

Waking the Green Tiger

Face to Face Media HD 78 / 56 min / Color

English and Mandarin with English Subtitles
or Mandarin and English with Chinese Subtitles

The rise of a Green Movement in China

Seen through the eyes of activists, farmers, and journalists **Waking the Green Tiger** follows an extraordinary, unprecedented and successful campaign to stop a huge dam project on the Upper Yangtze River in the high mountains of southwestern China.

Awakening a Grass Roots Movement

China's first environmental movement, joining activists and farmers and supported by government insiders takes root when a new environmental law is passed. For the first time in China's history, ordinary citizens have the democratic right to speak out and take part in government decisions. The activists set out to test their freedom and save a river. The movement they trigger has the potential to transform China.

Seen through the eyes of activists, farmers, and journalists, *Waking the Green Tiger* follows an extraordinary campaign to stop a huge dam project on the upper Yangtze river in southwestern China. The green movement they trigger has the potential to transform China.

Featuring astonishing archival footage never seen outside China and interviews with witnesses, the documentary also tells the history of Chairman Mao's War Against Nature that ushered in decades of environmental destruction.

5:00 pm, Sunday, March 18
Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital
921 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Free, reservations required 202-549-4172
Metro: Eastern Market

6:00 pm, Monday, March 19
American University, Abramson Family Founder's Room
School of International Service 4400 Mass. Ave., NW
Free Metro: Tenleytown / AU Shuttle bus

Ending Mao's War Against Nature

Featuring astonishing archival footage never seen outside China and interviews with a government insider and witnesses, the documentary also tells the story of Chairman Mao's determination to conquer nature in the name of progress. Millions of people were mobilized in campaigns that nearly exterminated China's sparrows, and destroyed lakes, marshes, forests and grasslands, unleashed dust storms, and stifled critics. For fifty years the idea was instilled in succeeding generations that nature must serve the people.

Inside Stories

One of China's first environmental filmmakers, Shi Lihong contributed 100 hours of footage that she shot over a four year period in the villages along the Upper Yangtze as farmers organized to exercise their rights and resist a massive dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge that would force 100,000 to move.

Grantham Prize 2012

Award of Merit for Environmental Journalism

Cinema for Peace, Berlin

Finalist, International Green Film Award,

Shanghai International Film Festival

Official Selection

Planet in Focus

Best Canadian Feature Documentary

Vancouver International Film Fest

Audience Award: Top Ten Canadian Films

The filmmakers had unprecedented access to China's former director of Environmental Protection, Qu Geping. Honored with multiple international prizes including the Blue Planet award, Qu has been China's "father of environmental protection" for more than 40 years. He provides a candid, no-holds-barred look at the state of the environment in China, from Mao until now.

For more information

Presskit, reviews, interviews: www.facetofacemedia.ca

Facebook: Waking the Green Tiger

Gary Marcuse, Director Marcuse@facetofacemedia.ca

Betsy Carson, Producer Carson@facetofacemedia.ca

Face to Face Media T: +1 604 251 9149

Log Lines

Waking the Green Tiger: A Green Movement Rises in China

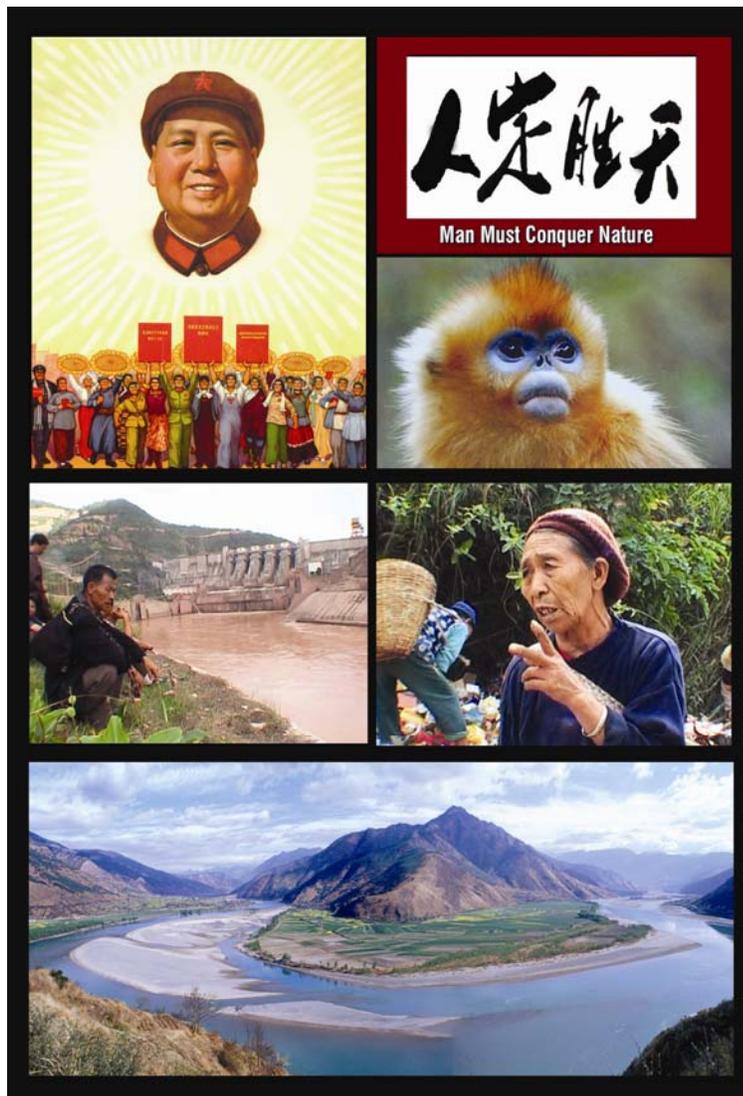
Waking the Green Tiger: Ending China's War Against Nature

Photo collage

This collage and other photos are available in 300 dpi format from Face to Face Media

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From upper left: Mao as the Sun 1968 poster; The slogan *Man Must Conquer Nature* (ren ding sheng tian) appeared on posters in villages and was a central theme in Mao's campaigns during the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution; Golden (snub nosed) monkeys live in the high mountains of Yunnan province and were the subject of an early campaign to protect endangered species; a woman from Tianba village describes what happened to her land and farm when the Manwan dam was built on the Mekong River in the mid 1980s; the first big bend of the Yangtze near Shigu town on the Upper Yangtze River (aka Jinsha River) in Yunnan Province would be flooded by the proposed dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge. The reservoir would flood the valley for 265 kilometers upstream and would require relocation of 100,000 people; a group of farmers from Xiaoshaba village on the Nu river visit the Manwan Dam on the Mekong River to find out what happened to farmers who were dislocated by the dam construction in the 1980s.



WAKING THE GREEN TIGER

Canada | Dir: Gary Marcuse

78 Min Stereo Color 16x9 HDcam / HDCamSR / Blu Ray Audio Dolby 5.1 Stereo / SR

Summaries / 以下为《唤醒绿色虎》介绍:

54 words

By declaring that nature must be conquered in the name of progress, Chairman Mao ushered in an era of environmental degradation for China. Now, passionate activists strive to preserve their natural wonders, educate their compatriots and encourage public debate. Gary Marcuse's stirring documentary celebrates the brave souls at the forefront of China's new revolution.

66 Words

Waking the Green Tiger documents the rise of a green movement in China, as farmers and activists join together to oppose a massive dam project on the Upper Yangtze River. This dramatic story is told against a background of eyewitness accounts -- and extraordinary archival footage -- describing an earlier era under Chairman Mao when the masses were mobilized to conquer nature in the name of progress.

96 words

Waking the Green Tiger: A Green Movement Rises in China

Seen through the eyes of activist, farmers and journalists, Waking the Green Tiger follows an extraordinary campaign to stop a huge dam project on the Upper Yangtze river in southwestern China. Featuring astonishing archival footage never seen outside China, and interviews with a government insider and witnesses, the documentary also tells the history of Chairman Mao's campaigns to conquer nature in the name of progress. Activists -- and the former director of China's Environmental Protection Agency -- conclude that environmental law and grass roots green activism provide a model for the evolution of democracy in China

Variation: 106 words

Waking the Green Tiger: A Green Movement Rises in China

Seen through the eyes of activist, farmers and journalists, Waking the Green Tiger follows an extraordinary campaign to stop a huge dam project on the Upper Yangtze river in southwestern China. The movement they trigger has the potential to transform China. Featuring astonishing archival footage never seen outside China, and interviews with a government insider and witnesses, the documentary also tells the history of Chairman Mao's campaigns to conquer nature in the name of progress.

Activists -- and the former director of China's Environmental Protection Agency -- conclude that environmental law and grass roots green activism provide a model for the evolution of democracy in China.

156 words

Seen through the eyes of activists, farmers, and journalists, Waking the Green Tiger follows an extraordinary campaign to stop a massive dam project that would displace 100,000 people on the upper Yangtze river at Tiger Leaping Gorge in southwestern China. Featuring astonishing archival footage never seen outside China and interviews with a government insider and

witnesses, the documentary also tells the history of Chairman Mao's campaigns to conquer nature in the name of progress.

A green movement takes root when a new environmental law is passed. For the first time in China's history ordinary citizens have the democratic right to participate in government decisions. Farmers and activists join forces to oppose the dam and save their valley. The movement they trigger has the potential to transform China. Activists and the former director of China's Environmental Protection Agency, Qu Geping, conclude that environmental law and green democracy offer a model for the evolution of democracy in China.

Catalogue entry by distributor

290 Words

Waking the Green Tiger tells the dramatic story of the rise of the first major grassroots environmental movement in China, a significant development that could reshape the country. Seen through the eyes of farmers, journalists, activists and a former government insider, the film traces the historical evolution of the movement and highlights an extraordinary campaign to stop a huge dam project slated for the Upper Yangtze River in southern China.

Featuring archival footage never seen outside China, and interviews with insiders and witnesses, the documentary portrays the fifty year history of Chairman Mao's campaigns to conquer nature in the name of progress. Mao mobilized millions of people in campaigns that reshaped China's landscape, destroyed lakes, forests and grasslands, and unleashed dust storms. Despite the evident consequences, critics of this approach were silenced for decades.

The green movement emerged when a new environmental impact law was passed in 2004. For the first time in China's history, ordinary citizens gained the right to speak out and take part in government decisions. Green activism grew into a larger movement as local villagers and urban activists joined forces to oppose a massive new dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge on the Upper Yangtze that would have displaced 100,000 people. Their extraordinary campaign is a primary focus of the film.

Waking the Green Tiger also gained unprecedented access to the former director of China's Environmental Protection Agency, Qu Geping, whose years of work inside the government laid the foundation for environmental protection in China. Qu provides a candid look at the state of the environment in China from Mao until now, and discusses how environmental law and the green movement have a key role to play in the evolution of democracy in China.

以下为《唤醒绿色虎》介绍：

片长 78 分钟，英语和汉语对话，英文字幕。

通过环境活动人士、农民及记者的眼光，

《唤醒绿色虎》追踪一场史无前例的非凡运动，这场运动是要阻止在中国西南部的崇山峻岭中的长江上游修建大坝。

[为毛的人定胜天论画上句号](#)

影片以令人惊奇而且从未在中国境外面世的档案材料及对政府内幕知情者和见证人的采访为主体，同时也讲述了毛主席是如何坚持以进步的名义搞人定胜天运动的。数以百万计的中国人被动员起来参加运动，而这些运动改变了中国的地貌、毁坏了湖泊、沼泽、森林和草原，让沙尘暴肆虐而且也令科学停滞不前。五十年来，天一定要服务于人的观念在一代一代的中国人心目中已根深蒂固。批评这一做法的人因此而销声匿迹了多少年。

[唤起一场草根运动](#)

当一部新的环境法通过之后，由环保活动人士和农民领导并得到政府内幕知情人支持的一场新环保运动终于扎下了根。中国有史以来，普通公民第一次享受到了表达心声及参与政府决策的民主权利。环保活动人士踏上了检验他们的自由度并拯救一条河流的征程。他们引发的这场运动极具令中国改头换面的潜力

	<h2>Key Characters</h2> <p>Face to Face Media Vancouver Canada 604 251 0770 www.facetofacemedia.ca info@facetofacemedia.ca Please see individual photos for additional information</p>
	<p>In 2004 journalist Liu Jianqiang wrote a story about the proposed dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge for <i>China Southern Weekend</i>, a leading publication. The story was read by Premier Wen Jiabao who then delayed construction of the dam.</p>
	<p>Journalist and activist Ma Jun is the author of <i>China's Water Crisis</i> and the director of the Institute for Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE). Ma Jun wrote one of the first national stories about the proposed dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge.</p>
	<p>Yu Xiaogang being interviewed near Lijiang for <i>Waking the Green Tiger</i>. Yu is the director of Green Watershed, based in Kunming. Yu has worked extensively with the Naxi and Yi farmers near Lashihai, creating organizations to fishing and water resources. He is the recipient of the Goldman Prize for Excellence in Protecting the Environment.</p>
	<p>Qu Geping, former director of the State Environmental Protection Agency is known as the “father of environmental protection” in China. He is the recipient of Japan’s Blue Planet award for establishing the legal framework for environmental protection in China.</p>
	<p>Shi Lihong is a journalist and filmmaker. Her first film <i>Voice of an Angry River</i> was used to organize a movement that successfully stopped dam construction on the upper Yangtze River at Tiger Leaping Gorge. Please see her biography for further information.</p>
	<p>Shi Lihong and Xi Zhinong are the founders of Wild China Film based in Beijing. Together they produced one of China’s first wildlife films, a 2002 documentary about the endangered golden monkeys of Yunnan Province. Xi is one of China’s leading wildlife cinematographers. His work appears in <i>Waking the Green Tiger</i>.</p>
	<p>The snub nosed golden monkey of Yunnan province.. Threatened by logging, the monkeys were the subject of one of the first environmental campaigns in China in the late 1990s. The film by Xi Zhinong and Shi Lihong set off a national debate that put a halt to logging in their mountain habitat in Yunnan.</p>



The Three Great Rivers in Yunnan

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Map showing the location of Yunnan province in southwestern China, and the paths of the three parallel rivers that descend from the Tibetan plateau. Each of the rivers is known by two names. The Upper Yangtze is known locally as the Jinsha. The Mekong is also the Lancang, and outside of China the Nu River is also known as the Salween.



21 dams were proposed for the Nu and Yangtze rivers in Yunnan province in late 2003 and early 2004. The dams would be built and operated by two of China's largest corporations, Huadian and Huaneng power.



Map showing the location of the big dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge on the Upper Yangtze, and Xiaoshaba village and the Manwan Dam.



Farmers from Xiaoshaba village on the Nu River who would be displaced by a dam travel to Manwan to see what happened to farmers who were moved 20 years earlier. The meeting, organized by activist Yu Xiaogang and recorded by filmmaker Shi Lihong was the subject of her film *Voice of an Angry River*.



The dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge, proposed in 2004, would flood the first bend of the Yangtze and create a reservoir 265 kms in length, second in volume to the reservoir of the Three Gorges dam on the middle section of the Yangtze. Shigu City, at the first bend, would be submerged and 100,000 people would be displaced.



Tiger Leaping Gorge. A guest house perched on the ridge above the Upper Yangtze. The Yangtze flows through a gorge nearly 10,000 feet / 3000 metres deep as it descends from the Tibetan plateau.



Farmers affected by dams

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The Manwan dam on the Mekong River, built in the 1980s. 7,500 farmers were moved to make way for the dam. Studies showed that many of them received little compensation or land. In this image from Shi Lihong's film *Voice of an Angry River*, farmers from the Nu valley who may be relocated visit Manwan to find out what happened there and are shocked by the poverty and poor living conditions of their counterparts on the Mekong river.



In this image from Shi Lihong's film *Voice of an Angry River*, a farmer from Tianba village near the Manwan dam explains that the women of the village have been reduced to picking through garbage after losing their land in the 1980s. She is one of 16 million people in China moved to make way for 22,000 big dams.

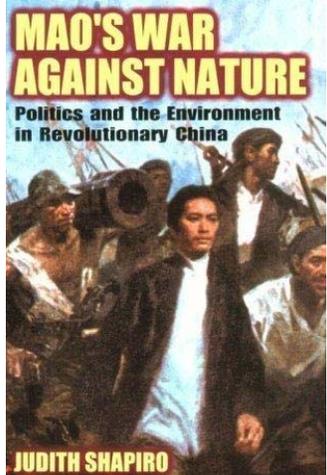


A young mother from Tianba village explains that her family was told that they would be relocated onto farmland to replace the land they lost when the Manwan dam was built. But 20 years have passed and their situation is desperate.



Local leader Ge Quanxiao addresses a meeting of farmers on the Upper Yangtze who have just seen Shi Lihong's film *Voice of an Angry River*. Farmers and activists collaborated in a historic attempt to stop the flooding of the valley that would have displaced 100,000 people.

	<p>On Location in Beijing and Yunnan province</p> <p>Face to Face Media Vancouver Canada 604 251 0770 www.facetofacemedia.ca info@facetofacemedia.ca Please see individual photos for additional information</p>
	<p><i>Waking the Green Tiger</i> director Gary Marcuse on location in China, discussing local history with a group of Naxi farmers near Lijiang city in Yunnan province. The forests near their village were decimated during the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.</p>
	<p><i>Waking the Green Tiger</i> director Gary Marcuse on location with DOP Rolf Cutts in Yunnan province, China. In the background Chinese tourists line up for pony rides provided by Naxi farmers near Lijiang.</p>
	<p><i>Waking the Green Tiger</i> director Gary Marcuse and DOP Rolf Cutts on location in Beijing with author and environmental activist Ma Jun. Ma is the author of China's Water Crisis and the director of a website that provides information on air and water pollution by factories in China.</p>
	<p>Qu Geping, former director of the State Environmental Protection Agency with director Gary Marcuse near Beijing. Qu, known as the “father of environmental protection” in China is the recipient of Japan’s Blue Planet award for establishing the legal framework for environmental protection in China.</p>

	<h2>Mao's War Against Nature</h2> <p>Face to Face Media Vancouver Canada 604 251 0770 www.facetofacemedia.ca info@facetofacemedia.ca Please see individual photos for additional information</p>
	<p>Mao Zedong launching the Great Leap Forward in 1958. Campaigns to create steel and exterminate the Four Pests are described in <i>Waking the Green Tiger</i></p>
	<p>Ren Ding Sheng Tian - Man Must Conquer Nature. Two generations were taught that nature must serve the people. Illustration from <i>Mao's War Against Nature</i> by Judith Shapiro</p>
	<p>A young girl in Beijing holds a fly swatter as part of the "Four Pests" campaign during the Great Leap Forward 1958-1961. The campaign was aimed at mice, mosquitoes, flies and sparrows. Killing sparrows was supposed to preserve grain but it had the opposite effect as the insects that sparrows eat thrived in their absence and damaged crops. The loss of the sparrows contributed to a deadly famine.</p>
	<p>Mao Zedong poster from the Cultural Revolution, ca 1970. Mao's attempts to conquer nature to create farmland ignored advice from scientists and advisors. "Demanding grain" from lakes, forests and grasslands inflicted lasting damage on China's ecosystems.</p>
	<p>Zeng Binchuan, a college administrator, was one of 300,000 residents of Kunming who worked for six months to convert the shallow marshlands of Lake Dianchi into farmland as part of Mao's campaign in 1970 to grow more grain. As described in the film, the effort was wasted and the lake's ecosystem was damaged. There was extensive and lasting damage to lakes, grasslands and forests during this time. Zeng opposed the project but couldn't speak out at the time.</p>
	<p>One of the inspirations for this film is <i>Mao's War Against Nature</i> by Judith Shapiro (2004, Cambridge University Press) For summaries and reviews please visit our website at Face to Face Media</p>



Director's statement

Gary Marcuse, Face to Face Media

This is the third in a series of films that Betsy Carson and I have produced about the origins of environmental movements in North America, Russia and now China. These programs (*Nuclear Dynamite*, *Arktika: the Russian Dream that Failed*, *Waking the Green Tiger*) have been produced in association with CBC's *The Nature of Things*.

These films are, each in their own way, celebrations of the rise of grass roots movements on three different continents over a period of fifty years. In North America the environmental movement grew out of a peace movement in the 1950s that was inspired, in part, by environmental concerns. Radioactive strontium from nuclear testing in Nevada and the South Pacific was detected in milk and in children's teeth and bones. This led to a greater understanding of food chains that allow the concentration of radiation as fallout landing in farm fields was consumed by cows and passed to children through their milk. In Russia the environmental movement was inspired by concerns about toxic Soviet era nuclear waste that was abandoned in the arctic as nuclear submarine bases were closed and the Russian economy collapsed. In China, as shown in *Waking the Green Tiger*, a movement crystallizes around a campaign to save a wild river in Yunnan province. What all these movements have in common is the passionate desire of ordinary people to protect the environment and their willingness to speak out and to assert their right to do so.

Together these programs trace a transformation in our understanding of the world we live in over the last 60 years. In the past the world seemed larger and more fragmented. Events half a world away had little impact. But gradually, with a better understanding of food chains and ecology it has become clear that we live in a fragile collection of interlocking ecosystems, and the biological systems and species that we destroy may never be seen again.

The step from environmental awareness to environmental action is difficult. Activism by its nature disturbs the status quo and triggers a response from vested interests. Without support from the public, the government, and the law, environmental activists are often exposed to pressure, repression or violence, as has happened in many countries. A movement is more than a spontaneous demonstration. It only emerges when the ground has been prepared for it. In our films we have tried to describe both the inciting events that triggered the movement and the broader social context that made a movement possible.

The existence of an environmental crisis in China is well known. For decades public policy was driven by the philosophy that nature must serve the people. During Chairman Mao's time the philosophy was more explicit: man must conquer nature. The consequences of this neglect are evident. China's outspoken vice-minister of the environment, Pan Yue, has in the past been very explicit about the extensive air and water pollution that affects up to half of the population. As one step toward addressing these issues, the news media, beginning in the 1990s, have published and broadcast hundreds of thousands of reports about air and water pollution and endangered wildlife. This helps to inform and animate the public, but until quite recently there was little evidence of anything like a grass roots movement that could make a difference. Many green groups were limited to more symbolic efforts like tree planting, litter collection, and nature walks.

But starting in 2004, as described in the documentary, something changed. Green activism evolved into a green movement when local villagers and activists joined forces to oppose a massive dam project on the Upper Yangtze river at Tiger Leaping Gorge. Ordinary people are also speaking out about the problems of pollution with a new sense of conviction. Every week there are hundreds of local demonstrations triggered by concerns about toxic waste. How this happened, and how this green movement supports the evolution of democracy in China is the subject of our film.



Face to Face Media Ltd is an independent production company founded in 1986 that specializes in documentaries for public broadcast and educational video collections for use in professional development and in the classroom.
www.facetofacemedia.ca

Director, Writer, Producer: Gary Marcuse

CBC Television Programming Executive (2004-2008): Liaison for the CBC documentary unit in charge of regional development and local documentary production, CBC Vancouver

Independent production: Writer, director, producer for Face to Face Media: *The Mind of a Child*, (Gemini Canada Award), *Nuclear Dynamite* (Gemini, Beijing Golden Dragon, and 12 international awards), *ARKTIKA: the Russian Dream that Failed*.

Writer and director: *Champions of the Wild* (Great Sea Turtles, Jaguars and Siberian Tigers episodes), and *The Search for Women Warriors* for the series Ancient Clues for Omni Productions.

Executive Producer for the feature documentary *FIX: The Story of an Addicted City* by Canada Wild Productions (Nettie Wild, Director)

Industry Service: Past President and national executive, Writer's Guild of Canada, Vancouver Branch (ACTRA), Founding member, Documentary Organization of Canada, Vancouver Branch, Past National Chair, Documentary Organization of Canada

Selected awards: Genie, Beijing Golden Dragon, Gemini, Gemini Canada, Columbus, New York, Chicago, Houston

Producer/ Executive Producer: Betsy Carson

Betsy is a producer/ director with over 20 years experience in documentary film and television. She has produced the feature docs of Nettie Wild (*FIX: The Story of an Addicted City, A Place Called Chiapas, Blockade, Bevel Up*) throughout that time, and has also collaborated for the entire 20 years with filmmakers Gary Marcuse (*Nuclear Dynamite, Arktika*) and Hugh Brody (*The Meaning of Life, Time Immemorial*).

Betsy has recently been **EP** with Mark Achbar (*The Corporation*) on three theatrical feature documentaries: *Fierce Light* (dir: Velcrow Ripper), *Pax Americana* (dir: Denis Delestrac) and *Waterlife* (dir: Kevin McMahon), with a fourth - *Surviving Progress* - now in production with Cinémaginaire (also Executive Produced with Martin Scorsese), inspired by Ronald Wright's book *A Short History of Progress*.

Other **current projects** include : *War in the Mind* (2011) a film by Judy Jackson for TVO about post traumatic stress in the military; *Tracks Across Sand*, directed by Hug Brody, a Web/DVD history of and for the San of the Kalahari about their successful South African land claim and the ten years following that event. In development: *All Things Alice* – a look at 150 years of Alice in Wonderland in global popular culture.

Industry service: Vice Chair of the Documentary Organization of Canada for six years, and currently a member of several DOC advocacy committees. She came to documentary film after a long career as a professional ballet dancer.



**CREDIT LIST FOR
WAKING THE GREEN TIGER
Festival version**

HEAD CREDITS:

1
2
3
4
5

Waking the Green Tiger
Directed by **Gary Marcuse**
Produced by **Betsy Carson**
Narrated by **David Hewlett**
inspired by "Mao's War Against Nature"
By **Judith Shapiro**

TAIL CREDITS

Written and Directed by
GARY MARCUSE

Producers
BETSY CARSON
GARY MARCUSE

Editor
STUART DE JONG

Narrator
DAVID HEWLETT

Cinematographer
ROLF CUTTS

Composers
HENRY HEILLIG
DOUG WILDE

Consultant
JUDITH SHAPIRO

author of
Mao's War Against Nature

ROLL BEGINS HERE

Festival version Aug 29 2011 p. 2



Location Sound
GARY MARCUSE

Sound Supervisor /Mixer
EWAN DEANE

Production Management Services
LIXIN FAN PRODUCTIONS

Production Coordinator
SHI LIHONG

CARFTE Productions Services
XI WANCANG

Second Unit Direction
SHI LIHONG

Second Unit Camera
ZHOU YU
SHI LIHONG
XI ZHINONG

Map Animations
PETER DEBAY

Graphic Design
DRIVE

On-line Editor / Colourist
LARRY DI STEFANO

Assistant Editor
NEIL THOMPSON

Archival Research
FAN RONG
CUI CHANGJIAN
YUE QING YANG
PAULA SAWADSKY

Translation
SHI LIHONG
SHAN TAM
YANG YUEQING
YI HAN
THERESA HO
BEN LU
LEGEND LIU

Transcription
YANG YUEQING
ORANGE STUDIO
TRACE SITTER

師
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Legal Counsel
BRAHM MARTZ

Insurance Services
CALLOW INSURANCE ASSOCIATES

Facilities
SEQUENCE POST
THE SOUND KITCHEN
DBC SOUND
POP SOUND

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LINE 21 MEDIA SERVICES

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CCTV
MAOPOST.COM
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MEDIA PROJECT
WILD CHINA FILM
FRIENDS OF NATURE
KUNMING TELEVISION
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SUN MIN
TAN LESHUI
JOHN LIU
JAMES TAN
LAU WANYIN
LI BO



FOR THE CBC
Executive Producers
Michael Alder
Robert Culbert

Senior Producer
Caroline Underwood

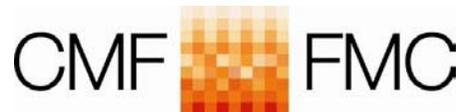
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喚醒綠色虎

Waking the Green Tiger

These are simplified Chinese characters.

If they are not visible you may need to download a Chinese character set for your computer.

General information about Chinese character sets can be found at

<http://www.mandarintools.com/faq.html>

Windows users may find character sets at

www.microsoft.com/download/en/search.aspx?q=chinese

These are the same characters that appear in the title logo





Filmmakers record and shape a movement

Background

The birth of the environmental movement in China may be the first time key events were captured on videotape and independent documentaries helped to galvanize the movement.

A major contributor to this project is filmmaker **Shi Lihong**. Trained as a journalist, she initially wrote articles for the English language *China Daily*. She then studied film at Berkeley where she became interested in the observational documentaries of Barbara Koppel who recorded the organization of coal miners in *Harlan County* and Ogawa Shinsuke who documented the struggle of farmers in Japan to prevent the expansion of Tokyo's Narita airport in the 1970s.

Back in China, Shi Lihong worked with her husband Xi Zhinong on a documentary about the endangered snub-nosed monkeys in the mountains of Yunnan province beginning in 1996. Their work exposed plans for logging in the monkey's habitat and launched the first of a series of national campaigns to protect wildlife. The film also marked the beginning of their company Wild China Film, based in Beijing. Shi Lihong returned to Yunnan in 2004 with a group of journalists led by **Wang Yongchen**, an outspoken environmental reporter at China National Radio and the founder of Green Earth Volunteers. Wang was leading a tour by activists and journalists to the Nu River in Yunnan province in southwestern China. In 2003 plans had been announced for the construction of a chain of 13 dams on the free running Nu (which translates as the 'Angry River'). 50,000 people who live by the river would be displaced and the wild Nu would be turned into a chain of lakes. Shi Lihong joined the tour and began filming the debate and the growing resistance to the dams by farmers and activists in February 2004. Soon after, additional plans were announced for eight more dams on the Upper Yangtze river, increasing the number of people affected to 150,000.



In the spring of 2004 Local organizer **Yu Xiaogang**, director of the Kunming based Green Watershed environmental NGO, invited Shi Lihong to record an unusual meeting between two groups of farmers. One group, from the small village of Xiaoshaba on the Nu river would be displaced by a dam near their village. The other group, on the Mekong River, were displaced 20 years earlier to make way for the Manwan dam. Yu's plan was to

bring the two groups of farmers together, to record their discussion, and to share the video with other villages in Yunnan that would be affected by the proposed dams.

Yu, a social scientist, had studied the impact of the Manwan dam the 7,500 people who were displaced by the dam in the 1980s. Yu wrote a report that was highly critical of the resettlement policies practiced by the province and the levels of compensation that were provided. Similar criticisms were being leveled across China during this time as the long term impact of resettlements became better known. The situation of the people in Tianba village, seen in the film, is a dramatic example of the hardships faced by more than 16 million people throughout

China who have been moved to make way for 80,000 dams (including 22,000 big dams) that have been built in the past 50 years. While the total number of dams of all sizes is not much greater than the number in the United States (approximately 70,000) the impact on densely settled populations clustered around scarce farmland in China is far greater.

Shi Lihong documented the meeting organized by Yu Xiaogang in a short film titled *Voice of an Angry River*. 200 copies were made and circulated in the Nu valley and the Upper Yangtze valley. The reaction to the film was especially strong in the Upper Yangtze, a long settled area of rich farmland that would be flooded by a dam slated for Tiger Leaping Gorge. The dam would create a reservoir 265 kilometres in length, the largest in China after the Three Gorges dams on the lower Yangtze. Resistance to the new dams began to build during the fall of 2004, encouraged by the intervention of Premier **Wen Jiabao** who took note of the controversy and called for “cautious” study of the dams.

In December 2004 Shi Lihong was invited to visit the Upper Yangtze by a local activist, **Zhao Liangzhong**, who had been showing her film *Voice of An Angry River* in villages along the river. Shi Lihong returned to Yunnan and filmed one of these screenings where farmers viewed and reacted to the film. The documentary was a key organizing tool used by farmers and activists to build a movement in opposition to the dam.

No cameras were present when a confrontation erupted between villagers and the dam developers erupted on 21 March 2006 but **Shi Lihong** and journalist **Liu Jiangiang** returned the valley to collect stories about the uprising and the negotiations that led to the unprecedented cancellation of the big dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge. Shi incorporated this footage into a longer documentary about this historic collaboration between activists and farmers in the Yangtze valley that activists say marks the beginning of an environmental movement in China. Her documentary premiered in Beijing in 2010. Shi Lihong gave us access to her documentaries and to her raw footage for use in *Waking the Green Tiger*.



Background

Dams proposed for Yunnan's three great rivers

A new law introduces public participation



Three parallel rivers

The Nu (also known as the Salween), the Mekong (Lancang) and the Upper Yangtze (Jinsha) are known as the “three parallel rivers” in Yunnan province. Rising in the Tibetan plateau, the rivers have carved out deep canyons up to 3000 metres deep in the high mountains of Yunnan. In places these canyons widen out into fertile valleys that have been farmed for centuries by the ethnic minorities who live in Yunnan.*

The mountain ridges above the Upper Yangtze are snow capped while the valley bottoms have a temperate climate and fertile farmlands. The farmers here supply food to much of the region. They are relatively prosperous, with handsome tile roofed houses, pigs, water buffalo, and fields of grain, vegetables and tobacco. For centuries the valley was a trading route between China and Tibet. Tea in hundred pound loads travelled up the valley and traded for horses raised on the high plateau. Shigu City, on the first big bend of the Yangtze, is more than 600 years old. It would be submerged by the proposed dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge.

Building dams in a UNESCO world heritage park

In 2003 the high ridges above the three rivers were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, which led activists to hope that the rivers would not be dammed. But when the park was declared the protected areas were restricted to the ridges above 2100 metres. The reservoir for the big dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge would reach a height of 2010 metres.

A history of dam construction and displacement

Across China more than 80,000 dams have been built, including 22,000 big dams (about half of the total in the world). The best known of these is the Three Gorges project on the middle Yangtze. Across China more than 16 million people have been displaced to make way for dams and reservoirs and it is widely recognized that most of them, especially the farmers, are worse off as a result. Good farmland is a scarce resource in China which has one-third of the world's population but only 22% of its farmlands. Good land is normally under cultivation, so finding new homes and fields for displaced farmers is difficult, and many have suffered as a result. As described in *Waking the Green Tiger*, community organizer Yu Xiaogang had studied the impact of displacement on 7,500 people who were relocated during the construction of the Manwan dam on the Mekong River in the 1980s. Yu was able to document that the situation of many farmers was dire, that compensation was inadequate or had been diverted, and that further assistance was desperately needed. He concluded that the farmers along the Nu river should be exposed to the situation at Manwan, and arranged a meeting between the villagers.



Dams are diamonds

Up until the mid 1990s dams were built by the state. Following economic reforms, large corporations were established which trade on the Hong Kong stock exchange. In 2002 the rivers of Yunnan were opened up for proposals and two of China's largest corporations, Huadian and Huaneng proposed two chains of dams on the Nu (also known as the Salween) and Upper Yangtze (also known as the Jinsha) rivers.

Yunnan holds a quarter of the untapped hydropower in China, and in accordance with

China's efforts to reduce its reliance on coal fired power plants, construction of the dams is supported at many levels. The power companies generally share the ownership and management of the dams with local governments. Dams are popular because, unlike mines and other industrial projects that are depleted over time dams are considered to be "diamonds" that generate income over the long term. The dams proposed for Yunnan would have doubled provincial revenues. As reflected in the film, dam proponents promote the idea that the construction will improve the welfare of displaced populations, when the opposite is more often proved to be true. Sources of information for farmers are limited, and the authority of developers and local and central governments is so difficult to challenge. There was no history of effective protest against dams when the activists set out to publicize the plans for the Nu river in 2004.

A new law opens the door for public participation

In 2002, while the dam proposals were being written, a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) law was passed by the State Council, to come into effect in August 2003. The law was double edged. It required developers to submit projects for assessment and approval and it established the principle of public hearings where individuals and experts might contribute to the assessment of the impact of the projects and challenge the plans of developers. This law, the product of years of research, writing and lobbying by **Qu Geping** (see "China's Father of Environmental Protection") placed the tiny State Environmental Protection Agency in a position to review and possibly override massive state projects supported by the powerful National Resource and Development Council and other senior agencies. As Qu and journalists **Ma Jun** and **Wang Yongchen** note in the film, the EIA law laid the foundation for an entirely new chapter in China's history. The EIA regulations, like many of the other rules prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency, provided clear and transparent standards and included a democratic process. It was, in short, a landmark in the evolution of governance in China where the drive toward the rule of law (instead of the rule by bureaucrats) is a long term trend that began with the economic reforms instituted by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s. The right to have a voice in the environmental assessment of the dams provided an opening for a wider discussion of the dam projects in Yunnan. The activists and the media took the new law as a signal that a much wider public debate was now possible. Journalist **Wang Yongchen**, a senior reporter at China's National Radio, was the first to test the latitude of the new law when she organized an expedition for journalists and activist to the Nu and Yangtze valleys in 2004. This was the first of a series of yearly expeditions organized by Wang to raise awareness about the state of China's rivers and to promote the conservation.

Build now, assess later

The hydropower developers were not deterred, at first, by the passage of the new environmental assessment law. In the months before it came into effect ground was broken for projects along the Nu and

Upper Yangtze. Then, in many locations along the rivers, construction was begun without permits. When pressed, some officials argued that much of the construction was only preparatory and that they were not actually damming the river as long as the stream was flowing through the construction site. In some cases work proceeded even in the face of stop orders and fines from the EPA. Where fines were levied they have often failed to stop construction along the Upper Yangtze where half a dozen dams are being built including the Jinanqiao, Ahai, Longkaikou, and Ludila dams. These dams, which have small reservoirs, will not reach peak efficiency unless a much larger dam, like the one proposed for Tiger Leaping Gorge, is built.

Tiger Leaping Gorge (Hutiaoxia)

Tiger Leaping Gorge is a national landmark on the Yangtze river, located in a deep canyon in the midst of the Three Parallel Rivers world heritage park which spans the Upper Yangtze, Mekong and Nu Rivers. In the middle of the gorge the slow flowing Yangtze, which is a kilometre or more wide in the upper valley, narrows down to 30 metres as it funnels into the gorge. A tiger was said to have escaped hunters by leaping from the shore to a great rock that divides the river, and then to the far shore. The proposed dam would be higher than an 80 storey building, and would create a massive reservoir stretching 265 kilometres upriver, second only in volume to reservoir behind the Three Gorges dam. The cancellation of the dam at Tiger Leaping Gorge in 2007 was accompanied by proposals for a similar dam further upstream, near the Tibetan community of Dequin.

*** Ethnic minorities in Yunnan**

Among the country's fifty-six recognized ethnic groups, twenty-five are found in Yunnan including the Yi, Bai, Hani, Tai, Dai, Miao, Lisu, Hui, Lahu, Va, Nakhi, Yao, Tibetan, Jingpo, Blang, Pumi, Nu, Achang, Jinuo, Mongolian, Derung, Manchu, Shui, and Buy.