Green Camel Bell:
Gansu "Green Camel Bell" Environment and Development Center

Mission:
Protecting Environment in West China

Vision:
Green mountains, Clear Water, Blue Sky, Man and Nature in Harmony

Working Fields:
Environmental Education and Communication
Community Development
Water Resources Protection
Post-Earthquake Reconstruction
Grassland Conservation
Volunteer Development

They have trusted us:

Green Camel Bell
Annual report
2009/2010
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Appendix: Brief Introduction to Green Camel Bell (GCB)
2009 marked the fifth year of Green Camel Bell’s establishment in Gansu Province. With guidance from such supporters as the Gansu Administration Bureau of NGOs, the Gansu Science and Technology Association, the Communist Youth League of Gansu Province, the Environmental Protection Department of Gansu, the Gansu Provincial Wildlife Administration Bureau, and with the efforts of GCB directors, volunteers, and staff, GCB launched successful activities on environmental education, volunteer development, water resource protection, community development, and post-disaster reconstruction.
Our History:
Green Camel Bell (GCB), is a Non-Profit environmental protection organization in Gansu, formally established on 4th, November, 2004. It aims to protect and to restore the continuing deteriorating ecological environment in Western China.

What we did in 2009

Environmental Education: GCB continued to utilize ‘Nature University’ and ‘Green Transportation’ as platforms for organizing activities such as hiking, bird watching, Yellow River walks, tree planting, community sanitation, and municipal solid waste study, to provide opportunities for the public to explore their natural environment and witness environmental problems.

Rural Community Development: GCB made significant leaps in 2009, and gained experience by carrying out experimental activities. Currently, GCB is conducting an ecological agriculture project in Huining County, popularizing sunflower farming and promoting local cooperatives in the arid, mountainous, and ecologically fragile central Gansu. In the earthquake affected areas of Wen County in southern Gansu Province, GCB is building eco-housing, eco-school reconstruction, as well as constructing other disaster management work such as eco-toilet installation. Along the Yellow River, GCB continues to monitor polluting enterprises and promote public education and protection of the Yellow River.

Awards

Green Camel Bell has gradually gained public recognition in the past five years. In 2009, GCB won the ‘Fourth Toyota Environmental Award for Chinese Youth’, the ‘One Foundation Future Philanthropy Stars 2009 Award’, and was granted the ‘Direct Volunteer Service Team Award’ by the Communist Youth League Committee of Gansu Province. In addition, GCB’s endeavor was reported by domestic as well as international media such as People’s Daily (overseas edition) and TIME Magazine.

In 2009, Green Camel Bell completed its Strategic Planning for 2010-2014, and looks forward to even greater success in the next five years.
II. Routine Duties and Organizational Growth

Our Organization has become a comfortable and pleasant place for staff and volunteers to work, communicate, conduct environmental trainings and meetings, receive guests, and improve the environmental situation in Gansu. It’s modeled as a ‘green office’ and ‘green family’, by the implementation of garbage sorting and water/energy saving policies.

In 2009, journalists from 8 different medias visited the office to report on GCB’s work. Additionally, there were 49 guests from 16 different NGOs and research institutes who visited GCB to exchange ideas, experiences, and resources.
Environmental & Multimedia Resource Center

In the past five years, GCB has accumulated an abundance of resources, including over 4,000 books on environmentalism and over 200 pieces of multimedia on environmental protection. These are classified into 19 environmental categories including education, health, law, wildlife resources, capacity building, NGOs, etc. GCB’s lending system for books and multimedia has been popular amongst university associations and neighboring residents. In 2009, the center made 78 loans in total. GCB volunteers are now building a GCB Internet Resource Database to maximize the impact of the center and improve lending efficiency.

GCB has donated 56 China Dialogue Magazines (in both Chinese and English) to companies, environmental protection organizations, media, government and individuals who are interested in environmental protection, in order to raise the awareness and concern of the public towards environmental issues.

Website & Newsletter

The GCB website (www.gcb.ngo.cn) is a publication tool and a window into GCB. Event and project updates and environmental information are published on the website regularly. Volunteers, donors and partners can get the latest information and immediately communicate with GCB online. GCB’s English website (www.gcb.ngo.cn/en) helped promote international communication and cooperation.

The 2009 Green Camel Bell Newsletter has been completed and printed. Please contact GCB directly if you are interested in getting a copy.

GCB’s Website in 2009:
5780 pieces of information published
38,242 visitors reached

VOLUNTEERS RAISE AWARENESS IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
After the GCB Board of Directors meeting in January 2009, the Board started to play an increasingly important role in GCB development, including recruitment, organizational strategic planning, and major decision-making.

Employees

Currently, GCB has four full-time employees, one part-time employee, and one intern. In 2009, GCB held two campus recruitment seminars at Northwest Normal University and Lanzhou University, and received over 200 employment applications.

NGO and Volunteer Development

Green Camel Bell is a volunteer-based organization, and the development of volunteers is a significant goal for GCB growth. Every project of GCB involves the participation of volunteers. The ‘Nature University’ and ‘Green Transportation’ projects aimed to increase the participation level and environmental awareness of the volunteers. The ‘Gansu Water Environment’ Project involves the participation of volunteers in such activities as ‘Water Environment Education’ and ‘Polluting Enterprises Monitoring’.

«Since establishment, GCB played active role responding to environment crisis, carrying out public environmental education, promoting environmental clubs in high schools, training environmental volunteers and so on. »
Zhao Zhong, director of Green Camel Bell.
Our projects

OUR ACTIONS DIVIDED INTO 6 DIFFERENT PROJECTS.

Nature University is a simulated college for the purpose of encouraging the community to investigate local situations and to do research on nature while learning to face environmental problems.

Green Transportation: After 2 years of promotion of the ‘Green Transportation’ concept, this year’s activity focused on making ‘Green Transportation’ a lifestyle that is normal and welcomed by the public.

Concern for Climate Change. In order to broaden the environmental and social influence of CDM in Gansu, GCB applied to become the first supporter of the ‘Gold Standard’ in Gansu in October 2009.

Gansu Water Environment Project. The project includes promoting community education on water environment and health in Lanzhou, capacity building for college volunteers, publicizing polluting enterprise and environmental information, and public events.

Ecological Agriculture and Cooperatives Project. It encourages local peasants to establish agricultural cooperatives to improve the livelihood of the farmers, increase the organization of local farmers, decrease local soil and plant pollution, and promote sustainable development.

Post-disaster Reconstruction and Disaster Management Project. Promoting Eco-construction in Earthquake-hit Area Project, supported by Ford Foundation, was launched in October 2008.

What have we done?

Projects

- Fruit cards
- Green Olympic Green China
- Protect Mother River
- Gansu’s Green Campus
- University students’ Forum
- [Reforestation (grassland)]; Advocate “reservation to the Lanzhou trolley”

Research and Training

- First two Saiga antelope horn market researches;
- Environmental education in Minqin
- Antelope Tour Training
- Establish Lanzhou environment education base
- Public education in Lanzhou Zoo

Publication

- Local textbook of Minqin desertification
- Environmental education reference reading for Huining Guochengyi Primary School
- Legal Aid Handbook for Water Pollution Victims
- Map of Lanzhou Zoo
- Green AutoText
- Green Camel Bell Newsletter
- Collected Works of Gansu’s Green Campus
- Draw the first green map in Lanzhou
Nature University is a simulated college for the purpose of encouraging the community to investigate local situations and to do research on nature while learning to face environmental problems.

It urges people to learn about nature and the environmental changes around them, and to get involved in activities that deal with pollution alleviation.

1. Voluntary awareness campaign at zoo

GCB has organized volunteers to make voluntary awareness campaign during holidays in Wuquanshan Zoo for 4 years. This activity has gradually gained more support and recognition from the public. In order to provide more people with outdoor education on animal and environmental protection, and to involve more volunteers, GCB organized a two-day voluntary actions at the zoo during the 2009 May holiday, which involved around 5000 tourists and 70 volunteers.

2. ‘Plastic Control’ Survey

In May 2009, support by the Private Plastic Control Policy Research Group, GCB conducted a survey on the implementation of ‘Plastic Control Order’ in Lanzhou City. The goal was to determine results of the Plastic Control Order’s implementation, and gather opinions and suggestions from consumers on the policy, in order to improve the ‘Plastic Control Order’. This survey was conducted in 6 cities simultaneously, including Harbin, Lanzhou, Hangzhou, Zhengzhou, etc.

NGO and Volunteer Development

In 2009, GCB conducted 12 voluntary activities, such as tours to sewage treatment plants, a ‘Plastic Control’ survey, voluntary speeches in the zoo, and tree planting, all of which involved around 800 citizens and volunteers. GCB built a platform for the public to get involved in environmental protection, increased public awareness, and promoted volunteerism. The volunteer work of GCB has gained encouragement and support from the government. In 2009, the Communist Youth League of Gansu Province honored GCB as the ‘Green Camel Bell’ direct volunteer team, which gave GCB greater confidence in further initiation of voluntary activities.

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The third ‘World Car Free Day’ in Lanzhou was September 22nd, 2009. GCB offered free bicycle rentals in Lanzhou city with the event ‘Spot Green Transportation Expert’. GCB taught the public about ‘Green Transportation’ through pamphlets, charity cards, and bicycle rentals. GCB encouraged citizens to walk or ride bicycles when traveling short distances, to protect the environment. Free bicycle rentals within Lanzhou city lasted for around 1 month, with 214 people involved. This event was reported on extensively by media such as Lanzhou Daily, Lanzhou Evening Newspaper, Western Daily, Gansu Television, Gansu Radio, and Xinhua News Agency.

A popular event...

FU RONG, WHO USES THE BIKE LOANED BY GCB.

...Creating new opportunities.

The ‘A Green Transportation Expert’ event in Lanzhou will find five ‘Green Transportation Experts’ in Lanzhou, by advertising campaigns inside universities, online forums, recommended volunteers, and etc. GCB carried out the event in Gansu Political Science and Law Institute, Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou Jiaotong University, and Lanzhou University of Technology, where volunteers managed to attract thousands of teachers and students through activities such as petitions, poster exhibitions, art, contests, and rollerblade/cycling performances. GCB has received information from 56 people applying to be ‘Green Transportation Experts’.

The ‘Green Transportation’ event raised public awareness and individual responsibility of ‘Traveling green, save the environment’, and helped the public to further integrate the ‘Green Transportation’ idea into daily life.

2009, with support from the China International Association for NGO Cooperation and the United States Environmental Protection Association (China Project), GCB launched a campaign, with theme ‘Green Transportation’, and the slogan ‘A Green Transportation Expert’. After 2 years of continuous advertising on the ‘Green Transportation’ concept, this year’s activity focused on making ‘Green Transportation’ a lifestyle that is normal and welcomed by the public.
In June 2009, a spontaneous combustion occurred in Fulongping landfill of Chengguan District in Lanzhou. The fire lasted nearly a month. GCB organized student associations and volunteers to conduct research on the Fulongping landfill, to get first-hand information.

The main role of GCB is to collect and organize information to build a database of polluting enterprises in Gansu Province, cooperate with the Institute for Public and Environmental Affairs to update the China Water Pollution Map, and to promote clean production and corporate social responsibility.

From April to September 2009, GCB conducted a pilot volunteer training at Northwest Normal University, to cultivate college volunteers who are passionate about public welfare, responsible, and care about social issues. GCB supported college volunteers to carry out public welfare activities in NGOs.

In 2009, GCB conducted water environmental education for 19 students grades 3 and 4 in Xigu District Liangjiawan Primary School. Based on feedback from middle school students, volunteers, and teachers, GCB developed environmental education materials for Liangjiawan Primary School.

In 2009, the theme of Gansu Water Environment Project was "The Environment Belongs to All of Us". We built a platform for the public to participate in environmental protection. The project includes promoting community education on water environment health in Lanzhou, capacity building for college volunteers, publicizing polluting enterprise and environmental information, and sudden public events.
Voluntary education and farming by college students during summer vacations

In mid-July 2009, volunteers from the Gansu Political Science and Law Institute carried out a half-month voluntary education in local Hope Schools. They also adopted methods such as home visits to communicate about cooperatives and to publicize the mobilization of the inaugural meeting. All this helped in building relationship building with local farmers at the project site, and in promoting the idea of cooperatives with local farmers.

Trainings of planting techniques and cooperatives

GCB organized a series of trainings including ‘ Farmers facing Poverty and the Market Forum, Sunflower Planting Skills Training, Professional Cooperatives Basic Knowledge Training. Through attending trainings mentioned above, the local farmers have gained a correct understanding towards cooperatives, and have managed to put the planting skills they have learned into practical agricultural production.

Community based information survey

- GCB obtained basic information such as livelihood status, planting structure, and state of the environment of the project site. GCB also collected views from farmers towards sunflower planting and agricultural professional cooperatives, which provided basic information for future activities.

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Encouraging the establishment of cooperatives

- Currently, there are 139 farmers who voluntarily joined the cooperatives in Niujiahe Village. They elected the first cooperatives board of directors and supervision committee, after a successful general assembly of ‘Huining County Niujiahe Ecological Agriculture Professional Cooperatives’ held on 26 October, 2009. This general assembly cultivated the awareness of democratic participation among local farmers.

GCB ‘Sunflower Planting and Ecological Agriculture Demonstration and Extension Project’ aims at developing ecological agriculture centered on sunflower planting in Touzhaizi Town Niujiahe Village of Huining County in Gansu. It encourages local farmers to establish agricultural professional cooperatives to improve the livelihood of the farmers in poverty, increase the organizational level of local farmers, decrease local soil and plant pollution, and promote sustainable development.
Introduce grass brick house and eco-construction to the community, carry out trainings on grass brick house techniques, organize tours for demonstrating grass brick house to households.

Together with Rural Architecture Studio and Friends of Nature, GCB built a communal public eco-toilet at the project site. During the building process, residents in the community were brought together for voluntary work, which enhanced community cohesion.

GCB urged donors from Beijing and Shanghai to sponsor the construction of Chayuan Primary School at the project site. GCB organized a general assembly for Chayuan villagers, and decided on a reconstruction plan for Chayuan Primary School.

GCB organized the ‘Gansu Provincial Disaster social assessment and community-based disaster management planning’ training with Yunnan Watershed Research and Promotion Center in Bikou Town, Wen County of Gansu. After the training, at the Organizational Disaster Prevention and Disaster Management Planning Seminar of Masangba Cooperatives in Chayuan Village, GCB staff, volunteers and residents in the village drew a community map and a community disasters map.

To participate in the post-disaster reconstruction in earthquake-hit area in Gansu, to build an eco-community in rural areas, and to pursue practically sustainable development in communities are among the long-term goals of GCB. GCB has also made a long term commitment to the project site and will introduce more resources and technology to become a bridge of information exchange on earthquake reconstruction.

Due to issues such as road blocks at the project site, delay of loans from the government, and policies of local governments, the construction of grass brick houses is incomplete, and will be postponed until the second half of 2010.
Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) organizes greenhouse gas emission reduction credits earned by developing countries to be sold to developed countries to reduce the global greenhouse gas emission and slow down greenhouse effect.

Gold Standard, on the other hand, is a quality assessment standard that caters to projects like CDM, and is applicable to highly sustainable projects such as renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

In order to broaden the environmental and social influence of CDM in Gansu, GCB applied to become the first supporter of the ‘Gold Standard’ in Gansu in October 2009. In January and November 2009, GCB attended the stakeholders meeting of Linxia Nanyang Mountain Hydroelectric Power Station project and Baiyin Jingtai County Xingqun Wind Power Project.

Through participating in field study and meetings, GCB gained understanding of the environmental and social impacts by the implementation and running of the projects. GCB audited the project documents as a third party, and supervised the application and operating procedure, as well as pointed out the environmental hazards in the projects. The conclusion and opinions of GCB will be a decisive element of whether the project can succeed in the application of CDM.
Green Camel Bell would not have made the achievements in last year without all the assistance and support from various environmental organizations and individuals. GCB would like to extend our most sincere gratitude towards:

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