



## ***Save Living Systems One-by-One***

The Chinese classic on the formation of the cosmos states: There is no way of love, water is love. I interpret this to mean that without life there is no love—and water gives life to all. It follows that water quality is essential and that we as the caretakers of planet earth must protect the waters.

I discovered in the Tibetan culture of Western Sichuan knowledge of water that is unrecorded and profound. Each site has a story that recounts its founding and instructs on how to use and how to protect the waters of that site. I have begun documenting this water culture with two Tibetan women in a project called reSources: Saving Living Systems.

Documentation of springs and sacred sites—those sites that a community acknowledges as sustaining life—serves multiple purposes. First and foremost, it focuses on waters in danger of rapidly disappearing due to global warming, extraction, damming, and a global economy. Second, it begins to educate rural communities who often misunderstand the policies and procedures that affect their water sources, and urban communities that may be unaware of the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Our documentation ensures that for the first time there will be a clear map of these sources to ensure careful planning and development, when or if people are planning water transfers, damming, mining, or extraction businesses. reSources has already inspired similar projects in other communities.

Betsy Damon and Brock Dolman, Director of the Water Institute at Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, are going to Western Sichuan in May 2009 to complete research and begin implementation. We need your help. The research expedition will cost \$30,000, including travel and expenses. If Keepers of the Waters has inspired you in the past, or if this project captures your imagination, please consider making a donation at [www.keepersofthewaters.org](http://www.keepersofthewaters.org).

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,



*Our minimum goal to cover expenses (without salaries) for a month of research and water assessment in Western Sichuan is \$30,000. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to our project!*

[www.keepersofthewaters.org](http://www.keepersofthewaters.org)

*Water is always the foundation of life. Now more than ever, we need to save our ecosystems and ensure clean water for every human being and all life forms.*