

Project Update: May 2008

After the receipt of the Rufford small grant the late Aug, 2007, we had begun the purchasing work of 25000 branchy tamarisk seedling, 165 kg of desert-living cistanches seeds and methane pit construction materials. Since the beginning of Sep, 2007, we launched our proposed project awareness program among the targeted rural desert communities consisting of 77 families near the west border of the Lopnur Wild Bactrian Camel in Ruoqiang County by door to door visit and notebook computer aided portable presentation for a whole month.

From the beginning of Oct 2007 to the end of Dec 2007, my team distributed the branchy tamarisk seedlings and desert-living cistanches to each targeted family and direct and supervise their planting of branchy tamarisks and desert-living cistanches along the west border of the Lopnur Wild Bactrian Camel in Ruoqiang County. The whole covered area by our artificial planting is about 165 Mu. In January and February 2008, my team directed the 77 families to complete the methane pit construction and the education and training of the application technology of household methane among the targeted rural desert communities.

From this march on, my team has been supervising the care and management of the planted branchy tamarisk seedling, desert-living cistanches and the use of the methane pit in each benefited family. Things have been going well by now despite a few occasional technical difficulties experienced by these families. We are looking forward to see the great economic benefits and conservational benefits our project is going to bring to the targeted communities and the endangered wild Bactrian camels in the near future.