



རང་བཞིན།

RANGZHIN



RSPN Quarterly Newsletter

Vol: 12 Issue: 2

Royal Society for Protection of Nature

June, 2019

Inside This Issue

Conservation coordination workshop to develop a strategic plan for WBH and BNC	pg. 2
Training on Participatory Forest Resource Assessment and Carbon Accounting	pg. 2
Solar electric fencing	pg. 2
RSPN celebrates Royal Patron's birthday	pg. 3
From the Media	pg. 3

Three Juvenile White-bellied Herons (WBH) GPS tagged



The tagged juveniles: Sangay, Chhoe, and Gaedhen | PC: Sonam Tshering, RSPN

Become a Member of RSPN

Become an RSPN Member and help give nature the home it needs. RSPN membership is a great way to get close to nature and get fantastic membership benefits. Show your support and join us today!

Visit <http://www.rspnbhutan.org/become-a-member-of-rspn/>

Or scan the QR code to apply online



Researchers from the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) and Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment Research (UWICER) jointly tagged three WBH juveniles at Kisonachhu on May 14, 2019. Sherub Sherub(PhD) from UWICER led this GPS tagging activity.

The current nest was located by the team from RSPN and officials of the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) on March 2, 2019 during its annual population survey 2019. The first egg was confirmed on March 4, 2019. There were three eggs laid by March 9. The nest is located at the middle of the riparian broad-leaved forest 50-60 meters from the river. With an incubation period of 30-33 days, the first chicks were expected to hatch in the first week of April 2019. The three juveniles were approximately 40-45 days old when tagged on May 14.

The three juveniles tagged on May 14 were named as Sangay (Tag ID 5274) chhoe (Tag ID 5275) and Gaedhen (Tag ID 5284), referring to the Triple Gem in the

religious context of Bhutan. The tagging materials were supported by Maxplanck Institute for ornithology (MPIO), Germany. The tagging was completed in the morning from 6-7am. The juveniles with GPS tags on their legs did not exhibit any discomforting behaviour. The RSPN team continued to monitor the nest few hours later. The parents and juveniles have been observed not to show any abnormal family behaviour on the nest.

A similar tagging program was also initiated in 2016 by RSPN, at Burichhu, with the help of an expert from Czech Republic, Dr. Peske a freelance ecological consultant working with the Synchronicity Earth. The team tagged two Juveniles, Heron1 and 2 in the process of rescuing the juveniles. The tagging of juvenile WHB is to understand the post fledging life history and their dispersal.

Reported by:

Dr. Sherub, UWICER
Tshewang Lhendup, RSPN
Sonam Tshering, RSPN



Conservation coordination workshop to develop a strategic plan for WBH and BNC

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature in collaboration with Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER) organized the Annual WBH and BNC conservation coordination workshop on April 11-12, 2019 at UWICER, Bumthang. The two-day workshop which was attended by 35 officials discussed several issues of the species from the various habitats. The workshop was fruitful one resulting in the development of a strategic plan for creating a safe haven for these flagship species in Bhutan.



Training on Participatory Forest Resource Assessment and Carbon Accounting

RSPN in collaboration with Zhemgang Forest Division successfully completed participatory forest resource assessment and forest carbon accounting training. The training benefited beneficiary from two community forests under Buli chiwog in Nangkhor Gewog, Zhemgang Dzongkhag. The carbon accounting training and the simultaneously conducted the participatory resource assessment will complement in the revision of management plans for the two community forests.

The training was organized under REDD+ community capacity building project funded by Tebtebba Foundation, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, World Bank.



CF member measuring tree (DBH)



CF member measuring tree height using hypsometer

Solar electric fencing

RSPN with technical support from Rural Development Training Centre (RDTC) and Bardo Gewog Administration, Zhemgang completed solar electric fencing in Degela Chiwog on May 1-10, 2019. A total perimeter of 5 km covering a total arable land of 66 acres was fenced. The activity was supported to mitigate the effects of the increasing Human-Wildlife Conflict incidences in the Chiwog and aims to contribute to food self-sufficiency for farmers.

Additionally, the project also supported the women's group comprising of 40 households with five greenhouses for

improved vegetable production. RSPN extends its heartfelt gratitude to GEF-UNDP Small Grants Programme for supporting such important projects in remote villages.



Preparing beds for vegetable nursery



RSPN celebrates Royal Patron's birthday

June 4, 2019

RSPN in collaboration with Bhutan Cancer Society, Sarpang Dzongkhag Administration and Gelephu Thromde successfully carried out a cleaning campaign in Gelephu to commemorate Her Majesty The Gyalsuen's Birth Anniversary. A total of 702 kgs of waste was collected and segregated. The segregated waste was displayed in the waste exhibition event organized by Bhutan Cancer Society, Gelephu Thromde and Sarpang Dzongkhag Administration on June 5, 2019 to mark the World Environment Day. The exhibition was held to create greater awareness about the harmful effects of waste on human health and the environment through posters and



banners. Besides, the art competition on the theme "Reducing Air Pollution" among the schools in Gelephu Thromde, various environment-friendly activities were some of the highlights of the exhibition. The two-day event received immense support from Y-VIA volunteers (Sarpang), teachers, civil servants and the community people.

On the same day, RSPN with partners from various sectors jointly organized cleaning campaigns and waste sensitization in Thimphu and Phobjikha. The cleaning campaigns were dedicated to Her Majesty as a special offering from the people on Her Majesty's Birth Anniversary.



Waste exhibition

From The Media

E.coli bacteria found in Chubachu stream

Sonam Choden, Thimphu

Apr 9, 2019

Source: BBS Bhutan



The Chubachu stream in Thimphu is found to be highly contaminated with bacteria known as E.coli (Escherichia coli), according to a recent thermotolerant coliform test. The test revealed more than 50,000 E.coli per 100-millilitre of water in the stream.

The Royal Society for Protection Nature (RSPN) in collaboration with the Royal Centre for Disease Control (RCDC) in Serbithang conducted the water test for three years from 2017 to 2019. It was done to assess the contamination and status of the stream.

E. coli in water is a strong indication of recent sewage or animal waste contamination, which may contain many types of disease-causing organisms.

The acceptable point is zero E.coli per 100 millilitres of water meaning if the E.coli content is zero, then it is safe for human consumption.

But the report found that the Chubachu stream is used for the domestic purpose by the nearby settlements.

"Because of the sewerage, the thermotolerant and E.coli content is high.

There are about 30 temporarily toilets built along the stream. And other reasons are because of the dead animals being disposed of in the stream and food and vegetable wastes dumped in the stream," Kinley Tenzin, the Executive Director of RSPN, said.

Despite the adoption of the stream and cleaning campaign being conducted monthly, people still dump the waste in the stream.

"What we lack is the civic sense. Most of the people are aware but despite the fact, people still throw waste in the river at the subconscious level. Consciously I think people know," Kinley Tenzin said.

The report recommends removal of the temporary toilets, installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and imposing penalties to keep the stream clean.

Inauguration of Haa Visitor Information Center (HVIC)

June 29, 2019

The unveiling khadhar was graced by Dasho Dzongda, HAA Dzongkhag Administration, and Program Director, Royal Society of Protection of Nature. The center will function to be a “state of the art” information and community center for visitors, community, private sectors and government on tourism attractions, services and activities (such as social, cultural and environmental) both physically and digitally.

The physical structure of HVIC was built by the Haa Dzongkhag Administration through the financial support from the Royal Government of Bhutan. The interior layouts, equipment’s display, and furniture and fixtures were provided by RSPN Bhutan with technical support from Japan Environmental Education Forum, funded Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF).



Souvenirs at the display

REDD+ Knowledge Sharing Workshop



A three- day REDD+ knowledge sharing workshop was conducted at Bajo, Wangdue Phodrang on June 24-26, 2019. The objective of the workshop was to enhance and promote REDD+ knowledge among the stakeholders (Zhemgang Dzongkhag Administration, Zhemgang Local Government, Zhemgang Forest Division, Tourism Council of Bhutan , Department of Culture, Social Forestry and Extension Division, Forest Resource

and Management Division, Nature Conservation Division and Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators and the project beneficiaries from Buli, Zhemgang). Currently, Watershed Management Division (WMD) under the Department of Forests and park services, MoAF (DoFPs) is preparing REDD+ strategy in the country. The capacity building project is supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPC), World Bank.

Meet Our New Institutional Members



Royal Society for Protection of Nature
P.O. Box : 325, Lhado Lam, Kawajangsa
Thimphu, Bhutan



Telephone: +975 2 322056/326130
Fax: +975 2 323189
Email: rspn@rspnbhutan.org

Inspiring personal responsibility in conservation of the Kingdom's environment since 1987

www.rspnbhutan.org