

Photographic exhibition by J Marc Foggin

People, Livelihoods & Landscapes of the Tibetan Plateau and Mountains of Central Asia

Biography

Dr Marc Foggin is a conservation biologist who has worked in close partnership with Tibetan herding communities in the Yangtze River headwaters for over 20 years. Marc has provided support for the emergence of civil society and contributed to community development and environmental conservation on the Tibetan Plateau through his NGO, **Plateau Perspectives**. Marc also co-leads a program of research on sustainable mountain development through his senior role at the **Mountain Societies Research Institute**, University of Central Asia. His work and travels have enabled him to document through photographs the extraordinary yet rapidly changing landscapes and livelihoods in the mountains of Western China and Central Asia.





UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT
MOUNTAIN SOCIETIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE




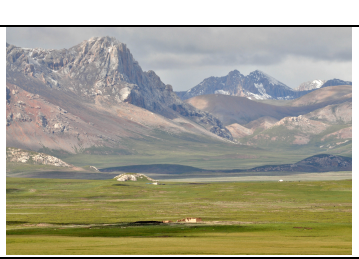






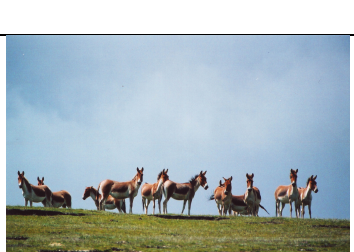
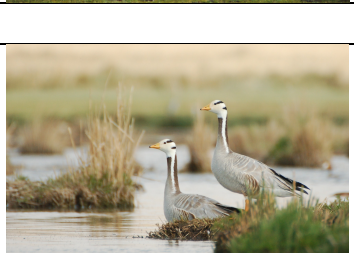
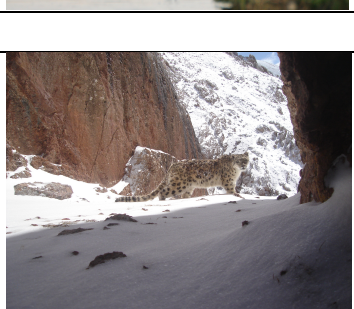
For more information:

<http://ucentralasia.org/msri/>


<http://plateauperspectives.org/>

1		Mountain reflection <i>Early morning on the Tibetan plateau, c. 4,800 metres above sea level. Grasslands and wetlands abound in the source areas of the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong rivers – known as the Sanjiangyuan region.</i>
2		Family portrait <i>Tibetan family at the annual festival – dressed in their very best! A time to meet relatives and friends and to reconnect with the broader community.</i>

3		<p>Tibetan festival <i>Annual festivals are special occasions. Social gathering, sharing news, religious observances, and community-based projects – all can be advanced at these times.</i></p>
4		<p>Yak race <i>Of all Tibetan spectator sports, yak racing is the most amusing... Just crossing the finish line is a great achievement!</i></p>
5		<p>Nomad tent <i>Yak hair is traditionally used for tents across the Tibetan plateau. Nomad families move seasonally with their livestock and belongings between pastures. Tents remain the summer habitation of choice.</i></p>
6		<p>Mountain homes <i>Dispersed widely across the land, Tibetan communities are connected through family ties and tribal affiliation more than built environments. Yet even remote lands clearly are integrated social-ecological systems.</i></p>
7		<p>Horse riders <i>Herding communities are spread widely across the land in the Sanjiangyuan region, often pasturing livestock in grasslands inaccessible to vehicles. With high altitude, no season is frost-free and agriculture is impossible.</i></p>
8		<p>Seasonal migration <i>Moving between winter and summer pastures is an exciting but challenging time. All household supplies must be transported as well as the family's livestock. Several days may be required. Weather is variable.</i></p>

9		<p>Sheep and yak <i>Livestock are the basis of Tibetan herders' livelihoods. Yak and sheep must be attended in all seasons. Winter days are generally cold and crisp. In some years, too much snow leads to disastrous loss of livestock.</i></p>
10		<p>Tibetan girl <i>A Tibetan nomad girl cares for her sheep. Daughter of a community leader, she learns of the complex challenges facing her people – and the exciting developments that can be enabled through community level mobilization.</i></p>
11		<p>Wetland habitat <i>Wetlands cover vast areas of the Tibetan plateau, providing critical ecosystem services for both local and downstream populations. Around 40 percent of humanity depends on water that originates here.</i></p>
12		<p>Tibetan wildlife <i>Much wildlife remains on the Tibetan plateau. The unique assemblage of large ungulates is reminiscent of Africa's Serengeti. Tibetan wild ass, or kiang, have a growing population and are often seen galloping across the land.</i></p>
13		<p>Migratory birds <i>Bar-headed geese spend their summers on the Tibetan plateau where they breed, later migrating southward and over the Himalayan Range. Many important bird areas are situated in Asia's mountain ecosystems.</i></p>
14		<p>Snow leopard <i>The endangered snow leopard is emblematic of Asia's mountain ecosystems. Both regional and community-based conservation efforts are required. People and communities resident in and dependent on mountain landscapes will always be critical for success.</i></p>

15		<p>Namche Barwa <i>Hidden in Eastern Tibet, Namche Barwa (7,782 m) is amongst the most beautiful mountains in the world. Partnering with farming communities in the region, several coop ecotourism enterprises are emerging.</i></p>
16		<p>New developments <i>Roads and railways now integrate the Tibetan Plateau with the rest of China. People and goods now enter the region, and mineral resources are carried out to distant places. Opportunities and challenges arise side by side.</i></p>
17		<p>Without pastures <i>The interconnectedness of environment and development is evident everywhere. Without pastures, a generation of 'herders' living in newly built towns often struggles with their sense of identity and with concerns for the future.</i></p>
18		<p>Mountain highway <i>Travel in the mountains has always been a challenge with difficult terrain and high risk of flooding or landslides. Yet trade networks are not new. Even the remotest of valleys have always had social networks that extend widely.</i></p>
19		<p>To the Altai Mountains <i>A Kazakh family moves with their livestock to summer pastures in the Altai mountains. Long-term sustainable use of resources and biodiversity conservation must be supported, even as China rapidly develops its economy.</i></p>
20		<p>Kazakh pastoralist <i>A horse rider guides his flock of sheep to the mountains. Long-standing traditions continue in the 21st century. Old and new pressures may abound, but local and regional benefits of pastoralism are recognized.</i></p>
21		<p>Summer pastures <i>Herders in the Tian Shan Mountains of Kyrgyzstan keep many horses. A favourite drink is fermented mare's milk. Summers are a time of plenty, but winters present more challenges. Fodder is grown near permanent settlements.</i></p>

22		<p>Kyrgyz girl <i>Young and old enjoy time in the summer pastures. Even urban residents remain ‘nomad’ at heart. Annual trips to the countryside are major events, especially to summer pastures with their abundant flowers and other wildlife.</i></p>
23		<p>Oxus River <i>The Panj constitutes the Afghan-Tajik border for much of its length, from the high, remote Wakhan corridor all the way to Uzbekistan. In ancient Greek times it was known as the Oxus, flowing at the edge of the Persian Empire.</i></p>
24		<p>Hindu Kush <i>The Hindu Kush mountains are centred in Afghanistan, extending into northern Pakistan. Many cultures have passed through the region, leaving multiple influences. Merging with the rugged Pamir and Karakorum ranges, this land is widely recognized as ‘the roof of the world.’</i></p>