reservoir in the disaster regions by providing technique support, skill trainings and financial supports. GCB also plans to help the local sufferers to cast off poverty and to increase incomes as soon as possible by popularizing planting organic tea, walnut and conducting a brand construction in accord with economic environment of the domestic market.

The Ecological Building Project in earthquake region started in September 2008, which aims to build 20 ecological buildings using advanced technique. These new-style buildings could save energy, reduce pollution, and increase the awareness of environmental protection. At present, the preparation work has been completed, such as popularizing knowledge, planning, training, and machines. The implement stage is around the corner. At the same time, GCB’s another relief project is on going, the objective is to build an ecological toilet in cooperation with Friends of Nature and Shanghai Oasis Ecological Conservation Center. When completed, it can reduce the pollution effectively. This project is expected to be completed in January of 2009.



V. Acknowledgements

2008 has been a remarkable year for the development of GCB. GCB is grateful to the following parties who helped and supported GCB.

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Gansu Civil Organization Association

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Lanzhou Charity Federation

Gansu Zhongliyuan Lawyer's Office

Lenovo Venture Philanthropy Project

Beijing Fuping Development Institute

Gansu Yutian Rural Community Development Research & Service Center

Gansu Yixin Psychological Consult Center

Ford Foundation

Adventist Development Relief Agency (China)

Rural Architecture Studio

Friends of Nature

The World Bank

Institute of Public Environment Affairs

Nanjing Tech Max Group

Guangdong Darong Development Co. LTD

JiaHeLvZhou Environmental Technology Investment Co., Ltd. (Gansu Branch)

Gansu Institute for Educational Research

Climate Bridge Co. Ltd.

Education Bureau of Huining County

Global Greengrants Fund

Pacific Environment

International Rivers

China Social Entrepreneur Foundation

Beijing Green Earth

Lanzhou Municipal Zoo

Global Village of Beijing

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Gansu Green Camel Bell Environment and Development Center
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