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**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE**



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2008 — 30 June 2009



The Kingdom of Bhutan is blessed with an exceptional and largely intact natural environment. I have joined RSPN in its mission to raise awareness of the challenges that faces us now. We must all accept our individual responsibility to conserve the rich diversity of Bhutan's plant and animal species for the benefit of both the natural world and our children's future.

**His Majesty the King  
Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

*(On the occasion of assuming the patronage of RSPN in 1999)*

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## Message from the Chairman

*Dasho Sangay Thinley*

As we publish the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), I am reminded of the humble beginning that RSPN ventured in 1987. The main mandates then were conservation and promotion of awareness concerning the environment's importance through research and evidence, we have gone beyond our set parameters, especially because of the heightened importance of environmental issues and problems. It is with a great sense of justifiable pride to unfurl some of the milestones or achievements of the RSPN.

The RSPN has grown tremendously in all aspects. Moving from an infantile stage to a more developed field, RSPN has ventured into ethical field research and scientific study to enhance sustainable livelihood of our people. In its continued effort "To inspire personal responsibility and actively involve the people of Bhutan in the conservation of the Kingdom's environment through education, applied research, and information dissemination, in collaboration with concerned agencies and indigenous institutions", RSPN's success stories are many.

Here I would like to convey our sincerest gratitude to the Royal Government, donor agencies and other stakeholders, without whose unwavering support, RSPN would not have reached the height it currently stands on. We at RSPN are also confident that such support will also be rendered in the future.

The road traveled has not been a bed of roses. Challenges faced in our conservation efforts are snowballing. Pressure on already depleting natural resources has shot up. We lack adequate funds and manpower to deal with the challenges. Nevertheless, we did not sway from our commitment and fulfilled our responsibilities. The credit goes to our dedicate staff, whose service is priceless. While acknowledging their services, I am confident that they will continue with vigour, the responsibility that they have.

Once again I thank all stakeholders whose support is the key to RSPN's success and I am more optimistic than ever, that RSPN will not falter despite all odds in realizing its accomplishments.

Tashi Delek!



## Message from the Executive Director

*Dr. Lam Dorji*

As we begin to take small, but globally profound life-changing steps into the twenty-first century, I would like to share my cherished memories of 2008-2009. Established with the goal to inspire personal responsibility and offer tangible solutions for environmental issues and concerns, RSPN has, yet, seen another successful year. With passion and perseverance, we in RSPN, is dedicated towards maintaining forest coverage over 60%; as mandated by the Constitution.

In our effort to work on the cutting-edge of environmental research and education in the nation, we have formally institutionalized Nature Clubs in all the schools across the country when it was officially launched by Hon'ble Sherig Lyonpo on June 2nd, 2009. To help enhance the livelihood of the rural communities, socio-economic survey in Athang under Wangdue Dzongkhag and Kangpara-Pas-sangphu in Trashigang were completed. RSPN also initiated a pilot program on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) for the first time in Kangpara area. Community-based Sustainable Tourism in Phobjikha Conservation Area has been strengthened through various programs.

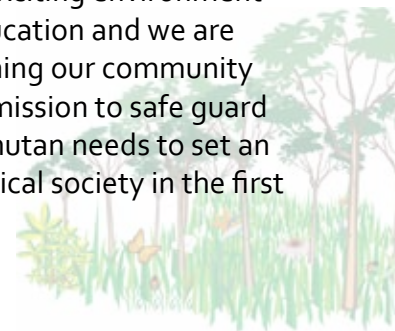
In research and conservation, efforts were made to wide spread the importance of preserving the habitats for critically endangered WBH among the parliamentarians and concern agencies in Punatshangchu Hydropower Projects and the signs

were positive. The number of BNC that wintered in Bhutan saw increase by about 30 individuals indicating Bhutan's success in conservation of species. The BNC habitat in Phobjikha valley, too, saw major changes with improved trails and trail signs.

In celebrating the 100 years of monarchy and coronation of our Druk Gyalpo, RSPN was over whelmed to receive unfailing support from the Ministry of Home Affairs when November 1st was officially announced as the Clean Bhutan Day. It will remain so till eternity.

Climate change is an emerging issue that Bhutan needs to tackle with diverse solutions. In an effort to raise climate change awareness, RSPN has taken up Thimphu as the baseline to assess climate change.

A concern for RSPN is difficulties in increasing members, which we attribute to the lack of incentives arising from budgetary concerns. Nevertheless, with 3000 current members and our connections with other stakeholders, we are managing comfortably. But we are targeting to enroll more volunteers, especially to aid us in environment advocacy and education. We have a vibrant and exciting environment for research and education and we are committed to enriching our community by venturing in our mission to safe guard the environment. Bhutan needs to set an environmentally ethical society in the first



## Message from the Executive Director

changing 21st century.

We have no doubt that conservationists will continue to nurture positive climate within our democracy, and despite financial odds, will build on the momentum for change. The environmental challenges for the planet and for our own well-being are just too important. If we are able to rise up and address this issue, it would perhaps be the best thing we have ever done.

As you browse through the pages of this publication, you will learn about our recent accomplishments. We are committed to protecting the environment and passing our natural heritage to the coming generation in a better way than we have seen.

Tashi Delek



## RSPN - A Background

Since its establishment, RSPN has come through the various stages of organizational development. It has gone through numerous rectifications in its organizational set up and procedural matters. The MacArthur Foundation and the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation have significantly assisted RSPN in attaining the current level of organizational capacity and independence. RSPN is today guided by a Board of Directors, which is being reconstituted into Board of Trustees in accordance with the Articles of Association submitted for registration under the Civil Society Act of 2007. As per the directions of the Royal Government, RSPN is now resubmitting for registration with the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs.

RSPN operations are guided by its Administrative and Financial Guidelines, which in the context of RSPN's current size, is being revised into the Administra-

tive and Human Resource Management Manual (AHRMM) and Financial Manual. The AHRMM has been developed while development of financial manual is underway. For the purpose of efficiency and proper record keeping, RSPN is also in the process of establishing sound financial accounting system using computer software. The need for proper program procedures has been identified as well.

Currently, RSPN has three field offices with the headquarter based in Thimphu. In addition to the field office in Phobjikha, RSPN opened two more field offices in Bumthang and Wamrong under Trashigang Dzongkhag in 2007. With a total of 21 employees, RSPN has the following institutional development aspects prioritized to sustain its conservation programmes and organizational growth.



## Conservation of Endangered Species outside the protected areas

RSPN has given focused attention to endangered species outside of the protected areas. The Black-necked Cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) and the White-bellied Herons (*Ardea insignis*) are the two avian species extensively studied and advocated for their conservation. RSPN has generated knowledge, awareness, and support of the Royal Government for the conservation of these two species.

### High Level Coordination Meeting for White-bellied heron habitat

Bhutan's pristine river system with negligible disturbances, shallow basins rich in fishes and aquatic animals have been excellent habitat for the critically endangered White-bellied Heron. In our continued effort to safeguard this bird, population survey for both non-breeding and breeding herons were regularly carried out along Phochu (Tshekathang), Kamechu (Digchu) and Burichu, and at Ngangshina and Hararongchu respectively. To complement the conservation efforts, RSPN also carried out gene sample collection and the study of chemical contents in the fishes and the water of their habitats.

However, before the knowledge on the ecology and heron behavior is completely revealed to the humans, the series of upcoming Punatsangchu mega-projects have been a major threat to the survival of the WBH as their habitats will be destroyed. To enhance the conservation strategies, the first high level coordination meeting was convened between the National Environment Commission, the Hydropower Authority, the Department of Forest, and other concerned authorities on

1st August 2008 in the conference hall of National Environment Commission. As a result, a task force was formed to develop a mitigation strategy.

The task force meeting to consider mitigation strategies was held on 5th September 2008 at Royal Society for Protection of Nature, during which a draft comprehensive mitigation strategies was formulated to be submitted to the Punatsangchu Hydro-power Project Authority. Following the recommendation of the task force, a field trip was organized on September 19th, 2008 to give participants a better understanding of the conservation issues surrounding WBH and Golden Masheer habitat in the Punatsangchu. The draft mitigation proposals include identification and protection of suitable habitats along Punatsangchu basin, habitat improvement and management, native fish stocking and construction-related mitigation proposals such as installation of reflection tapes and colourful flags on cables that cross flight paths, appro-



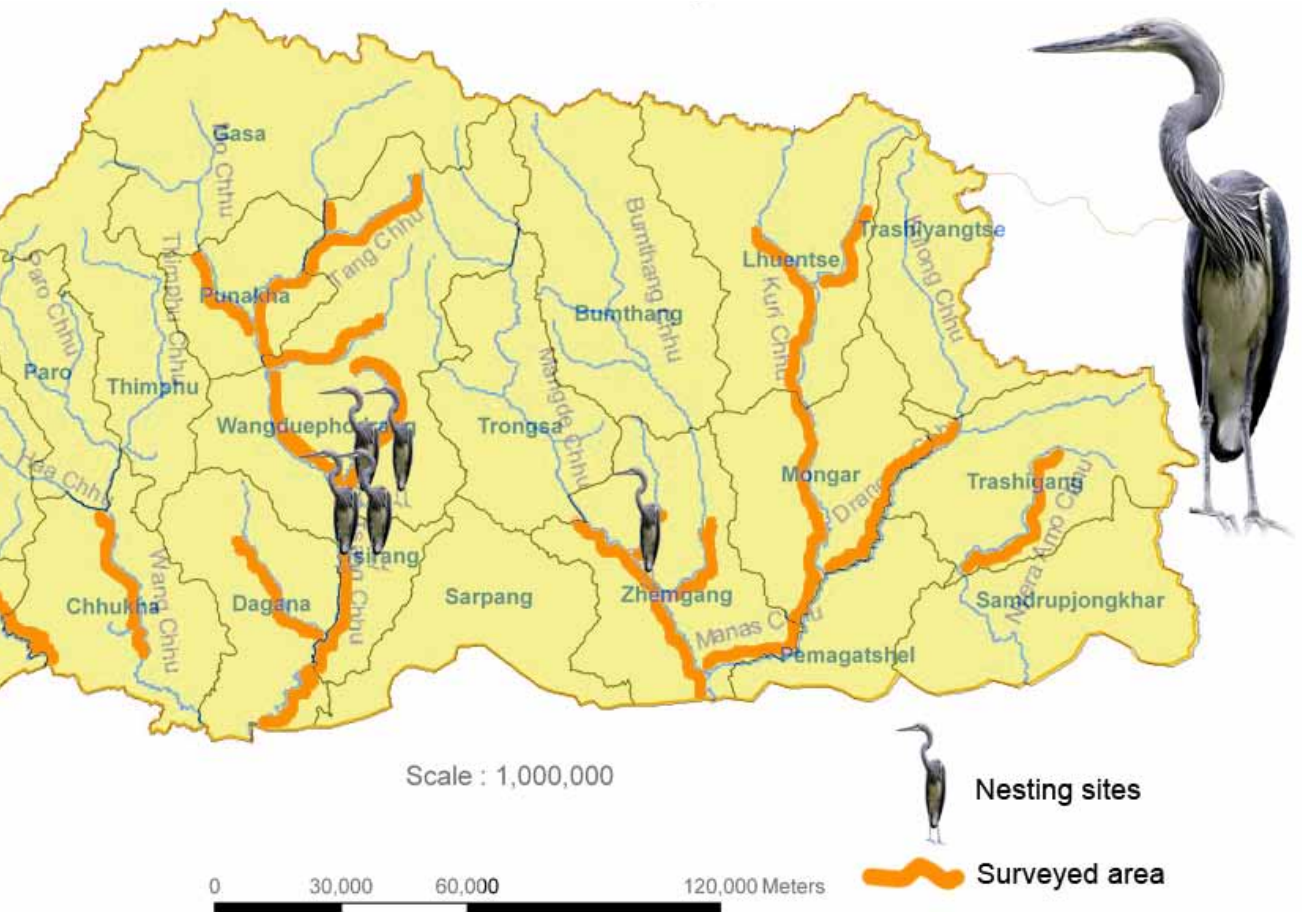


## Conservation of Endangered Species outside protected areas

priate selection of labourers' camp sites, identification of appropriate quarry sites, enforced regulation of fish and wildlife poaching, controlled blasting and maintaining funds for mitigation purposes even after completion of the project.

The Coordination Meeting with Punatsangchu Hydropower Project person-

tion. At the meeting, we failed to create adequate awareness among the participants. It is imperative to educate everybody on the inherent and practical value of a healthy environment. We must ask ourselves, how many White-bellied Herons may be killed during the project and how many others will not be born due to breed-



Map showing nesting sites and surveyed areas of white-bellied heron

nel was an eye-opening experience that revealed a vast disparity in various stakeholders' views on environmental conserva-

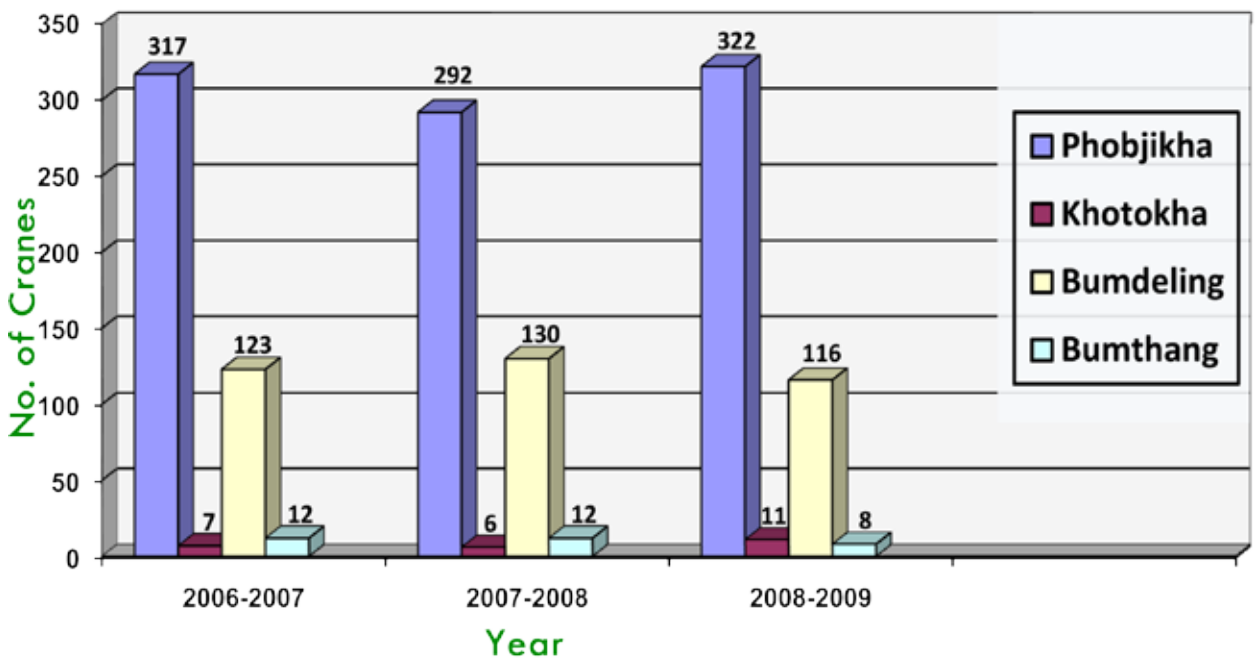
ing impacts. Although we have proposed some mitigation strategies, there remains much important research to pursue.

From 2008 till June 2009, the monitoring team comprising of Prof. Peter from University of Florida and the team from RSPN spotted five new nests with a total of 8 eggs. However, only three juveniles could make up to the final fight, thus bringing an estimated total number of WBH to 33.

Despite the threat posed by the Punatshangchu project, RSPN will continue to work towards the protection of WBH, one of the 50 rarest birds in the world.

## Black-necked crane arrivals in 2008-2009

The first group of cranes consisting of two adults and a juvenile arrived on 29th October 2008. The number of cranes in 2008-2009 winters in Phobjikha increased by 30 individuals bringing the total count to 322 from 292 in 2007-2008 winters, which temporarily indicates increase in its total population. However a detail study is needed to furnish its exact population from other parts of the world.



Graph showing the crane count in popular wintering sites in Bhutan from 2006-2009 winter



## Education for Sustainability

Raising awareness and educating people continues to be a major approach to inspire positive attitudes and action to conserve the environment. The Environment Education unit has a long standing relationship with the Department of School Education and schools throughout the country to induce environmental education in school curriculum and to encourage extended learning through nature club networking respectively.



*H.E. Minister of Education, Resident Representative (AI) of UNDP and Executive Director of RSPN launching the Nature Club Management and Activity Handbook*

### School Nature Clubs Institutionalized

After about twenty years of hard work, the schools Nature Clubs were formerly institutionalized on 2nd June, 2009 coinciding with Social Forestry Day when the Hon'ble Sherig Lyonpo officially unveiled the Nature Club Handbook and Manual in Babesa MSS, Thimphu. The event was

observed by RR, UNDP –Bhutan Office, Officials from Ministry of Education and Agriculture, Royal Society for Protection of Nature and teachers and students of Babesa MSS. All schools and institutions are now expected to have nature club activities as regular co-curricular activity.

Stretched from 6 to 17 April 2009, RSPN and MoE jointly organized orientation workshop for the education officers

and nature club focal teachers of all 20 Dzongkhags in three different regional workshops conducted at Wangduephodrang, Gelephu and Trashigang with the purpose to orient them to the plan of institutionalization of nature club as regular co-curricular activity in school and train focal teachers to assist needy schools in the dzongkhags.

### Action Grant Project for Nature Clubs

Considering the need and importance of evaluation of every program, the Environment Education Unit under RSPN carried out evaluation visit to Action Grant Projects implemented with support from UNDP project – Building Civil Society Support for Bio diversity Conservation in Bhutan by Nature Clubs in Sherubtse and five



*Nature club focal teachers engaged in a practical training*





*LCSG members on one of the field trainings conducted by RSPN*

schools starting from 16 – 27th July, 2009. The institutions have successfully completed the projects and had exhibited good amount of outcome as per their proposal. Considering their successful implantation as evident from the evaluation report, such small programs in local issues would benefit in fostering local environment education in future as well.

### **Environment Education for NFE & Schools in Phobjikha**

In continuation to the efforts made to enhance the awareness level and understanding of the environmental status and issues of Phobjikha valley among the institutions and local communities, RSPN conducted refresher course for adult learners from four NFE centers and nature club students and teachers from three schools from 7-8th August 2008.

The participants were informed of the

“Clean Bhutan” project of RSPN and the roles and responsibilities the local communities have. The workshop also prepared activity plan for the NFE centres to guide them on environmental education, which will be monitored by RSPN.

### **Introductory Meeting conducted for the members of LCSG**

To keep continually growing and active, an introductory meeting for the members of the newly established Local Conservation Support Group (LCSG) was organized from 17 to 26 September 2008 in the Wangdue, Sarpang, Paro and Zhemgang Dzongkhags. The LCSG were established by the individuals who shared genuine concern for the environment with strong desire to conserve local environment. The main objectives of the training were to familiarize members with the func-

tions of LCSG and its activities. The workshop was an eye opening experience for participants as new plans and perspectives

were shared.



*Nature Club focal teachers were trained on water quality test*

### **Training on Water quality test for selected schools**

A four day training on water quality testing was conducted from 16 to 20 October 2008 for the Nature Club Coordinators of selected schools from Wangdue, Punakha, Haa, Paro and Thimphu. During the training, the teachers were given theoreti-

cal and practical lessons to test the water quality, record keeping and report submission which are important for monitoring water quality, who in turn are expected to teach the children and conduct water quality testing. A set of water testing kit donated by Save the Children was also distributed 26 schools in 5 dzongkhags to implement the program.

### Nature camp for students

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) organized a Nature camp for students from 24 to 26 December at Geon Shari School which is in Jigme Dorji National Park (Geon Shari CPS, Punakha) with financial support from South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN), to

which Bhutan is a member. The purpose of the nature camp was to bring together nature club students from various schools and provide them the opportunity to share good experiences as a source of learning and narrate stories of their local environment. A total of 4 teachers, 17 boys and 19 girls from 10 schools from Thimphu, Punakha, Wangdue and Paro took part in the camp.



*The participants of the Nature Camp*

### **“Youth for Clean Air” on Earth Day 2009 in Phuentsholing**

In order to enhance environmental awareness among communities and students, “Youth for Clean Air” was organized by Phuntsholing City Corporation in col-

laboration with RSPN on 22nd April, 2009 coinciding with Earth Day 2009. Seven schools were involved in the program and covered three major areas namely Phuntsholing, Kharbandi and Pasakha. “Youth for Clean Air” was possible with financial support from South Asian Youth Environment Network (SAYEN).

### **World Environment Day 2009 celebrated in Lhuntse**

“Your Planet Needs You! Unite to Combat Climate Change” the theme for the World Environment Day (WED) 2009 was

to sensitize the citizens of the globe of the issue of climate change. Climate change has now become a serious concern and if not reacted promptly, it will be too late.

Dasho Dzungda, the guest of honour, opened the WED with the hoisting of the



*The monk body also carried out mass clean-up on World Environment Day 2009*





*Students participated in mass clean-up activity on World Environment Day 2009 in Lhuntse*

National Flag followed by singing of National Anthem by students. Following the traditional Marchang Ceremony, the Principal of Phuyum HSS welcomed all guests and he expressed that the school is fortunate to host and observe the WED-2009 in the school stressing that such celebrations in remote schools provide opportunity for students to learn and understand about the importance of the environment.

In his keynote address, the guest of honour conveyed his gratitude to RSPN for supporting the celebration of WED-2009 and providing 40 numbers of garbage bins for in the Dzongkhag. Dasho Dzongda was optimistic that the garbage bins would definitely help to promote cleanliness in the dzongkhag will go long way in dzong-

khag's history. Dasho informed the crowd that celebrating such event is one step to inform people to be responsible in combating the climate change issue. He further stressed that climate change is happening now and every individual should work in their own simple ways to combat climate change and make this planet a better place because -Your Planet Needs You.

Other highlights of the day included cultural programs, exhibitions, model displays, write ups, posters, and interactive games to inform people about the issue of climate change, its causes, impacts and what to next. In the afternoon, a cleaning campaign was launched involving Dzongkhag Officials, communities, monks, teachers and students.



*Sector heads and community leaders participating in one of the trainings*

## Environment Education for Sector Heads and Community Leaders

With villages scattered in forested areas, deprived of modern facilities, people of Wamrong and Kangpara Geogs are seeking economic development that will lead to degradation of the natural resources. To spear head environment conservation through timely and appropriate intervention, RSPN makes relentless effort to educate local communities on environment and a two days program was organized to the community leaders and the sector heads of in RSPN's CBNRM Field Office in Wamrong on 13th and 14th May 2009. The program was attended by 22

participants from various stakeholders and had the main objectives:

- Identify local environmental issues and develop appropriate actions in their locality
- Promote sustainable use of natural resources through community and sector's leadership.
- Address environmental awareness among the sectors and community leaders of Wamrong-Kangpara valleys.
- Familiarize and develop network among the sectors, community leaders, schools, NFE centers and Local Conservation Group (LCSG) members to coordinate conservation activities.

## Sustainable Livelihoods

Local people have the greatest stake in the long term sustainability of the natural resources in the area and that it is only when their livelihood needs are met that communities will prioritize conservation. In this view, RSPN strives to provide livelihood alternatives that are environmentally friendly by promoting sustainable livelihood. The Sustainable livelihoods program endeavours to assist local communities to meet their economic needs through community capacity building and environmentally friendly development initiatives. Alternative energy (Solar, gas), ecotourism (established a Crane observation centre, nature trails), rural water supply, health and environment (drainage, toilets), and community capacity building (education, training and formation of management committees) have helped to enhance local knowledge and capacity to support conservation of the natural environment.



### Community Forest established in Passangphu & Moshi

The community forest of Passangphu covers an area of 182 ha (449.7 acres) within an altitude range of 2044m to 2343m above sea level, while Moshi has 280.96 ha within an altitude range of 2082m to 2300m above sea level.

Since both the villages have a relatively large forest coverage, community forest management program in Passangphu and Moshi villages were carried out with the common objectives of:

- To improve and maintain biological diversity with healthy forest ecosystem.

- To improve and maintain sustainable supply of forest products and services in order to enhance the self-sufficiency and improve the economic and living standards of rural people.
- To improve and maintain communal institutions that can sustainably manage forest land and ensure equitable decision-making, implementation, and distribution of forest resources.

By supporting such community forest management, it installs a sense of ownership and appreciation for the local environment besides making them aware of the interrelation between healthy environment and healthy life.





*Local community members in Phobjikha learning to make souvenir items*

### **Community members trained on souvenir production in Phobjikha**

Building local capacity is important for garnering local interest and more importantly their participation in sustainable tourism. With this in mind, since the inception of product development training in November 2008, RSPN has been providing training to the local communities, particularly the youth in developing various kinds of tourism products like purses, home slippers, bags etc. The training also assures market standard and quality finishing of

the products being produced. So far eight people have been trained.

It is hoped that in the long run, the program will help generate alternative income for the local communities by producing book marks, cards, lamp sheds, net bags, hand bags, place mats, gift boxes, hair pins, combs and bamboo curtains and indirectly minimize negative anthropogenic impact on the environment. The training was conducted by Mr. Jarray Rachokarn, an expert from Thailand.

### Social-economic survey conducted in Athang

Athang, a remote geog falls under the management of Phobjikha conservation area where RSPN intends to initiate community-based conservation. The socio-economic survey in Athang gewog in Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag covering three villages was carried out to get better

understanding of the people-environment interaction which will facilitate appropriate planning and designing of management interventions in this area. The information on the total population, households, well being, income, economic activities, live-stock rearing, living conditions, agriculture practices and awareness of environment have given better insight towards the future of Athang.

### Local community groups trained on basic accounting and book keeping

Week long training on basic book keeping was conducted to the six members of the Phobjikha Environment Management Committee (PEMC) as part of capacity building from 13-17 April 2009. The training had the following objectives:

- Built the capacity of the local community groups in basic accounting and book keeping.
- Ensure sustainability and proper man-

agement of the community fund.

With increasing inflow of cash contributions to the committee fund from its members and outsiders, the need for proper management and record keeping was found necessary. While similar trainings were conducted in the past, there is a need to continually update and train the members until they are able to manage the accounts independently and efficiently. The response and enthusiasm from the participants to put into practice the learning from the training is an indication of the group's growth and stability.



*Local community members engaged in one of the exercises*

## Emerging Issues

As a non-governmental organization, RSPN maintains the flexibility to respond to emerging environmental issues. The organization has taken up two nationally and globally significant issues namely Climate Change and Solid waste management

### Capacity building on climate change

RSPN's capacity in the field of climate change is limited but important to be developed considering the global efforts to combat climate change. RSPN provided short term training to one of its staff in climate change. With support from International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) under the Capacity Strengthening of Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC) Program, RSPN is enhancing its capacity in the subject of climate change through training and participation in inter-

national climate change negotiations and conventions. Further, RSPN conducted research and published two reports on Climate Change and Health in Bhutan and Cities and Climate Change.

### Report on climate change and health in Bhutan

The report identifies the main impacts of climate change on the health of the population of Bhutan. Higher morbidity and mortality from extreme weather and climate events and an expansion of insect- and rodent-borne and water-related



diseases are expected. It also considers that the health sector's primary role lies in emergency preparedness for damage control and that the health sector's participation in all areas identified as vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change must be recognized.

## Cities and Climate Change : Risk and vulnerability maps for Thimphu developed

A preliminary study on Cities and Climate Change in developing climate risk and vulnerability maps of Thimphu City has

been completed in February 2009.

Like any other cities of the developing countries, Thimphu city is faced with rapid pace of urbanization with increasing population. And because of the rapid population growth, there has been increased demand for both the infrastructure as well as the housing in the urban areas. However, it is pertinent to prepare city atlas to ensure timely and efficient preparedness in addressing climate change problems at a city level. These maps is also expected to facilitate awareness raising, planning and decision making processes of the concerned agencies and general public.



*One of the maps from the research under Cities and Climate Change program*



## Emerging Issues

Various stakeholders were consulted during the mapping exercise presentation and their comments incorporated in the report.

### Clean Bhutan

Clean Bhutan, a concerted effort of various stakeholder and agencies is coordinated by the RSPN. It aims to secure cooperation and support of government, private and individuals in enhancing public awareness on the issues of waste and its

hazards to health and the environment, enacting appropriate laws for effective implementation of polluter pays principle (PPP), provision of necessary infrastructure, facilities, and institutional arrangements for sustained 3Rs and management of waste. It is also expected that the project will be exemplary in terms of the cooperation among the public and private sectors as represented in the Clean Bhutan Steering Committee.



*Collected waste being loaded on to a tractor*

## Partners

1. Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO)
2. Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)
3. Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BT FEC)
4. Chenzig Media Pvt. Ltd.
5. Dratshang Lhuentshog
6. Ministry of Economic Affairs
7. Ministry of Education
8. Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
9. Ministry of Works and Human Settlement
10. National Environment Commission
11. Tourism Council of Bhutan
12. Thimphu City Corporation

## Supporters

1. Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO)
2. Bhutan Foundation
3. Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC)
4. Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program
5. Programme for South- South Cooperation
6. Thimphu City Corporation
7. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
8. WWF – Bhutan Program

## Report on Clean Bhutan Day 2008

As the nation observed the coronation of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and 100 years of Monarchy, the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs in collaboration with the Royal Society for Protection of Nature declared November 1st as “Clean Bhutan Day”. The day was observed to ensure a Clean Bhutan and an atmosphere of purity during the auspicious coronation of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and to inspire indi-

viduals and communities to collectively participate and contribute to a “Clean Bhutan” at the time of this occasion and thereafter.

However, the nationwide cleaning campaign was carried out on 28th October throughout the kingdom coordinated by the respective Dzongkhag administrations to enable preparation for the grand celebrations across the Kingdom on November 1st 2008.

A total of over 39,000 volunteers were mobilized and an estimated volume of over 100 tons of waste comprising of

## Emerging Issues

paper, plastics, metals, bottles and worn out textiles, and other categories of waste were collected and disposed during the cleaning campaign. As proposed and approved, Clean Bhutan Day will henceforth be marked on first of November annually throughout the kingdom.

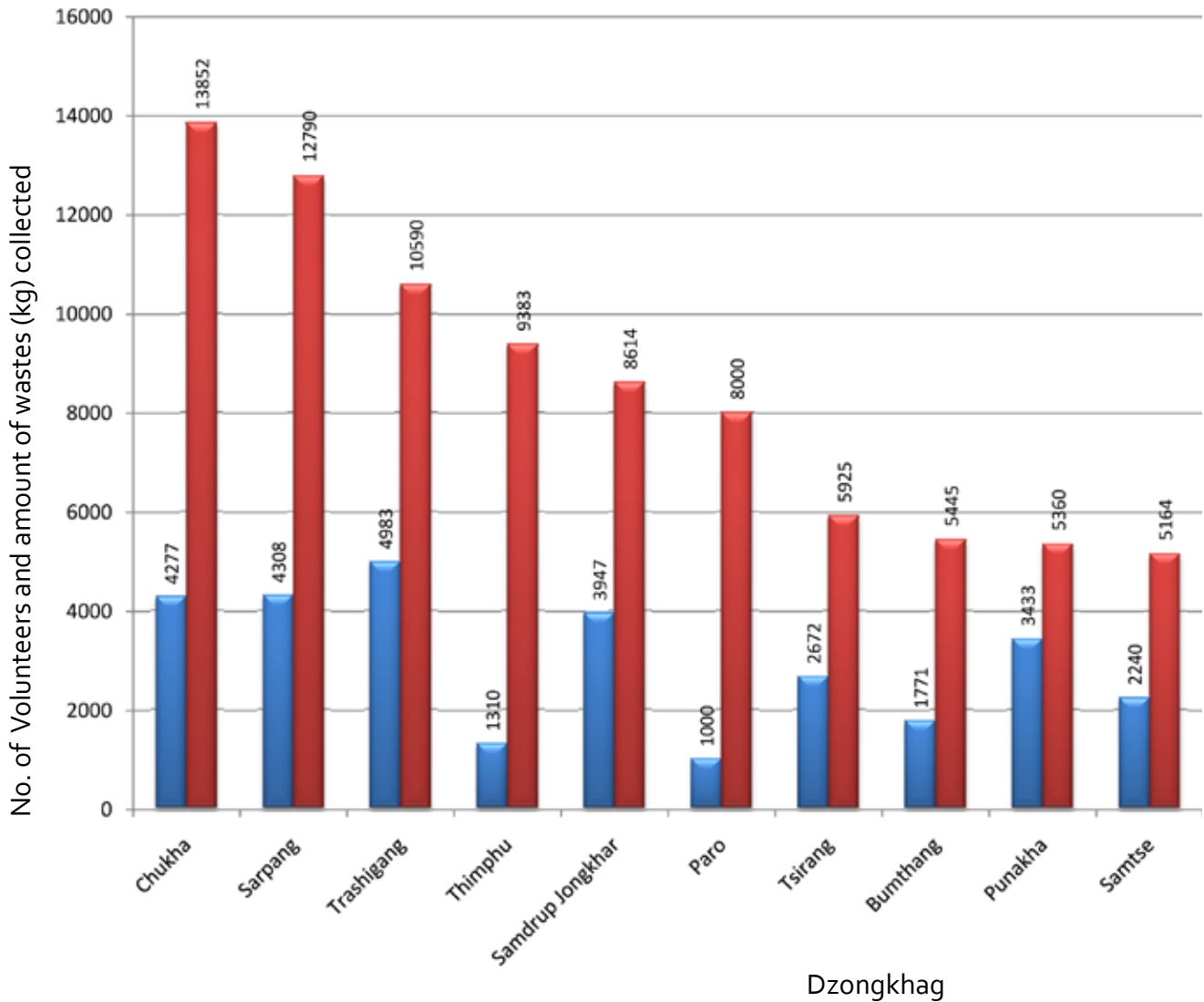
Therefore every citizen is urged to actively participate in the event as a gesture of respect and loyalty to our monarchs and to offer our assurance of individual and collective commitment to continued peace and harmony in the country.



*People from all walks of life were involved on Clean Bhutan Day*



## Summary of Clean Bhutan Day, 2008



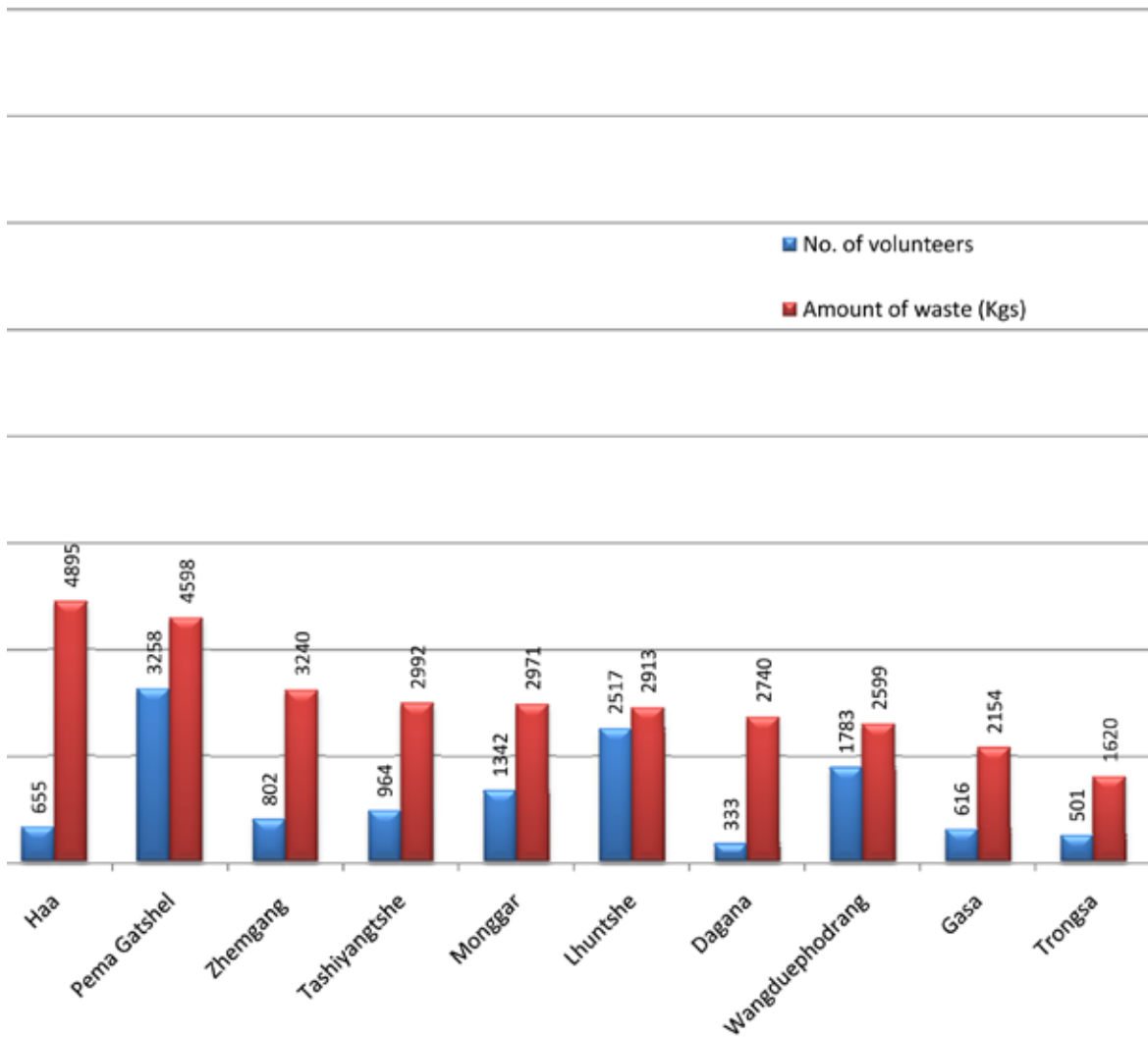
Graph showing total number of volunteers and total Kgs. of waste collected on the Clean Bhutan Day

### Clean Bhutan awareness materials launched

Public education, awareness and advocacy programs has been and remained a priority for Bhutan especially in the case of solid waste management. Several educa-

tional awareness materials including stickers, caps, waste collection bags

With the official launch of the Clean Bhutan audio visual DVD on 19th November 2008 by HRH Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck during the "Keep Bhutan Green Campaign", over 800 DVD on Clean Bhutan awareness were distributed to all



levels of schools, Geogs and Dzongkhag administrations across the county.

The objective of distributing the materials to schools around the country is targeted in disseminating the vital and relevant messages through annual concerts and other public functions and gatherings for promoting waste management ethics

and individual's responsibility in tackling the increasing trend of littering and waste nuisance.

Several other jingles and radio programs on waste management were also prepared in collaboration with Kuzoo FM. These programs are frequently aired on the Kuzoo radio (Dzongkha medium) as a



*Students and community take part in a clean-up activity*

means to communicate to all Bhutanese to raise awareness and educate our fellow citizens on waste management.

### **School waste management program initiated in 17 schools**

Seventeen schools (6 government and 11 private schools) around Thimphu have been identified and supplied with the waste collection containers designed for school waste management for initiating waste segregation practices. The heads of the schools also participated in the consultative meeting and discussed and agreed

on common school waste management system.

It is felt that the program will assist the schools in adoption and initiation of waste program in schools to kick off with the waste segregation, reuse and recycling principles.

About 29 schools in Thimphu now have waste collection containers in their campus including 12 schools covered earlier with support from JICA. Upon completion of the pet bottle granulator in the city, the school could sell and generate income from the pet bottles collected as part of the waste management initiative.

### Community Waste Management Program

A community based waste management program was initiated in Gangtey monastery coinciding with the Drupchen and the consecration of the monastery. The 21 day program covered support in

form of waste bins, establishment of temporal waste disposal site, waste transportation arrangement and public awareness program. The program was well received and benefitted the community in the daily waste management of their monastery and local communities in the adjacent settlements.

### Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic Waste Management Initiative

Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic in Dewathang has initiated the Waste Disposal Scheme within their campus with the help of student volunteers with an objective of keeping the institutes campus clean and at the same time in inculcating waste disposal and management awareness among the staff and students of the institute.

The group is actively participating in the scheme where the segregated waste are either recycled or sold to the nearby Indian market. Waste education with the staff and students on proper segregation of toxic, incombustible, combustible and organic waste materials is also initiated by this group. Waste collection facilities viz. pull carts and other safety gears were supported under the larger Clean Bhutan Program.



*The group members and volunteers actively participated in waste management program*

### **“The Green Generation”: Earth Day 2009 commemorated**

To commemorate Earth Day 2009 with the theme “The Green Generation”, the Nazhoen Pelri of the Youth Development Fund (YDF) and the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) initiated a happy bin project from 8th- 22nd April 2009.

The project was targeted for unemployed young adults and few disabled youth to use art as a medium to reduce, reuse and recycle, and create waste bins which can be explored as an entrepreneurship opportunity. A project titled Happy Bin Art & Wire Sculpture Workshop was conducted at Nazhoen Pelri Youth Development Centre from 1 April - 22 April in

Thimphu. 25 participants including 8 girls from different background participated in the workshop. Different training sessions were conducted viz. drawing & painting for 45 children from age group 6 – 13 yrs for 7 days, making useful things out of waste materials, making waste bins and wire sculpture. A particular focus of the workshop was on creating bins from waste. The participants showed great interest in the workshop as it hoped that the participants will find business opportunities through these entrepreneurship attitudes and skills development training. It is also the beginning of the establishment of the Nazhoen Pelri Art & Sculpture Club where the trained participants will facilitate future programs in the capacity of trainers.



*Participants of Earth Day 2009*





*Earth Day 2009 saw various products made from waste that were exhibited to the visitors*

### **Research studies conducted on waste management**

Several research studies are on way covering topics on alternatives to poly plastic bags, environment friendly products, buy back policies, and scrap dealing and user friendly and cost effective dust-

bins. The study on the alternative poly plastic bags is completed and referred by the ministry of Economic Affairs as a baseline for reinforcing the ban of plastic bags in the country.

Other topic on Environment friendly products, buy back system and user friendly and cost effective dustbins are on way.



*Human wild life conflict surveyors visiting local villagers in Kangpara, Trashigang*

### **Human wildlife conflict program in the east**

Considering the results of the socio-economic and biodiversity surveys conducted in January 2008 in four villages of Pasaphu, Madhuwa, Moshi and Khaimanma under Lumang and Kangpara Geogs Wamrong Dungkhag in Trashigang as a baseline, RSPN initiated a pilot program on Human-Wildlife conflict (HWC) in March 2009 which is expected to explore solutions at the local level and if successful, will be advocated at wider range at the later stages.

A feasibility study that encompassed qualitative analysis of the current situation by means of random informal interview

with the affected farmers, field verification and community focal group consultation was conducted in the four villages by experts covering socio-economic, wildlife and agriculture. The study showed that wildlife encroachment into human settlement areas had a close interlink with poor forest management and living standard of the people.

It is hoped that while helping to address HWC issue in the selected villages, the project in the long run will complement and contribute to the Royal government's national human wildlife conflict management strategy and bring adequate solutions.

## Networking & Strengthened Communications

RSPN has constantly strengthened its facilities for information access and sharing through its regularly updated website ([www.rspnbhutan.org](http://www.rspnbhutan.org)), publication of quarterly newsletters/ e-newsletters and Annual Reports.

### Enhancing Outreach

RSPN has ventured to increase its local presence especially in the east. With the support of project financing, RSPN has established two more field offices – one in Bumthang and another in Wamrong. In total RSPN has three field offices (Phobjikha, Bumthang and Wamrong) and headquarter in Thimphu.

With the gift of democracy bestowed upon the Bhutanese by its enlightened Kings, it is found appropriate that RSPN

strengthen its foundation for environmental voice. For this, RSPN is building its member base. Currently RSPN has over 300 individual members and over 3000 nature club members in various schools around the country. RSPN has established Dzongkhag based Local Conservation Support Groups (LCSG) in Bumthang, Trashigang, Wamrong, Thrimshing, and Wangduephodrang. It is expected that such groups, in the future, will assist RSPN in implementing environmental programmes.

### Regional and International Networks

In addition to strengthening its member base within the country, RSPN is also expanding its memberships in the regional and international environmental networks. It is member of the following networks:

- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). RSPN became member of the IUCN in 2007. Through this membership, RSPN will be able to tap into the volunteer network of around 10,000 technical and scientific experts working in its global commissions, protected areas, species survival, ecosystem management, environmental education and communications, environment, economics and social policy and environmental laws. RSPN is currently the only Bhutanese organization to be a member of the IUCN.
- Climate Action Network of South Asia (CANSAs): RSPN is a member of CANSAs, a regional network on climate change and it hosted in the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (STUDIES). RSPN is represented on the CANSAs Board of Directors with the Executive Director as a member of the Board of Directors.
- South Asia Forum of Responsible Business (SAFoRB): RSPN is one of the

## Networking and Strengthened Communications

founding members of the SAFoRB, a network organization working toward promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). CSR being a new concept in Bhutan, RSPN and Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) organized an introductory workshop in February 2008 in Thimphu for government and corporate participants.

- South Asia Youth in Environment Network (SAYEN): RSPN is the focal agency for SAYEN in Bhutan. With its headquarter based in Center for Environmental Education (CEE), Ahmedabad, in India, SAYEN organizes youth conferences on environment.
- Bhutan Water Partnership (BhWP) Secretariat

As desired by the Royal Government and based on RSPN's extensive work in the area of Water, RSPN has also been entrusted with the responsibility to host the BhWP. As the Secretariat, RSPN has supported and facilitated the BhWP to work closely with the National Environment Commission in the development of the Water Policy and engaged in the Water Quality Monitoring throughout the country. Under the guidance of an Executive Committee, the BhWP has assisted the National Environment Commission in water quality monitoring, and in the formulation of Bhutan Water Policy, Vision, and Act. The Royal Government supports funding for the BhWP program officer.



## Audited Financial Report

RSPN's accounts are audited on an annual basis. Unaudited statements reveal a total receipt of Nu. 51,276,884 and US \$ 542,318 equivalent to total of Nu. 77,351,534 in the fiscal year 2008-2009. As of 30 June 2009, RSPN maintains a cash and bank balance of Nu. 21,181,455.40 and US \$ 326,276.41 summing up to an equivalent of Nu. 36,712,212.52.

In addition, RSPN's Endowment Fund maintained with the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTSEC) is valued at US \$ 1,185,551.94. This excludes the accrued interest, if any, for the fiscal year 2008-2009. BTSEC's investment has been withdrawn and lying idle in response to the Global Financial Crisis.

On the whole, RSPN's entire resources including assets and capital fund amounts to Nu. 101,749,918.84 i.e. the overall worth of RSPN as of June 30, 2009.



## ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 30 JUNE, 2008

	For the year ended June 30, 2008				For the year ended June 30, 2007							
	(A)		(B)		(A+B)		(A)		(B)		(A+B)	
	NU.	US\$	Equivalent NU.	US\$	TOTAL (NU.)	NU.	US\$	Equivalent NU.	US\$	TOTAL (NU.)	NU.	US\$
<b>Assets</b>												
<b>Fixed Assets (Net Block)</b>												
Furniture & Fixture	480,242.73	-	-	-	480,242.73	353,450.51	-	-	-	353,450.51	-	-
Office Equipments	2,807,912.25	-	-	-	2,807,912.25	2,142,008.64	-	-	-	2,142,008.64	-	-
Trekking Equipments	286,940.78	-	-	-	286,940.78	337,577.39	-	-	-	337,577.39	-	-
Vehicles	2,092,074.02	-	-	-	2,092,074.02	2,461,263.55	-	-	-	2,461,263.55	-	-
Communication/Other Equipments	193,458.13	-	-	-	193,458.13	227,597.80	-	-	-	227,597.80	-	-
Building (Observation Center)	1,533,518.17	-	-	-	1,533,518.17	1,580,946.56	-	-	-	1,580,946.56	-	-
Investment with BTFEC	-	1,341,393.00	57,478,690.05	-	57,478,690.05	-	1,247,477.00	50,148,575.40	-	50,148,575.40	-	-
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>7,394,146.09</b>	<b>1,341,393.00</b>	<b>57,478,690.05</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>64,872,836.14</b>	<b>7,102,844.45</b>	<b>1,247,477.00</b>	<b>50,148,575.40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,251,419.85</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>												
Cash	3,188.93	(76.50)	(3,278.03)	-	89.10	8,990.74	78.50	3,155.70	78.50	12,146.44	3,155.70	78.50
Bank	9,956,330.62	193,735.08	8,301,548.18	-	18,257,878.80	12,703,512.37	254,475.58	10,229,918.32	254,475.58	22,933,430.69	10,229,918.32	254,475.58
Advances	1,552,514.93	1,724.00	73,873.40	-	1,626,388.33	1,165,387.21	(1,724.00)	(69,304.80)	(1,724.00)	1,096,082.41	(69,304.80)	(1,724.00)
Stock Balance	235,450.00	-	-	-	235,450.00	236,070.00	-	236,070.00	-	236,070.00	-	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>11,747,484.48</b>	<b>195,382.58</b>	<b>8,372,143.55</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,119,628.03</b>	<b>14,113,960.32</b>	<b>252,830.08</b>	<b>10,163,769.22</b>	<b>252,830.08</b>	<b>24,277,729.54</b>	<b>10,163,769.22</b>	<b>252,830.08</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>19,141,630.57</b>	<b>1,536,775.58</b>	<b>65,850,833.60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84,992,464.17</b>	<b>21,216,804.77</b>	<b>1,500,307.08</b>	<b>60,312,344.62</b>	<b>1,500,307.08</b>	<b>81,529,149.39</b>	<b>60,312,344.62</b>	<b>1,500,307.08</b>
<b>Financed by:</b>												
<b>Capital Fund</b>												
(Surplus Income)	(909,786.99)	34,744.30	1,488,793.26	-	579,006.26	(4,870,551.73)	264,547.14	10,634,795.03	264,547.14	5,764,243.30	10,634,795.03	264,547.14
Accumulated Fund	20,051,417.56	1,502,031.28	64,362,040.35	-	84,413,457.91	26,087,356.50	1,235,759.94	49,677,549.59	1,235,759.94	75,764,906.09	49,677,549.59	1,235,759.94
<b>Total Accumulated Fund</b>	<b>19,141,630.57</b>	<b>1,536,775.58</b>	<b>65,850,833.60</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84,992,464.17</b>	<b>21,216,804.77</b>	<b>1,500,307.08</b>	<b>60,312,344.62</b>	<b>1,500,307.08</b>	<b>81,529,149.39</b>	<b>60,312,344.62</b>	<b>1,500,307.08</b>

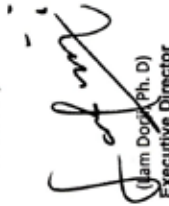
Note: Dollar equivalent calculated at exchange rate of USD 1= Nu. 42.85 as of June 30, 2008(Oanda FX Converter Interbank exchange rate)

Prepared by:




(Yangchen Lhamo)  
Adm/Finance Coordinator

Verified by:



(Jam Dopa (Ph. D))  
Executive Director

(Dasho Sangay Thinley)  
Chairman

## ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 30 JUNE, 2009

Assets	Schedule	For the year ended June 30, 2009				For the year ended June 30, 2008			
		(A)	(B)	(A+B)	(A)	(B)	(A+B)		
		NU.	US\$	Equivalent NU.	TOTAL (NU.)	NU.	US\$	Equivalent NU.	TOTAL (NU.)
<b>Fixed Assets (Net Block)</b>									
Furniture & Fixture		419,359.79	-	419,359.79	480,242.73	-	-	480,242.73	
Office Equipments		2,662,260.56	-	2,662,260.56	2,807,912.25	-	-	2,807,912.25	
Tracking Equipments		243,889.66	-	243,889.66	288,940.78	-	-	288,940.78	
Vehicles		1,778,262.91	-	1,778,262.91	2,092,074.02	-	-	2,092,074.02	
Communication/Other Equipments		164,439.41	-	164,439.41	193,458.13	-	-	193,458.13	
Building (Observation Center)		1,487,512.63	-	1,487,512.63	1,533,518.17	-	-	1,533,518.17	
Investment with BTPEC		-	1,185,551.94	56,432,272.34	-	1,341,393.00	57,478,690.05	57,478,690.05	
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>6,755,734.97</b>	<b>1,185,551.94</b>	<b>56,432,272.34</b>	<b>63,188,007.31</b>	<b>7,394,146.09</b>	<b>1,341,393.00</b>	<b>57,478,690.05</b>	<b>64,872,836.14</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>									
Cash		7,259.03	(26.50)	(1,261.40)	5,997.63	3,188.93	(76.50)	(3,278.03)	(89.10)
Bank		21,174,196.37	326,302.91	15,532,018.52	36,706,214.89	9,956,330.62	193,735.08	8,301,548.18	18,257,878.80
Receivables & Prepayments	<b>III</b>	1,741,426.01	-	-	1,741,426.01	1,552,514.93	1,724.00	73,873.40	1,626,388.33
Stock Balance	<b>VIII</b>	224,910.00	-	-	224,910.00	235,450.00	-	-	235,450.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>23,147,791.41</b>	<b>326,276.41</b>	<b>15,530,757.12</b>	<b>38,678,548.53</b>	<b>11,747,484.48</b>	<b>195,382.58</b>	<b>8,372,143.55</b>	<b>20,119,628.03</b>
<b>Less: Current Liabilities</b>									
Recoveries/Remittances	<b>V</b>	116,637.00	-	-	116,637.00	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>116,637.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>116,637.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>29,786,889.38</b>	<b>1,511,828.35</b>	<b>71,963,029.46</b>	<b>101,749,918.84</b>	<b>19,141,630.57</b>	<b>1,536,775.58</b>	<b>65,850,833.60</b>	<b>84,992,464.17</b>
<b>Financed by:</b>									
<b>Capital Fund</b>		10,645,258.81	(23,223.23)	(1,105,425.75)	9,539,833.06	(909,786.99)	34,744.30	1,488,793.26	579,006.26
(Surplus Income)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Opening Accumulated Fund	<b>IV</b>	19,141,630.57	1,535,051.58	73,068,455.21	92,210,085.78	20,051,417.56	1,502,031.28	64,362,040.35	84,413,457.91
<b>Total Accumulated Fund</b>		<b>29,786,889.38</b>	<b>1,511,828.35</b>	<b>71,963,029.46</b>	<b>101,749,918.84</b>	<b>19,141,630.57</b>	<b>1,536,775.58</b>	<b>65,850,833.60</b>	<b>84,992,464.17</b>

Note: Dollar equivalent calculated at exchange rate of USD 1= Nu. 47.60 as of June 30, 2009(Kuensei)

Prepared by:

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Adm/Finance Coordinator

Verified by:

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Executive Director

(Dashi Sangay Thinley)  
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