

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

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MESSAGE

from the Chair

Royal Society for Protection of Nature continues to define its space in the Bhutanese society, inspiring, acting and connecting the important work of protecting nature for the benefit of present and future generations. We are a society founded on the great vision and values of our Monarchs to care and nurture the amazing environmental legacy and heritage of every Bhutanese.

Through our work and commitment, we are continuing to live up to the ideals of that vision, making a positive difference in the lives of the ones with and without a voice.

As we develop as a great and progressive nation, the role of CSOs like ours and many alike, will have to exhibit greater responsibility in protecting the environment, providing space for meaningful discourse and mobilizing civic space in the larger interest of environmental sustainability and conservation. This year RSPN witnessed another phenomenal growth in its fund raising efforts by consistently and strategically diversifying its revenue sources. The management leadership and the team should be commended for their continued efforts and dedication to push the boundaries in this area. As a result, RSPN is continually expanding and diversifying its environmental and sustainable development portfolios across the nation.

The year also saw greater efforts and initiatives in streamlining internal control systems, strengthening organizational processes and instituting a dynamic investment policy and committee.

As we close another successful year, I on behalf of the board and management would like to take the opportunity to pay our humble respects and convey our gratitude for the continued guidance, support and inspiration to our Royal Patron, Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen.

We look forward to welcoming the New Year, with a greater sense of passion and commitment, to uphold our values and push the boundaries of thought and action in conserving Bhutan's rich and pristine natural environment.

With Best Wishes and Happy New Year.

(Dechen Dorji)



MESSAGE

from the Executive Director

Bhutan has received global recognition for the protection and preservation of its rich natural heritage. This is primarily due to the visionary monarchs, under whose leadership environment-friendly policies and practices were adopted and followed in the country.

However, it is crucial to understand that conservation needs continued and collective efforts and support from the government, donors, private and non-governmental organizations, and most importantly the people. It is also essential to recognize the emerging environmental issues arising due to climate change, development and change in livelihood patterns.

RSPN is now 31 years old and pioneering in the conservation of flagship species and environmental programs in the country. The annual report is one platform where we share our work and achievements of the year. The report showcases our conservation journey as we continue to tread towards our vision of creating an environmentally sustainable society for our future generations.

As we present the annual report for the year 2017-2018, I would like to thank our partners and supporters.

Thank you.

(Kinley Tenzin, PhD)



OUR BOARD DIRECTORS



Dechen Dorji, Chair

Dechen Dorji is WWF's Country Representative for Bhutan. Prior to joining the WWF, he served as a Public Policy Researcher in the areas of social and welfare assistance for disadvantaged communities and students under His Majesty's Secretariat office. He has a Bachelors (hons) degree in Forestry from University of Wales, UK and a Master of Environmental Management degree from Yale University, USA. He started his career in the Forestry departments as a forestry and environment management planner. At the end of 1996, he moved to Khangma, Trashigang for seven years to work on the World Bank, SDC and

IFAD funded regional forestry and agriculture development project covering the six eastern Dzongkhags. Mr. Dorji is also the Founding Director of Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment based in Bumthang, a project initiated as a tribute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests during the Centenary Celebrations of the monarchy in 2008.



Dr. Pema Choephyel, Board Director

Dr. Pema Choephyel is the Director for Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation having joined the Fund in July 2010. He began his career with the Royal Civil Service Commission; as a civil servant he held various positions as the Principal at Royal Veterinary Institute, Department of Animal Husbandry, Pedagogic Head (VP) at the Natural Resources Training Institute, Chief Research Officer, Chief Extension Officer, Director at the Council of RNR Research of Bhutan and recently as an Advisor to the Bhutan Development Finance Corporation Limited. He has held various professional membership positions

such as the Permanent Representative of World Meteorology Organization (2004-2007), member of the Project Steering Committee of various area Development Projects in Bhutan.(1997-2007), Board Director for Bhutan Development Finance Corporation Limited (2002-2007), Druk Seed Corporation, (2001-2007), Bhutan Agro Industry Limited (2001-2003), and Food Corporation of Bhutan. A graduate of Bombay Veterinary College, Bombay, India Dr. Pema Choephyel received his master's degree in Rural Development and Communication from Lincoln University, New Zealand in 1991.



Karma Tshering, Board Director

Karma Tshering is the Director General for Department of School Education, Ministry of Education. He started his career as the Assistant Planning Officer, Royal Institute of Management in 1987 and has been with the Royal civil service for over 25 years having served as the Lecturer and later as the Senior Lecturer at Royal Institute of Management, Deputy Director at National Employment Board, Director at Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, and most recently as the Director General at Royal Institute of Management. He is the Executive Board Member, AMDISA, and a Governing Board Member, SAARC Documentation Centre (SDC). He graduated with a

Bachelor's degree in commerce from Sherubtse College in 1986 and received a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration from Cardiff Business School, UK in 1989 and a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Cardiff Business School, UK in 1990.



Phento Tshering, Board Director

Phento Tshering is the Director for the Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. He began his career with the Royal Civil Service Commission as a civil servant and has been in the service for last 22 years. He held various positions as the Chief Forestry Officer at Gedu, Wangdue and Thimphu Territorial Forest Divisions. He has held various professional membership positions such as the Chairman of drafting committee of Forest and Nature Conservation Act and Rules, served as Board of Director in Bhutan Power Corporation and currently serving as Board of Director of Natural Resource Development Corporation. He is currently the Chairman of Green

Bhutan Corporation. A graduate of Sherubtse College, Kanglung in Forestry (Life Science), 1992, Mr. Phento Tshering received his Master's degree in Forestry from IGNEA, Dehradun, India in 1998. Further, He received his Master's (MSc. Mountain Forest Ecology) from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria in 2005.



Tashi, Board Director

Tashi Joined His Majesty's Secretariat as Zimpon Wom in July 2009. He is on deputation from the Royal Audit Authority where he holds the post as Deputy Auditor General. Currently he looks after the Queens Project Office under His Majesty's Secretariat. Zimpon Wom Tashi obtained a Bachelor of Commerce from Sherubtse College in 1993 and is a finalist in Chartered Management Accountancy from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, U.K.



Phub Dorji, Board Director

Phub Dorji is the Chief Executive Officer of Bhutan Development Bank Limited. He started his career at the Ministry of Economic Affairs as Coordinator for the Cottage, Small and Medium Industry (CSMI) development project. He was the Head of the Entrepreneurship Promotion Centre (EPC) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs when he was summoned to start a Research Centre as an extension to His Majesty The King's Secretariat in 2006. He later served as a Professional Changkarp to His Majesty The King.



Dr. Kinley Tenzin, Member Secretary

Dr. Kinley Tenzin served as the Program Director at Renewable Natural Resource Research and Development Center, Yusipang under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests before taking up the new responsibility as the Executive Director of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature. He went to University of the Philippine at Los Banos for B.Sc. in General Forestry and got M.Sc. in Resource Management from the University of Edinburgh in UK. He obtained his PhD in Forest Ecosystem Dynamics from University of Boku, Vienna, Austria in 2008.

He started his career as Forestry Research Program Officer in RNR-RC, Jakar in March 1997. In 2005, he was transferred to RNR-RC, Yusipang as Deputy Chief Research Officer and back to RNR-RC, Jakar in the same capacity in 2009. Considering his capacity and vast experience in research, he was appointed as the Program Director at RNR-RC, Yusipang in 2010. Besides attending numerous national and international conferences, seminars and trainings, he has made several important publications.



Understanding the Biodiversity of Chelela

- Jigme Tshering and Dr Lungten Norbu

Bhutan has always accorded top priority for conservation of the natural environment and it constitutes one of the four pillars in the pursuance of development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH). The Constitution of Bhutan has enshrined the policy to maintain 60% of the country under forest cover for all time and forest management has been set aside as the Protected Area for conservation management. These vast natural resources including forest and water resources are used for agriculture, hydropower and tourism development to boost the socio-economic growth of the country.

Lately, with the advent of developmental activities, Bhutan's pristine mountains, forests, alpine meadows and "high passes" have been increasingly used for touristic purposes, posing threats to the fragile environment, plants and animal communities. There is no proper management measure established across the mountain landscapes to regulate these rapid development activities. By establishing a tourist information centre, developing proper guidebooks and making use of advocacy activities, Bhutan would go long way to protect and manage the biodiversity of fragile mountain landscapes while establishing sustainable eco-tourism for socio-economic development. Globally, the initiation of such management system would contribute to the achievement of 12 and 13 of Aichi Biodiversity Target and 12 and 15 of Sustainable Development Goals.

Chelela pass, located between Haa and Paro district, is a home to some of the rare species of wildlife such as Blue poppies, Lesser Panda (ICUN Red List: EN) and Satyr Tragopan (ICUN Red List: NT). Being located on the Highway, and close to Paro, Haa and Thimphu townships, many tourists including local picnickers annually visit this area in large numbers every year. There is a concern that the ill impacts of human activities are increasing and there is no proper management system to control the activities around this area especially related to tourism.

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature with the fund support of Toyota Eco-grant and in partnership with the Japan Environment Education Forum and Paro Forest Division has embarked on a two-year project of generating information on Chelela alpine landscape biodiversity and management for sustaining eco-tourism initiatives. Proper guidebooks for tourists and advocacy activities would be developed gearing towards conservation and protection of the area's fragile mountain ecosystem and biodiversity. An inventory of floral and faunal composition of Chelela pass and surrounding areas is being currently carried out.



Securing foraging sites of

BLACK-NECKED CRANES

By Jigme Tshering

IN BUMDELING

Harvested paddy fields are the most preferred foraging habitats for the cranes in Bumdeling-Trashiyangtse valley. About 100 Black-necked Cranes are sighted here every winter. Records with the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), however, show that the number of cranes visiting the valley has been falling consistently over the last decades. While about 200 individuals were counted in the early 1990s, only about 100 have been sighted in the recent years.

The mid-1990s flash flood of Kholongchu River in Bumdeling, which washed away a large part of the paddy field along its way, is believed to have caused the declining visitation of BNC population in the valley. While the local government and the Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary have been working constantly in the river training of Kholongchu, a large part of the flood-affected paddy fields still remains with flood debris, resulting in abandoning of the fields by the farmers. Restoration of these important fields, both for the farmers and cranes, is one of the top priorities identified by the local community during a perception study carried out by RSPN in 2017.

Accordingly, RSPN, in collaboration with BWS, has embarked on the restoration of these degraded and abandoned paddy fields in Bumdeling. As a pilot project, a small portion of the field (~5 acres) has been identified for the restoration. The restoration works involved removal of flood debris and sand deposits and the cultivation of high yield rice variety.

Another important factor contributing to the declining visitation of BNC in the valley that the community identified is the abandoning of paddy fields by farmers due to rampant crop depredation by wild animals. This has further intensified the issue of decreasing foraging sites in Bumdeling. Only a few pairs were observed to be feeding in the remaining paddy fields, while the rest flew towards Yangtse, about 10 km south of Bumdeling, every morning in search of food where paddy fields are still intact. To encourage farmers to continue cultivating paddy, the Wildlife Sanctuary installed electric fencing around their fields and further provided them with power tillers. However, there are still large areas of abandoned paddy fields, which are now mostly taken over by wild vegetation. The landowners of these fields expressed their willingness to restore their fields provided they receive fund support to install proper fencing around their fields (electric fencing) to combat wildlife from damaging their crops.

Three important historic foraging areas (paddy fields) of Phangteng, Nangteng and Baytsamang villages under Bumdeling Gewog were selected for the electric fencing support, in consultation with the landowners. About 20-25 km of electric fencing were provided, benefitting more than 30 households of these areas.





Encouraging Organic Agro-Ecological Farming

By Tsheten Dorji and Dhendup Wangchuk



The trip to Bayul-Kuenza can be demanding, entailing four hours of uphill walk via a footpath, the only means of access. However, the journey can be rewarding as one is treated with the chirping of birds and scenic sights as one traverse through the warm broadleaved forest.

Bayul-Kuenza (meaning hidden land of prosperity), is a remote village under Bongo gewog in Chukha district with only about 56 households. The village was once very prosperous with a steady flow of income earned through the sale of oranges.

It is said that due to the huge income earned annually, the villagers only tended to their orange orchard completely neglecting other farming activities. The villagers' dependence and reliance on the citrus production were such that after the oranges were completely wiped out due to Citrus greening disease, the entire village was pushed into poverty.



Rope-Way Bridge connecting Jigme-Chhu to Bayul-Kuenza, is the lifeline of the village and only means of connectivity.

Today, the farmers practice mixed cropping growing about nine cereal crops and varieties of vegetables. While cash crops such as oranges, cardamom, betel nut, chili and varieties of fruits and vegetables are cultivated, these are solely for self-sustenance. Crop rotation is also practised as a part of the farming method. Farmers mainly use organic manure as agro-chemicals are found to be expensive and also it is not easy to access them. In the past shifting cultivation was practised and few households still follow it.

While the farms have the potential to produce a surplus, insufficient water, human-wildlife conflict, lack of storage facility and no access to the market deters farmers to produce more. While there are several problems, Bayul-Kuenza has immense potential for organic farming and agriculture, and the ongoing farm road construction shall ensure market accessibility. Baeyul Kuenza presents only one example of the similar plights shared by other remote villages in the country.



Therefore, to improve livelihood of the people in such villages and contribute towards Bhutan's vision of going 100% organic, the 'Organic Agro-Ecological Farming Program' was conceptualized through consultations with communities in 2017 with the objective 'to contribute towards Bhutan's vision of going 100% organic by fostering environmentally, socially and economically sound, resilient and sustainable livelihood strategies by integrating the principles of agro-ecological farming and ecosystem management among small-scale Bhutanese farmers.



Ropeway bridge connecting Jigme-chhu to Bayul-kuenza was for decades the lifeline for the village and the only means of connectivity.

Consequently, the project 'Organic Agro-Ecological Farming Program' of RSPN funded by Civil Society in Development (CISU) with the technical partnership of Organic Denmark (OD) was initiated in Bayul-kuenza village in Chhukha Dzongkhag, and ..village in Zhemgang Dzongkhag in January 2018.

The one and half year project in these two areas aims to develop a participatory organic agro-ecological extension method for the empowerment, cooperation and advocacy capacity of the target groups through capacity development and introduction of sustainable livelihood approaches..

Activity Highlights

The project activity in Bayul-kuenza began with the formation of Farmers Family Learning Group (FFLGs), the election of FFLG Facilitators and a Baseline Survey from May 5 till 10, 2018.

The first phase of training to the facilitators was held in May 2018 at the Rural Development

Similarly, in Zhemgang Dzongkhag

13 Farmers Family Learning Group (FFLG) were formed with approximately **15 members** in each group including one facilitator.

Training Center in Zhemgang. The training was mainly to introduce farmers to the principles of organic farming, organic soil fertility management, farmscaping/landscape reading and role of FFLG facilitators in the project. The second phase of training is scheduled in the first week of October 2018.



RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME TO ADDRESS THE WATER SHORTAGE PROBLEM IN SAMTSE

by Tsheten Dorji



The Water Supply Infrastructures built through the ‘Strengthening of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)’ Project was handed over to the beneficiary communities of Yoeseltse and Phuntshopelri Gewogs, Samtse on June 8, 2018.



“This is a day of great significance. The water infrastructures built and handed over today through the WASH project shall greatly benefit about **1,100** households. Now the communities should understand the importance of sustainably using and managing the water supply infrastructures that have been gifted to us”

Dasho Dzongrab of Samtse Dzongkhag.

The three-year project was funded by SDF Secretariat Office based in Thimphu, Bhutan and implemented by RSPN with technical support from Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Samtse Dzongkhag in two Gewogs of Phuntshopelri and Yoeseltse under Samtse District. The project consisted of three main components of water, sanitation and hygiene with the goal to improve the quality of life of rural population (covering about 1095 rural households) by providing safe, convenient and sustainable water, sanitation services and better hygiene.

SOME OF THE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:



Conducted Awareness on Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (RSAHP) under Sanitation and Hygiene components to 914 individuals in two Gewogs.



Conducted Awareness on Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) under Sanitation and Hygiene components to more than 1,362 students, teachers and monks in two Gewogs in 2015.



Conducted awareness and training on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) under Hygiene component to 141 adolescent girls in Yoeseltse school 2015.



Mass Hand-washing Station and Roof Rain Water Harvesting System installed in Yoeseltse school.



Formed two Water Users Group and developed a Management Guideline.



Constructed two Water Supply Systems through Pumping Technology for Dumsidara village under Phuntshopelri Gewog and through gravitational technology for Yoeseltse gewog, Samtse benefitting more than 542 households.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM IN WAMRONG AND THRIMSHING DUNGKHAG

by Dhendup Wangchuk



Hedgerows on slope

The Sustainable Agriculture Project in Wamrong and Thrimshing Dungkhag, Tashigang, began in 2014 with an objective to reduce the use of agrochemical farm inputs and the mitigation degradation of sloping farmland through the application of sustainable organic farming and land management technologies. After a thorough needs-assessment was conducted, the four villages of Wamrong Dungkhag were selected as its project sites – Passaphu and Madhuwa and Tshogoengpa and Moshi under Kangpara and Lumang Gewogs respectively.

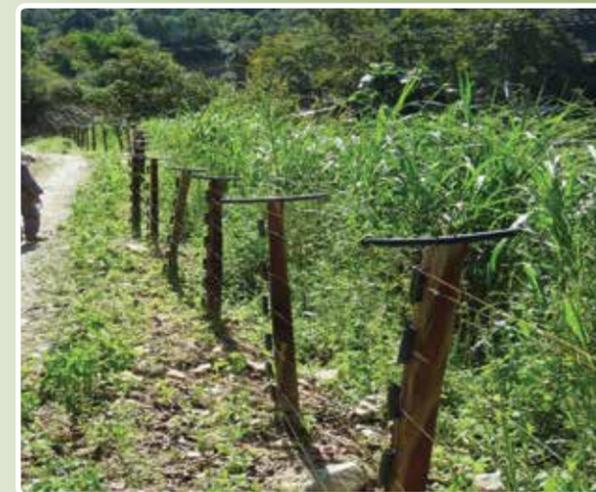
Some of the technologies adopted through the project were: Napier hedgerows, organic fertilizers, bio-pesticides, vermi-composting, electric fencing and the stone bunding. In addition, other technologies such as improved vegetable seeds, improved cow sheds, check dams, and electric fencing were also introduced. It was observed that in fields where hedgerows of Napier grass have been established, the soil retention was better with the land between the rows gradually turning into a terrace. The farmers expressed that erosion has been significantly reduced improving the crop yields. Besides, the hedgerows have provided another benefit to the farmers as the Napier grass is an excellent and much-appraised fodder for animals.

Next, to the success of the Napier grass hedgerows, farmers were seen to have readily adopted organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides. Improved vegetable seeds were proposed in the 2017 technology package upon an observation that the old varieties of vegetables were highly prone to diseases. Farmers grew the vegetables with the new seeds applying the organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides and yielded positive results. They indicated their wish to continue the practice. The improved cowsheds, with the provision of better shelter to the animals and manure, also had positive effects. The project also supported the installation of electric fences in Passaphu and Tshogoengpa villages



in collaboration with the Local Government. The benefits from electric fencing were immediate. After its installation, the instances of crop damages reduced significantly. However, getting farmers interested in check dams was challenging because neither the technology nor its effects were very well known. Transfer of knowledge and skills concerning technologies is the key to their adoption and the project always kept the communities at the core of its implementation. It was observed that the beneficiaries are most open to and willing to try out SAP technologies after witnessing its implementation and effects. The project in its three years of implementation was able to contribute towards improving the livelihoods of the people in Wamrong through the introduction of Sustainable Agricultural Practices and technologies.

RSPN would like to thank its project partner 'NORLHA - Helping People in the Himalayas' for their partnership and support. This project would not have been successful without the collaboration and support from Gewog Agriculture Extensions of Kangpara and Lumang, Trashigang Dzongkhag. We would also like to express our gratitude to the farmers of the project areas for their wonderful support and cooperation. With such collective efforts, we can contribute towards the achievement of Bhutan's vision to become organic by 2020.



Electric fence



Cowshed



Hedgerows next to control



Vegetables from improved seeds



REDD+ READINESS PROGRAM IN

Buli, Zhemgang

by Narayan Ghalley

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forest and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD+) is a global initiative to reduce carbon emissions from forests and enhance carbon absorption. It was conceived as a mitigation mechanism to combat climate change in the meeting of Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Since 2014, Bhutan has been part of REDD+ with the Watershed Management Division (WMD) of the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) implementing the REDD+ readiness program. The REDD+ program in the country aims to help reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and ensure conservation, sustainable management and enhancement of forest. It will strengthen the existing forest policy and management systems, information and data, participatory methods and other human and institutional capacity. This, in turn, will prepare Bhutan to engage in and benefit from the emerging performance-based system from REDD+.

In 2017, Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) got the opportunity to be part of REDD+ initiative. RSPN partnered with Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) to implement the one-year project on Capacity building on REDD+ readiness for forest Dependent communities in Buli, a remote village located in Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

The project's main aim was to raise awareness and build technical skills of forest-dependent communities on REDD+ and engage them in decision making related to REDD+. As the project nears the end of its project term, the project has achieved most of its objectives.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

• REDD+ readiness awareness program

Through the numerous awareness programs, about 1080 individuals were sensitized on the causes and impacts of climate change, adaptation and mitigation measures, the role of forest in climate change mitigation, Bhutan REDD+ readiness program, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, Cancun Safeguards and the Policy and Measures of REDD+ strategy.



• Workshops

Three major workshops on REDD+ readiness were organized by the project to help build technical capacity of stakeholders and engage them in REDD+ related decision making. All workshops were assisted by resource person from Watershed Management Division (WMD), the focal national office coordinating REDD+ program in Bhutan. About 60 participants attended the workshops.

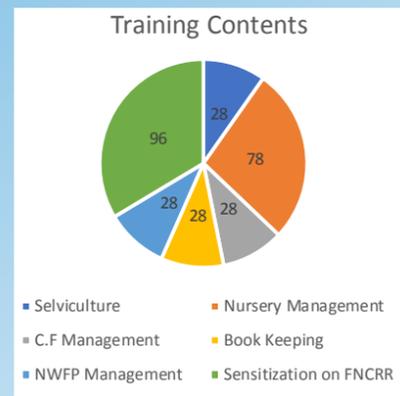




• **REDD+ readiness training**

Communities were trained on REDD+ related topics, primarily on sustainable natural resource management. The target participants for the training were members of Community Forest across Zhemgang district. Under the current project, 28 executive members of 19 Community Forests were trained on REDD+ readiness and sustainable natural resource management. Additionally, 75 members from two Community Forests under Buli Chiwog were also trained on nursery establishment and management. Trainings in other areas such as improved paddy transplantation, book keeping and silvi culture were also conducted taking the number of participants to more than 300 members.

The trainings were assisted by Zhemgang Forest Division. The project also supported six Community Forests under Trong and Nangkhor Gewog through supply of Green house materials for establishment of proper nurseries. The nurseries will help the community to meet their annual tree sapling demands for plantation.

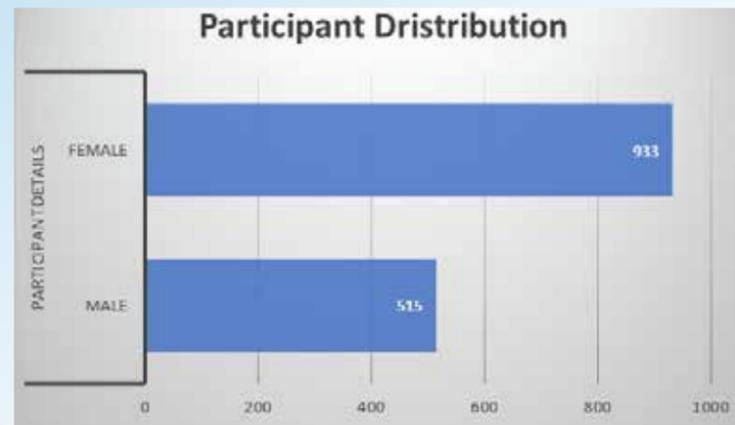


REDD+ readiness training content



Training participants of Buli Chiwog, Nangkhor Gewog

Additionally, reports on traditional knowledge of farming and natural resource management were compiled. The report will help to understand the cultural practice and traditions that have immensely helped conserve the natural resources during olden days.



Total Male and Female participants in REDD+ activities

A total of 1448 individuals participated in REDD+ related program. Statistically, women attending the REDD+ program outnumbered men by 418.



Nursery management training

PROMOTING CLIMATE RESILIENT LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN ZHEMGANG

by Narayan Ghalley

Digila chiwog (sub-block) under Bardo Gewog (block) of Zhemgang Dzongkhag (District) has a high incidence of poverty attributed to degraded farmland, farm drudgery, the absence of mechanized farming and low soil fertility.

Therefore, through the fund support from GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP Bhutan, RSPN, the project on sustainable land management and promotion of local agrobiodiversity for food security was initiated in January 2018 in Zhemgang. Around 45 households from Digila Chiwog under Bardo Gewog in Zhemgang Dzongkhag shall directly benefit from the project.

The two-year project aims to reduce agriculture land degradation and improve food security by promoting appropriate climate resilient agriculture land management practice and agro-ecological based farming system.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

50 farmers from 40 Households participated in the week-long Land management campaign program organized during last week of July.

13 acres of land managed through hedgerow plantation.

17 acres of land managed through stone bunding.





ANECDOTE OF A MEMBER

I joined as a member of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) in November of 2017. Though it has only been 7 months since I joined, I have come to know a lot about RSPN and its work and I appreciate the organization much more than I used to.

RSPN offers members as well as volunteers the opportunity to contribute positively towards preserving the pristine nature of Bhutan. Article 5 of the constitution of Bhutan entrusts each and every citizen with the role of a trustee of the country's resources and environment. Therefore it is individuals like us from outside RSPN who can and need to contribute and help RSPN in achieving its mission as it works tirelessly to inspire personal responsibility and active involvement of the people in the conservation of the Kingdom's environment through education, research and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Working in another agency, I had been engulfed in the responsibilities of my professional and personal life. I chose to become a member of RSPN mainly to gain insight into its work and find new perspectives outside of my work and life. I achieved this through different activities RSPN offers for its members to participate in that have enabled me to come closer to nature. I am loving the experiences I have made through the membership so far.



By Dechen Yangki, RSPN Member



My first activity with RSPN was a visit to "My Gakidh Village" located nearby Punakha. The thing that fascinated me the most about the place was the community and its initiative to make their area eco-friendly for the visitors with an emphasis on conservation of the local forest and improving the livelihoods of the people. The hike towards the village was amusing and educational since the organizers had included a birding program, which - guided by an ardent birder - made us familiar with the species of birds to be found in the area.

The trip was truly unique as it gave us the opportunity to discover the place in ways a normal traveler could not have.

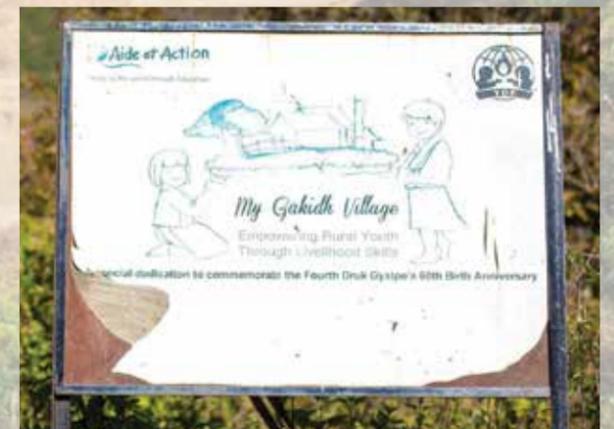
(My friend Dechen Dema has written a text about her experiences on "My Gakidh village" trip in which she captures all the entertaining part of the travel. <http://dechendee2012.blogspot.com/2017/12/travelling-through-Bhutan-my-gakidh.html>)

The people working with the RSPN are fun to be with and they make us feel very welcome. We Bhutanese are blessed with pristine nature and being part of RSPN has made me more aware of this fact. While RSPN works on a wide array of topics in various programs aimed at conserving our environment, they also get down to basic problems with hands-on activities such as carrying out cleaning campaigns that show an immediate effect on the environment. I appreciate this initiative

of theirs to treat any surrounding as their living space and kudos to the members who volunteer to participate with them.

While the cleaning campaigns conducted by RSPN help to keep the environment clean, it is still every individual's responsibility to not treat the surrounding as a trash bin. Organizations like RSPN can only inspire and create awareness. This sense of belonging and individual responsibility for our environment can only come through self-realization. Therefore it should be a shared goal of everyone residing in this country to contribute towards the conservation of nature and not just expect RSPN or other organizations to work towards the achievement of the goal.

Though my participation in the activities organized by RSPN has been limited due to other obligations, it has been a privilege so far to be a member. I look forward to continuing being a part of RSPN and shall commit to upcoming activities that will contribute positively to the conservation of our environment.





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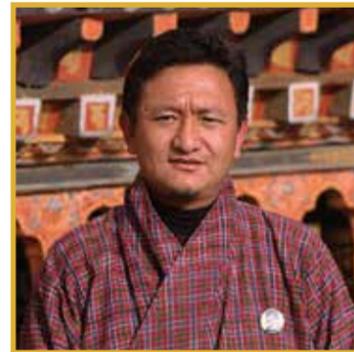
THE NATURE'S HEROES AWARD

“The Nature’s Heroes Award” was awarded to Dasho Paljor J. Dorji for his exemplary work in conservation. Nature’s Heroes Award is awarded by BirdLife Partners to communities and individuals doing great conservation work locally. This BirdLife Certificate of Excellence is in recognition of Dasho’s amazing contribution towards conservation program in Bhutan. Dasho dedicated the award to the Great Fourth, Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck.



NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT GOLD

Dechen Dorji, the Country Representative of WWF Bhutan Programme and the Chairperson of RSPN received the National Order of Merit, Gold, in recognition for his contribution to Bhutan’s sustainable environment development from His Majesty the King on the 110th National Day of Bhutan.



Phento Tshering, Director for Department of Forests and Park Services, MoAF and Board Director of RSPN received the National Order of Merit for his dedication and selfless effort in sustainable management of forest resources for the well being of the people and country.



PRIDE OF ASIA AWARD – 2018

Global Leaders Foundation conferred the “PRIDE OF ASIA AWARD – 2018” to Dr. Kinley Tenzin, Executive Director of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature on June 20, 2018 during the 2nd Indo-Bhutan Friendship Summit held in Thimphu, Bhutan. The award was in recognition for Excellence in Environmental Conservation on the basis of his excellent performance, splendid achievement and outstanding contribution towards the improvement and development of forest research & nature protection activities in Bhutan.

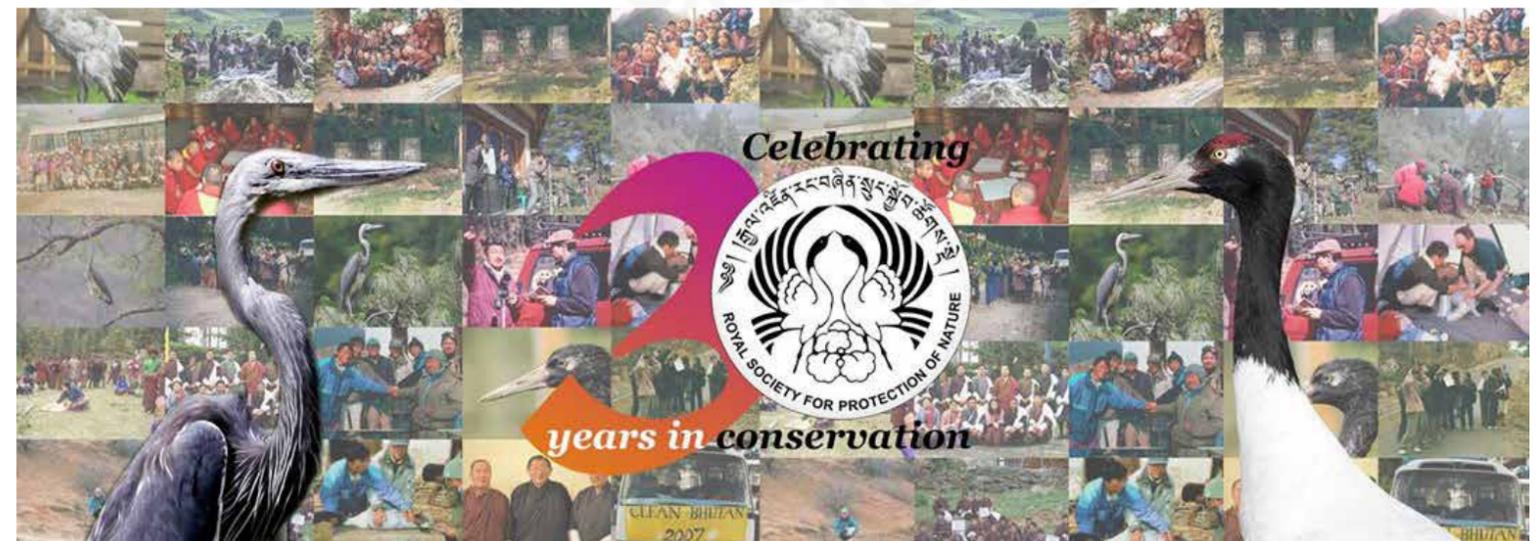


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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN CONSERVATION

RSPN turned 30 on October 24, 2017. Led by the Executive Director, RSPN staff celebrated the milestone by connecting and spending time with the Kidu Patients at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital. Each of the 32 patients housed at the Kidu Patient Guest House were provided with few necessary food supplies.



HAA CBST PROJECT

RSPN in partnership with the Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) with the financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and in collaboration with Tourism Council of Bhutan and HAA Dzongkhag Administration started the Community-based Sustainable Tourism project at Haa in 2013. The project was completed in 2017.

Some of the major achievements

24

Homestays
instituted

16

Local guides
trained

Souvenir group
trained and
instituted



What makes community homestays stand out from other forms of tourist accommodations and why should one opt for it? While the answers are many, here are the top 5 reasons:

5 reasons to stay in a Homestay

1 - Meet local people

Staying in a homestay means living with and like local people in traditional farmhouses in rural Bhutan. While routine travel itineraries will take you to the best hotels and most popular destinations they usually do not give you the opportunity to meet and spend time with locals. This is where homestays can fill the gap and offer you a glimpse of the authentic life in rural Bhutan. It sure is a life of hard work and early mornings but devoid of stress and very sustainable. Staying in a homestay will provide you with unique experiences and stories to take home with you and share.



by Annalena Lohaus



2 – Get to indulge in the authentic local delicacies

Meals in homestays are made from local products. Different parts of Bhutan have different delicacies which you will be able to taste in the homestays as your host will prepare meals they enjoy themselves. Unlike in restaurants and hotels meals will be taken whilst sitting on mattresses on the floor together with your hosts. Depending on the homestay you might taste handmade cheese and delicacies such as dried yak meat and if you want to you can even learn how to make some of the dishes yourself.

3 - Improve your language skills

Learn a few words of Dzongkha (the national language of Bhutan) or other local languages while staying with your host or improve what you've already picked up. Your hosts will be happy to share stories with you and let you learn more about their way of living. There truly is no better way to learn a language than to be with people who speak it!



4 - See beyond the tourist trail

Take the road less traveled by and discover places usually overlooked by tour companies. Your hosts can tell you about hidden treasures and the stories surrounding their part of the world.

Staying in a homestay also offers you the opportunity to take part in the day-to-day activities around the house such as taking care of the livestock, milking cows, making cheese and cooking local meals. This unique experience will help you to become a traveler rather than a tourist.



5 – Home away from home & Learn local cultures and customs

You can read a lot about a destination's culture and customs before arriving, but the only way to really get to know them is by experiencing everything first-hand. As you will be staying in a traditional farmhouse, your host will make you feel more at home than any hotel ever could. Maybe your host can organize a hot stone bath for you or arrange for indulgence in other local customs. Each place is unique and will offer you experiences and an authentic insight into life in rural Bhutan that other forms of accommodation simply can't provide.





OBSERVING EARTH HOUR

To observe the Earth hour on March 24, WWF Bhutan and RSPN Bhutan co-organized an inter-school quiz competition and launched WWF Bhutan's wildlife board game Kaadoo to encourage young Bhutanese to connect to nature by "re-connecting" to their knowledge of Bhutan's amazing biodiversity.



INTER-SCHOOL BIODIVERSITY QUIZ COMPETITION

24 MARCH, 2018

A joint initiative by WWF Bhutan and the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature





RSPN CELEBRATES GYALTSUEN'S BIRTHDAY



On the auspicious occasion of Her Majesty the Gyaltshuen's birthday, the Royal Society for Protection of Nature with our members and volunteers from Athang Training Academy successfully carried out a cleaning campaign of the Chubachu stream on June 4, 2018. The cleaning program was also to celebrate the World Environment Day. A total of 70 volunteers and members from Athang Training Academy and RSPN took part in the campaign. In commemoration of the day, two other environment conservation programs were funded by RSPN in Phuntsholing and Gelephu.



RSPN MEMBERSHIP

347
TOTAL MEMBERS

243

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

21

FOREIGN MEMBERS

70

JUNIOR MEMBERS

13

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS





Santa & Karma

By Tashi Phuntsok and Jigme Tshering

In the afternoon of January 6, 2016, Mr Santa, the Manager at the Black-necked Crane visitor centre of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), received information about a juvenile Black-necked Crane that lay helpless in the fields with injuries that seemed life-threatening. Immediately, Santa and the center's assistant, Mr Tashi rushed to the scene. It was with much caution and care that the young bird was caught. The bird, which was then referred to as Karma, suffered multiple breaks in one wing and was rendered permanently flightless. Karma has been maintained in a small enclosure beside the visitor's center where it was soon discovered that visitors enjoyed seeing a crane up close and throughout the year.

But often the beautiful relation between Santa and Karma goes unnoticed. Living adjacent to each other, separated by a wooden wall, Santa, the centre manager and his family are the closest to a family Karma has. When quizzed about the strong parent-child-like bond that they share, Santa nods stating that one could even call him Karma's father.

The daily routine of Santa and his family starts with the sound of karma as the dawn breaks, which is often met with the complaints from Santa's 12-year-old son who has otherwise grown accustomed to the bird. Karma is fed once a day at around 9 am, after which Karma feeds on the insects, shoots and the occasional worms found in the stream that flows through the enclosure. Santa along with Tshering, the Centre Assistant and Dawa, Santa's wife and the caretaker take turns to feed Karma, and routinely clean the shed.

"Karma's typical diet constitutes of Karma Feeds, eggs, worms and sometimes vegetables. Karma was overweight once, and it was a worrying scenario. I regularly monitor his diet so that an ideal weight is maintained," says Santa. Karma weighs eight kilograms, which is an average weight for an adult.

For a bird that dances with excitement on the sound of cranes, Santa shares the possible sadness Karma must have felt to see his fellow cranes leave for their summer habitat. "It is sad but the best we can do is making it feel more at home by doing the best we can. My organization, RSPN, has been gathering some fund for constructing a better enclosure and we will be able to start the construction this year," Sant quips in.

Like a protective father, Santa keeps close watch of the bird and any weird noises result in a thorough investigation. A greater source of worry is when Karma does not make any sound for long intervals. However, the main concern remains the size and quality of the enclosure. Small it may be, the enclosure is a safe refuge for Karma and the safety makes it perhaps the only Black-necked Crane that roosts on dry land. Black-necked Cranes usually roost in shallow ponds responding to vibration felt through water ripples created by approaching predators.

Saving the **WHITE-BELLIED HERONS**

by Rebecca Pradhan

The Rarest heron in the world

Standing at 1.27 meters and motionless for hours on the shores of the fast flowing river, White-bellied Heron (WBH) is often mistaken for a log and missed by passersby. Moreover, its sighting is rare given its thin global population of fewer than 60 individuals.

During the 2018 annual population survey, only 24 birds were recorded from 13 different locations in Bhutan, which was a decline from 26 birds in 2017. As three juveniles fledged in 2017, the population was expected to be 29. However, an adult was electrocuted at Bermo Botanical garden at Berti in the mid of August 2017 while another WBH at Phochu had gone missing.

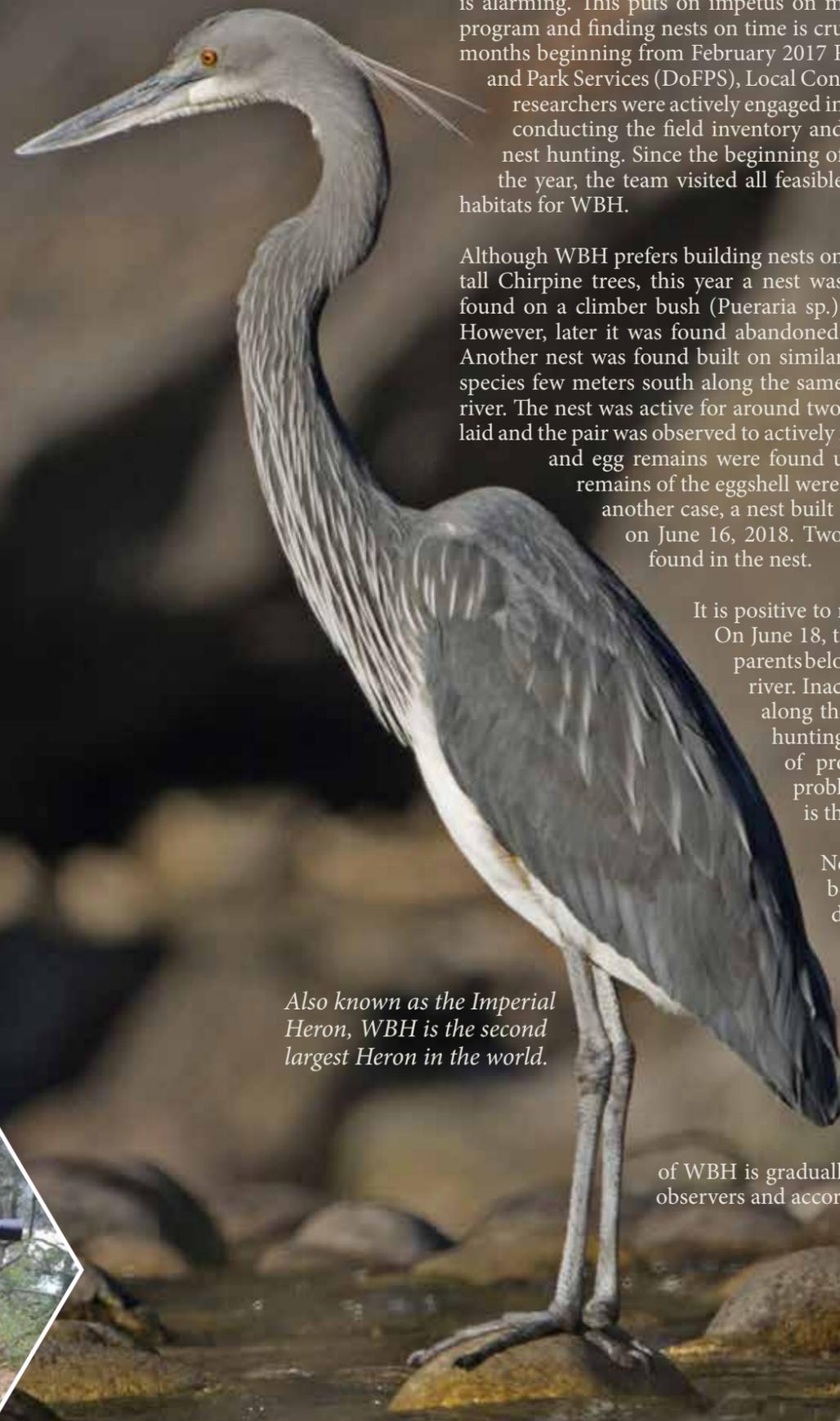
Albeit having numerous potential rivers in Bhutan, WBH has preferred to dwell along the two rivers of Mangdechu and Punatsangchu river basin. Over the years, the frequency of WBH sighting in all the current habitats show a decrease from 2015 to 2018 in most habitats. While most of the habitats record only a few changes in the frequency of sightings, Athang and Lhamoizhingka recorded no sighting for the month of January to June 2018. The reduction of sightings in these areas is attributed to the increase in the construction of farm roads that have caused severe disturbance to the WBH. The 2016 flash flood also washed away all the fish and braided the stream in the small drain. On the other hand, the sighting has increased drastically over the years at Sunkosh and constant WBH sighting was recorded from Burichu in 2018.



60 Global population

24 Individuals in Bhutan

5 Juveniles in Bhutan



Also known as the Imperial Heron, WBH is the second largest Heron in the world.

With an extremely low existing global population, the decline in its population and habitat is alarming. This puts on impetus on mitigation aspects such as the captive breeding program and finding nests on time is crucial to the success of such a program. For four months beginning from February 2017 RSPN with officials from Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS), Local Conservation Support Group (LCSG) members and

researchers were actively engaged in conducting the field inventory and nest hunting. Since the beginning of the year, the team visited all feasible habitats for WBH.



Although WBH prefers building nests on tall Chirpine trees, this year a nest was found on a climber bush (*Pueraria* sp.). However, later it was found abandoned. Another nest was found built on similar species few meters south along the same river.

The nest was active for around two weeks (13 days). During this time, an egg was laid and the pair was observed to actively incubate. After 14 days, the nest was abandoned and egg remains were found under the bushes. The cause is unknown. The remains of the eggshell were collected from the ground for genetic study. In another case, a nest built on a Mango tree (*Mangifera indica*) was found on June 16, 2018. Two WBH chicks around 67 to 68 days old were found in the nest.

It is positive to note that this year a total of five chicks fledged. On June 18, the team found three WBH chicks with feeding parents below Walkleytar near Burichu across Punatsangchu river. Inaccessibility to the WBH habitat which is usually along the cliffs and inaccessible riverbanks makes nest hunting, monitoring, and carrying out inventory of probable new habitats extremely difficult. The problem is aggravated during the monsoon, which is the breeding season for the bird.

New innovation and use of latest technology have become important for research and information development of the bird. It has become urgent to study the bird through the application of satellite technology such as satellite telemetry and to study the dispersal of juveniles, movement, lifespan and other life history information. Similarly, the study of breeding behavior and breeding ecology is equally important and it can be done through the application of live monitoring technology and camera traps and voice recorders. The distribution range of WBH is gradually increasing and we need to deploy additional observers and accordingly need to provide appropriate incentives.

Activity highlights from our work on WBH conservation funded by the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation, and MAVA Foundation



Development of research plan and conservation strategy

Based on the recommendation of an international strategy for conservation of WBH in 2015, the national conservation strategic plan for 20 years was developed in consultation with national and international experts. The plan outlines the necessary actions required for WBH conservation in the future.

Study of the genetic structure of the White-bellied Heron

Population genetic assessment of WBH in Bhutan: Phase I & II are being conducted in collaboration with Aaranyak Wildlife Genetic Lab, Guwahati, India. Phase I of the study, funded by the Bhutan Foundation, revealed that the population of different regions are genetically different in Bhutan. Phase II funded by BTFEC is particularly focused on selecting microsatellite loci from other sister heron species or to develop novel markers if required and to use a set of selected loci to assess the contemporary and historic extent of genetic diversity of the species and to quantify the loss of genetic diversity, if any. The study will also enable to quantify inbreeding and other associated founder effects in the Bhutan population and to access the finer level population genetic structure of the species in the wild.

WBH study through Research Grant

WBH Research grants were granted to 14 grantees: 3 for research on diet ecology, 6 for habitat usage/natural predator and 5 for assessment of threats. The grantees were from the Department of Forest and Park services, Department of Education and the College of Natural Resources. Such researches will not only provide additional information on WBH but more importantly build the capacity of amateur researchers who will play an important role in the future.

Captive breeding and release work - observation, recording and reporting.

The construction of WBH captive breeding facility centre (CBC) is an initiative generated through several years of RSPN's experience in WBH conservation that helped determine the importance and need for captive breeding. The CBC is under construction with the support of Puna-tsangchhu Hydro-power Project Authority I and II on 18.244 acres of land.

The well-established WBH captive breeding facility centre will render necessary facilities to maintain the reliable ex-situ conservation. The WBH captive breeding program is RSPN's important focus area for the WBH conservation in the next twenty years. The construction began in February 2018 and will be completed by 2019.

Awareness and training local communities on WBH captive breeding and monitoring.

Since the inception of the project, community education, awareness and community sensitization for the conservation of White-bellied Heron have been key activities. During the past three years, more than 800 people including students, teachers, community people forestry officials, and high-level government officials from 15 different locations have been made aware of the critically endangered bird.

Stakeholder consultation meeting

Three stakeholders consultative meetings on WBH conservation in Bhutan were held in Bajo, Taksha range and Thimphu.





Enchanting

PHOBJIKHA

By Damchoe Wangmo,
B.Sc. Sustainable Development,
College of Natural Resources

Night had already fallen when we arrived in Phobjikha and I could not see anything of the scenery around me as it was too dark and I hardly remember the way I came into the valley. I was excited to travel further even though I was extremely exhausted from the journey. In fact, I could not sleep peacefully in my first night in Phobjikha as I was too eager to see the valley during the daytime. I had heard many stories about how stunning the place was.

In the chilly morning, I stepped outside and stood still for a moment as the early dawn offered a beautiful sight of the valley bathed in a golden light. The sky was painted with sailing clouds that had taken the shape of heaps of woolen fabric. Little ice drops were hanging from the blades of grass and as I walked into the woods, the bitter winter wind howled without mercy. Nevertheless, I breathed in the cold morning air and could smell the unspoiled scent of nature.

Already I had fallen entirely for the place and wanted to learn more about it. The valley lying at an altitude of 2900 meter is a true paradise on earth with diverse species of flora and fauna and a unique landscape. The slopes of the valley base are mostly dominated by blue pine forest; encompassing the characteristic wetlands in the heart of the valley.

Cranes are seen as heavenly birds in Bhutan and attract tourists from all over the world to Phobjikha each year. The people in the valley enthusiastically welcome the arrival of cranes all the way from Tibet in October and November and perceive their coming as a good omen and source of happiness.

During my visit, Black-necked cranes had already landed in the marshy areas of the valley and I walked in the icy temperatures of the early morning for close up views from the walking trails that skirt the edge of the crane's winter territory. As I studied them closely, I noticed that the upper part of the neck and the head are black except for a red bald patch between the bill and the eye. Juveniles are easy to spot as they have got slightly different features from adult birds but I could not differentiate between male and female at all. I made good use of my time in the Black-necked Crane Visitor Centre and the information they offer on these birds. I tried to identify the sex of individual cranes through their calls – unfortunately, I was unsuccessful in doing so.

The most memorable experience during my time in Phobjikha was the annual crane counting. After several pre-countings, the total number of cranes in the Phobjikha valley was confirmed to be 504 on the frosty morning of February 02, 2018. As compared to the year 2017, the number of cranes in the valley had increased drastically and reached a record high in 2018. I learned that counting cranes before sunrise is not as easy as it appears to be. As soon as dawn breaks, the cranes start to move and fly away which makes the task more difficult. I quickly learned to be fast in counting the cranes with the help of Spotting Scopes.



Lastly, I would like to talk about homestays, which I was able to experience firsthand. All the homestays in Phobjikha are located close to the main road. Homestays provide fantastic accommodation in traditional houses, where you can relax and catch a glimpse of the everyday life in Phobjikha amidst its beautiful scenery. Experiencing a hot stone bath and tasting yak meat with red rice are some of the other treats.

For the ones planning a visit, be adventurous to fill your book of memories as Phobjikha valley never fails to enthrall its visitors.



Improving the health of CHUBACHHU STREAM



RSPN along with its partners (list attached) carried out 10 cleanings of the half kilometer stretch of Chubachu stream in the year (July 2017-June 2018). To combat the increasing pollution in the Chubachu stream compounded by poor waste management, the National Environment Commission Secretariat in partnership with Bhutan Red Cross Society and in collaboration with the Thimphu Thromde, Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) and Clean Bhutan spearheaded the adoption of the Chubachu stream along with the agencies/communities living within the buffer of the stream on March 22, 2017 in observation of the World Water Day.

Under the initiative, each organization was made responsible for adopting certain stretches of the stream.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Royal Centre for Disease Control (RCDC), Ministry of Health, Coliform tests were conducted in 2017 and 2018. Except for the samples from above Kuengachholing Palace, all the samples collected from the different point of Chubachu stream were found grossly polluted.

Water test results from Royal Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health

Sampling Point	Location name	Latitude & Longitude	Estimated E. coli count (CFU/100mL) 2017	Estimated E. coli count (CFU/100mL) 2018	Acceptable value
Station-1	Above Kingacholing zero point near the Motithang water collection tank	27° 28' 44.3" N 89° 35' 44.3" E	0	16	0
Station-2	Below Takin zoo	27° 28' 53.5" N 89° 36' 56.0" E	160	300	0
Station-3	Below the Department of National Property (from small bridge)	27° 28' 45.7" N 89° 37' 38.7" E	50,000	53,000	0
Station-4	Below the bridge of FoTM	27° 28' 47.7" N 89° 37' 51.6" E	56,000	56,000	0
Station-5	Below the Telecom bridge	27° 28' 49.0" N 89° 38' 06.9" E	26,400	43,000	0
Station-6	Near the bridge of Tarayana and TCB	27° 28' 48.0" N 89° 38' 18.9" E	28,000	6,000	0

List of partners for Chubachu stream cleaning

1. Ministry of Health
2. Anti-Corruption Commission
3. National Land Commission Secretariat
4. Faculty of Traditional Medicine
5. Bhutan Toilet Organization
6. Royal Monetary Authority
7. WWF Bhutan Program
8. Royal Audit Authority
9. Royal University of Bhutan
10. JICA volunteers
11. Six Senses, Thimphu
12. UNDP Bhutan
13. RSPN members
14. iBEST Institute
15. Athang Training Academy
16. Royal Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health



PROTECTING BIO-DIVERSITY THROUGH EDUCATION

by Ugyen Choden

At a time when protecting the bio-diversity and attaining sustainable development is one of the most pressing environmental issues, the Environmental Education project in Gantey-Phobjikha, in central Bhutan aims to balance between biodiversity protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the valley.

Besides conservation interventions, addressing environmental issues entails participation and support of the communities in the area. And for effective and meaningful participation of the communities and long-term impact, enhancing the understanding of communities on the issues highlighted through education and awareness is seen as crucial.

Therefore, it is important to transform perceptions and behaviour of local people through environmental education and public awareness. This project will seek to do this through a variety of awareness and education activities by using locally appropriate tools and methods. Programs like this will complement and support the ongoing conservation initiatives on wetlands and Black-necked Crane. This project is part of the “Environmental Education and Public Awareness Project on Biodiversity conservation in Asia Pacific Region – “SATO YAMA UMI” Project” with Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) and BirdLife International Tokyo as international partners.

ESSENTIAL FACTS OF SUBJECT AREAS = ASIA AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN REGION

FACT 1

Approximately 40% of biodiversity “hotspots”, areas which contain many endemic species and which have lost more than 70% of the original habitat that are located in the Asia-Pacific region (Conservation International).

FACT 2

It has been expected that more than 60% of the world population lives in Asia and the Pacific Ocean region, and its GDP can increase by 50% in the near future. Although the total area of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the South Pacific countries is 10% of the world’s oceans, it covers 50% of the demand for the global tuna industry.

FACT 3

According to bird surveys conducted in 146 countries, five countries ranked in the top 10 with the most endangered species. However, seven countries ranked in worst 10 in terms of the rate of population decline are in Asia. Also, it was proved that the extinction rate of birds in the Pacific Ocean region was higher than any other countries (BirdLife International).

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Second Consultation workshop for development of Environmental Education reference materials workshops with the teachers of Gantey-Phobjikha in Punakha.



Video documentary production on the co-existence between Black-necked Crane, ecosystem and the livelihood of the community began on December, 2017



Consultation workshop for the development of Environmental Education reference materials workshop with the teachers from few schools from Paro and Thimphu in Paro.



Need assessment for the development of Environmental Education reference materials workshop with the Principals, Science teachers, Environmental Science teachers and Nature club Coordinators of Gantey-Phobjikha schools.



Satoyama Umi team from JEEF and Birdlife International visits the project site (Gantey-Phobjikha)



Observed World Environment Day at Phobjikha. Students, teachers and RSPN staff joined for a cleaning campaign in the valley.

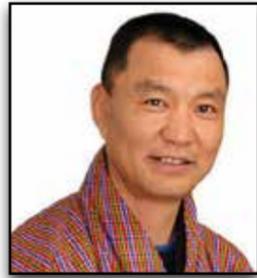


500 copies of ICF produced field guide book translated to dzongkha language printed





OUR TEAM



Dr. Kinley Tenzin
Executive Director



Rinchen Wangmo
Program Director, PDD



Rebecca Pradhan
Sr. Ecologist



Dr. Lungten Norbu
Specialist



Tshering Dorji
Chief, ADM/HRD



Kinga Wangdi
Chief, CSLD



Sonam Jamtsho
Chief, FID



Tashi Phuntsho
Chief, CMD



Tsheten Dorji
Dy. Chief Project Officer



Jigme Tshering
Dy. Chief Project Officer



Namita Kafley
Sr. Finance Officer



Tshewang Choden
Sr. Receptionist



Sonam Wangmo
Sr. Adm/HR Asst.



Kinley Gyem
PA to Executive Director



Deki Dema
Sr. Communications Officer



Ugyen Choden
Sr. Communications Officer



Sonam Rinzin
Sr. Communications Officer



Damcho Yonten
ICT Officer



Narayan Ghalley
Project Officer



Khachi Wangmo
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Santalal Gajmer
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Tshering Zangmo
BNCVC Asst.



Indra Prasad Acharja
Research Officer



Sonam Tshering
Sr. Research Asst.



Tshewang Lhendup
Research Officer



Tshering Dendup
Sr. Driver



Tenzin Nima
Driver



Pem Dorji
Caretaker



Kelzang Tobgye
Caretaker



Tenzin Wangmo
Cleaner



Dechen Wangmo
Cleaner



Dawa Mith Lepcha
BNCVC Caretaker



ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE
UN-AUDITED RECEIPT AND PAYMENT
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018

RECEIPT					
Particulars	Schedule	Nu.	US\$	Equivalent Nu.	Total
To opening balance b/f:					
Cash		932.94	59.50	4,012.68	4,945.62
Bank		11,877,461.85	57,928.28	3,315,048.27	15,192,510.12
Project funds	I	32,329,777.84	9,984.00	642,769.92	32,972,547.76
Operational funds	II	17,221,252.52		-	17,221,252.52
Total		61,429,425.15	67,971.78	3,961,830.87	65,391,256.02
PAYMENT					
Particulars	Schedule	Nu.	US\$	Equivalent Nu.	Total
Project funds	I	27,602,367.50	10,837.06	697,689.92	28,300,057.42
Operational funds	II	25,393,834.52	20,000.00	1,287,600.00	26,681,434.52
By closing balance c/f:					
Cash (General)		(5,974.06)	59.50	3,830.61	(2,143.45)
Bank (General)		8,439,197.19	37,075.22	2,386,902.66	10,826,099.85
Total		61,429,425.15	67,971.78	4,376,023.20	65,805,448.35

Note: Exchange rate of USD 1= Nu. 67.10 as of June 30, 2018(BNBL.)



ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE
UN-AUDITED STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS (BALANCE SHEET)
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018

	For the year ended June 30, 2017			For the year ended June 30, 2016		
	(A) Schedule	(B) US\$	(A+B) TOTAL (NU.)	(A) NU.	(B) US\$	(A+B) TOTAL (NU.)
Assets						
Fixed Assets (Net Block)	VI					
Furniture & Fixture		1,677,827.00	1,677,827.00	1,864,252.22	-	1,864,252.22
Office Equipments		4,644,179.82	4,644,179.82	5,160,199.80	-	5,160,199.80
Trekking Equipments		150,995.79	150,995.79	177,642.11	-	177,642.11
Vehicles		2,350,902.36	2,350,902.36	2,765,767.48	-	2,765,767.48
Communication/Other Equipments		97,073.08	97,073.08	114,203.62	-	114,203.62
Building (Observation Center)		1,166,909.84	1,166,909.84	1,202,999.84	-	1,202,999.84
Building (Head Office & JKERC)		35,853,823.44	35,853,823.44	36,962,704.58	-	36,962,704.58
Investment with BTFFC	VIII		107,133,099.89	107,133,099.89	1,540,711.12	99,190,981.91
Investment with BDBL	X	112,255,612.50	-	112,255,612.50	-	102,747,500.00
Investment with BIL	XI	726,000.00	-	726,000.00	-	684,000.00
Total Fixed Assets		158,923,323.83	1,596,618.48	158,923,323.83	1,540,711.12	151,679,269.65
Current Assets						
Cash		(5,974.06)	59.50	3,992.45	59.50	6,784.55
Bank		8,439,197.19	37,075.22	2,487,747.26	57,928.28	8,619,351.30
Receivables & Prepayments	III	964,422.86	-	964,422.86	-	3,973,033.36
Total Current Assets		9,397,645.99	37,134.72	2,491,739.71	57,987.78	12,599,169.21
Liabilities						
Less:						
Current Liabilities						
Recoveries/Remittances	V	8,275.44	-	8,275.44	-	51,232.78
Total Liabilities		8,275.44	-	8,275.44	-	51,232.78
Total Assets		168,312,694.38	1,633,753.20	168,312,694.38	1,598,698.90	164,933,522.80
Financed by:						
Capital Fund		108,136,230.10	35,113.80	108,136,230.10	185,273.76	113,438,669.51
(Surplus/deficit)						
Opening Accumulated Fund	IV	60,176,464.28	1,598,639.40	60,176,464.28	1,413,425.14	149,979,518.47
Total Accumulated Fund		168,312,694.38	1,633,753.20	168,312,694.38	1,598,698.90	164,933,522.80

Note: Exchange rate of USD 1 = Nu. 67.10 as of June 30, 2018 (Bhutan National Bank Ltd.)



ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE
Project funds Receipt & Payment Schedule for the FY 2017-2018

Schedule - I

#	Particulars	Opening balance		Receipt		Payment		Balance	
		Nu.	US\$	Nu.	US\$	Nu.	US\$	Nu.	US\$
I	Communications and Membership Division								
1	Environment Education and Public Awareness Program Project - Birdlife International			2,467,808.22		751,272.00		1,716,536.22	
2	Environment Education and Public Awareness Program Project - JEEF			584,200.00		556,724.58		27,475.42	
II	Conservation & Sustainable Livelihoods Division								
1	SaciWATERS - Asia Foundation	208,552.51		279,006.41		468,422.60		19,136.32	
2	CUTS- Asia Foundation	199,333.86				199,333.86		-	
3	Community-based Sustainable Tourism (CBST)- JEEF	(699,173.51)		4,332,607.84		2,888,074.35		745,359.98	
4	BNC Study in Bumdeling & Bumthang- ICF	8,526.67						8,526.67	
5	Perception Study on BNC in Bumdeling-ICF	71,190.60		322,066.08		71,190.00		322,066.68	
6	Buli wetland project - SGP-UNDP	397,720.50				9,450.00		388,270.50	
7	BNC Conservation project -ICF			3,460,240.87		85,779.50		3,374,461.37	
8	Environment Education & Awareness Program - KNCF	944,512.68		954,839.70		1,697,346.50		202,005.88	
9	Sustainable Land Management Project - SGP-UNDP			1,526,640.00		186,391.00		1,340,249.00	
10	Eco-tourism Chelela Pass - Toyota Eco-Grant			1,015,788.80		238,585.00		777,203.80	
11	Agro -Ecological Farming Project		8,413.42			319,118.95	4,815.06	(319,118.95)	3,598.36
12	Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP)- NORLHA		13,564.00			9,984.00	1,306,268.00	(1,306,268.00)	17,526.00
13	WASH Project	4,510,558.28		6,177,129.34		10,645,994.16		41,693.46	
14	BNC Festival fund - Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary			65,220.00				-	
III	Research Division								
1	WBH-BTFEC	2,140,363.00		6,741,953.00		2,777,939.00		6,104,377.00	
2	WBH - MAVA Foundation	5,182,000.00				4,363,956.00		818,044.00	
3	WBH - Synchronicity			452,738.44				452,738.44	
4	WBH - Birdlife International			1,241,290.20				1,241,290.20	
5	WBH - National Geographic			1,994,370.50				1,994,370.50	
IV	Bhutan Water Partnership (BhWP)								
5	Grant Fund - BhWP	633,422.40		713,878.44		913,534.00		433,766.84	
6	Grant fund - BHWP- WACDEP	270,366.41				122,988.00		147,378.41	
Total		8,412,302.44	21,977.42	32,329,777.84	9,984.00	27,602,367.50	10,837.06	4,979,532.45	21,124.36

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE
OPERATIONAL FUNDS RECEIPT AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE
for the Fiscal year 2017-2018

Schedule - II

#	Particular	Opening balance		Receipt		Payment		Balance	
		Nu.	US\$	Nu.	US\$	Nu.	US\$	Nu.	US\$
1	Operational cost		35,950.86		3,393,953.00		20,000.00		(8,669,906.48)
2	Rental income- Others				1,382,825.08				1,382,825.08
4	Donation- Others				278,235.75				278,235.75
5	Membership fees- Comm.fund				69,872.94		19,452.50		50,420.44
6	Grant fund- JKERC				179,400.00		16,267.00		163,133.00
7	Sales of Goods - Others				378,650.00				378,650.00
8	Crane Rehab Facility		946,299.48		442,007.07		164,940.00		1,223,366.55
10	BNC Visitor Centre fund		675,433.00		1,440,320.00				2,115,753.00
11	CMD Fund		352,150.55		1,116,510.76		911,629.75		557,031.56
12	CSLD Fund		1,952,047.39		2,791,148.24		3,712,025.37		1,031,170.26
13	S&M - Vehicle -Others		4,291,354.08		3,045,125.00		8,266,192.42		(929,713.34)
14	Management fees				1,780,885.68				1,780,885.68
15	Welfare fund		1,030,500.00		112,500.00				1,143,000.00
16	Gratuity fund		103,991.31		783,314.00		89,468.00		797,837.31
15	Welfare loan						150,000.00		(150,000.00)
16	Welfare loan interest return				26,505.00				26,505.00
Total		9,351,775.81	35,950.86	17,221,252.52	25,393,834.52	20,000.00	1,302,688.81	15,950.86	15,950.86




**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE
SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS AS ON JUNE 30, 2018**
Schedule III

Advances as on June 30, 2018				
Particulars	Year Ended 30th June 2018			
	Nu.	US\$		
Advance to Employees	674,580.90			
Advance to Party/OTHERS	192,692.00			
Deposit with POL	97,149.96			
Total	964,422.86			
Schedule IV				
Opening Accumulated Fund (1/7/2017)				
	Amount			
	NU.	US\$		
Fixed Assets	48,247,769.65	-		
Cash & Bank Balances	11,877,461.85	57,928.28		
Investment with BT FEC	-	1,540,711.12		
Recoveries & Remittances	51,232.78	-		
Total Accumulated Fund	60,176,464.28	1,598,639.40		
Schedule V				
Recoveries & Remittances as on 30.06.2018				
Particulars				
	Amount			
	Nu.	US\$		
Tax Deduction at Source	-	-		
Personal Income Tax	845.56	-		
Provident Fund	7,429.88			
Group Insurance Scheme	-	-		
Health contribution	-	-		
Security Deposit	-	-		
Total	8,275.44	-		
Schedule IX				
Investment with Bhutan Trust Fund for Env.Cons. (BT FEC) as on June, 2017 - Endowment fund				
Principal amount (US\$)	Date of deposit	Withdrawal	Interest rate	Interest return
1,540,711.12	22.12.2016	85,250.00	9.16%	141,157.36
Total amount (US\$)				1,596,618.48
Schedule X				
Investment with Bhutan Development Bank Ltd. (BDBL) as on June, 2017 - Endowment fund				
Principal amount (Nu.)	Date of deposit	Withdrawal	Interest rate	Interest return
100,005,000.00	17.03.2017	-	10.50%	12,250,612.50
Total amount (Nu.)	112,255,612.50			
Schedule XI				
Investment with Bhutan Insurance Ltd.(BIL) as on June, 2017- Gratuity fund				
Principal amount (Nu.)	Date of deposit	Interest rate	Interest rate	Interest return
600,000.00	16.07.2015	-	7.00%	126,000.00
Total amount (Nu.)	726,000.00			


**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE
FIXED ASSETS SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS AS ON JUNE 30, 2018**
Schedule VI

#	PARTICULARS	GROSS BLOCK(AT COST/VALUATION)			DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK			
		As at 01.07.2017 (Nu.)	Additions during the year (Nu.)	Sales/ Adj. during the year (Nu.)	Total Cost as at 30.06.2018 (Nu.)	Upto 30.06.2017 (Nu.)	For the year (Nu.)	On Sales/ Adj. (Nu.)	Upto 30.06.2018 (Nu.)	As on 30.06.2018 (Nu.)	As on 30.06.2017 (Nu.)
1	Furniture & Fixture	2,957,698.30	834,038.00	-	3,791,736.30	1,927,484.08	186,425.22	-	2,113,909.30	1,677,827.00	1,864,252.22
2	Office Equipment	11,015,484.51	1,060,479.00	-	12,075,963.51	6,915,763.71	516,019.98	-	7,431,783.69	4,644,179.82	5,160,199.80
3	Trekking Equipments	209,046.02	-	-	209,046.02	31,403.91	26,646.32	-	58,050.23	150,995.79	177,642.11
4	Vehicles	7,702,692.01	7,779,286.42	1,974,512.00	13,507,466.43	10,741,698.95	414,865.12	-	11,156,564.07	2,350,902.36	2,765,767.48
5	Communication/ Other Equipments	871,861.27	-	-	871,861.27	757,657.65	17,130.54	-	774,788.19	97,073.08	114,203.62
6	Building (Observation Center)	1,897,958.81	-	-	1,897,958.81	694,958.97	36,090.00	-	731,048.97	1,166,909.84	1,202,999.84
7	RSPN Head Quarter and JKERC Building	41,711,248.29	-	-	41,711,248.29	4,748,543.71	1,108,881.14	-	5,857,424.85	35,853,823.44	36,962,704.58
	Total :	66,365,989.21	9,673,803.42	1,974,512.00	74,065,280.63	25,817,510.98	2,306,058.32	-	28,123,569.30	45,941,711.33	48,247,769.65

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