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## Bhutan Science-Policy Dialogue on Climate Change



>> Participants of Bhutan Science-Policy dialogue on Climate Change

Over 50 participants including Parliamentarians, representatives from various ministries, academia, civil society organizations, practitioners, youth, and media attended a two day workshop on science-policy dialogue on climate change at the Taj-Tashi Hotel in Thimphu on 19 – 20 August.

The science-policy dialogues were con-

vened under the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation into Development Planning project (CCMAP), to demonstrate linkages between global/continental-scale impacts (as reported in the Fourth Assessment Report) and country-level manifestations of those impacts.

The workshop was also aimed in stimulating a genuine dialogue between scientists,

>> *Contd. on page 2*

## Farmers trained in organic farming



>> Participants were given hands-on training

In 2008, with support from the Finnish embassy, RSPN carried out baseline socio-economic survey in the four villages in Kangpara and Womrong including Passaphu and Madhuwa. The survey indicated an increasing trend in the use of chemical fertilizers among households in the two villages. It revealed that about 96% of the households from the four villages surveyed have been using chemical fertilizers for about one to ten years. While the amount of fertilizer use is not alarming, long term use causes soil degradation, water pollution from runoff, and subsequent effects on human health. Timely intervention can reverse these trends and foster environmentally viable farming practices.

On June 26 to June 27 of this year, seventy two participants including farmers, RNR extension staff, Health Assistance, Teachers

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## Bhutan Science-Policy Dialogue on Climate Change

policy-makers and other participants who seek to become more engaged in clarifying key national policy issues on climate risks, adaptation and mitigation.

During the two days of the workshop, climate experts from around the region presented scenarios of global climate change issues, while the Bhutanese participants presented our national perspective and current initiatives in adaptation from the perspectives of water resources, agriculture, forestry and the urban environment.

The final session of the two-day event

focused on identifying priority actions to enhance communications with key decision makers on climate change, addressing gaps in our knowledge and capacities, and finding ways to strengthen science and policy linkages within the country.

The workshop was organized by Royal Society for Protection of Nature in collaboration with National Environment Commission with support from SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (START), the International Secretariat and Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies.

>> *Contd. from page 1*

## Farmers Trained in organic farming



>> Participants participate in a practical session of the training

and students from villages of Passaphu and Madhuwa were trained in organic farming, with financial assistance from RSPN. Objectives of this training were:

- To address the negative impacts of using man-made chemical fertilizers to the agriculture land and human health in the long run.
- To address the positive impacts and better opportunities of organic farming practices.
- To address the local communities on main principles of Organic Agriculture.

The two-day training course was comprised of separate sessions focused on theory

and practice. The theoretical session covered general information on organic farming, importance of soil fertility, preparation of different types of composting, bio-pesticides and liquid manures. The practical session included hands-on skills on preparing different types of composts, bio-pesticides and liquid manures. These techniques are simple and low-cost, and can be easily undertaken by small rural communities like Passaphu and Madhuwa. In both the U.S. and Europe, more and more communities are turning to Organic Agriculture to promote better health for both people and their environments..

## Support for Nature Clubs

Actively supporting and enhancing Nature Clubs across the country is a priority for the RSPN. This year in August, the RSPN provided reference materials on environment, wildlife, flora and fauna to three community schools in Passaphu, Tshogonpa and Moshi. Along with the books, several book cases were also provided for Passaphu school.

Given the remote locations of these schools, students rarely have access to information related to environment and environmental issues. Often, their only source of environmental information is the quarterly RSPN newsletter that is distributed to schools all over the country.

Further, to encourage school "greening" programs, RSPN has donated various types of gardening tools to four schools in Passaphu, Womrong and Moshi. With these tools, RSPN seeks to motivate students to take more interest in environmental issues and conservation.

## Awareness and education programs

The success of any of RSPN program hinges on our partnerships with local government sectors, schools and community leaders. In Wamrong this year, RSPN advanced such a partnership by organizing and hosting an education and awareness program that targeted in the community's priority issues in environmental health.

Twenty three participants consisting of local formal stakeholders like the community leaders, schools, Non Formal Education centres, government sectors and Local Conservation Support Group members participated in the program. After identifying the key local issues, the participants drew up action plan to address each environmental problem in their respective areas. Programs like this also help RSPN enhance local networking and collaboration with stakeholders to address environmental problems all across Bhutan.

For latest news on our activities, visit

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

Download our past editions from  
[www.rspnbhutan.org](http://www.rspnbhutan.org)



## The Jungle Camp



>> More than 2000 saplings were planted

The Jungle Camp spring and water source is located along the Trashigang-Samdrup Jongkhar highway about 7 km towards north from Wamrong town. It is the closest and most reliable drinking water source for residents, civil servants and shopkeepers of Wamrong, for the staff

of Trashiyangphu Noblang Breeding Farm, and for local communities from Bayphu and Sheri villages under Khaling geog. In light of this water source's importance, the RSPN Wamrong field office with support from Local Conservation Support Group organized a spring protection activity from 5 – 22 Au-

gust 2010, with the objective of instilling in all the spring's users a sense of awareness and responsibility for this vital natural water source.

Under the guidance of RSPN's field officer Tsheten Dorji and Tshering Penjor, the stakeholders planted and fenced tree saplings on a total of 10 acres around the spring, using barbed-wire to ensure the survival of saplings. Four hundred saplings of Cypress (*Cupressus corneyana* or Dzongkha=Tsendenshing), 500 *Exbucklandia populnea* known as (Sharchop=Lamshing), 100 *Pinus bhutanica* or Dzongkha=Tongphu, 500 *Nyssia javanica* or (Sarchop=Zalashing) and 500 *Cryptomeria japonica* known as Dhongkalashing. The conifer species were planted at the periphery of the water source as means for protection from the landslides and soil erosion, while other species were planted up to 6 metres away from the main water source.

This hands-on planting project, funded by RSPN's Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) program and carried out by the local conservation support sub-group of Wamrong was an excellent opportunity to protect the water source from degradation and to assure its long-term sustainability. The technical support for the program was provided by the range officer from Khaling-Kharungla Forest Management Unit (KKFMU) and other forestry staff.

## Southern Civil Society pre- preparatory meeting in session

RSPN's representatives of The Southern Civil Society attended a four-day preparatory meeting for the COP 16 in Mexico City from 7 to 11 September 2010. COP 16 is the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The meeting prepared participants on how the Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) in the South can develop and agree upon common strategies to be presented at

the COP16 in Cancun in December of this year.

The preparatory meetings helped to build stronger capacities of key individuals within the Climate Action Network's (CAN) southern regional and national networks on the issues of climate change policy and sustainable, low carbon development pathways. Participants recognized the imperative of the south-south cooperation in finding new, sustainable approaches to the challenges of Climate

Change that are suited to local needs.

Their first day focused on Context Settings and Mapping Real Expectations. In Days two and three, they focused on Developing Common Goals and Tactics, The Way Forward with the Mexican Government, and Developing Media Messages and Communication Skills.

The pre-COP16 meetings were organized by CAN International, Greenpeace International, and WWF in collaboration with Presencia Ciudadana Mexicana (PCM) in Mexico.

## School Afforestation Program

Forest degradation is a significant problem in parts of Bhutan, and especially in Womrong and Kangpara areas. Landslides, soil erosion, water scarcity and even encroachments on crops and livestock in these areas have all become commonplace as direct results of deforestation. On June 2nd coinciding with the Bhutan's official Social Forestry Day RSPN led five schools in Wom-

rong and Kangpara in a celebration and mass tree planting on and around their campuses. Womrong Lower secondary school planted 380 saplings and Passaphu school planted hundreds of saplings of six different trees including Pear, Fig, Plum, Bamboo, Peach, and Walnut. In addition to the planting activity, the celebration included cultural programs, essay and drawing competitions.

## Zawa community gets water supply

A small village called Zawa, an extended part of Phobjikha Conservation Area, was the beneficiary of a water supply scheme with co-financing from the Royal Government. The water supply scheme benefits 52 people from 8 households. Zawa is an important habitat for the critically endangered White-bellied Heron. Such support is intended to garner local support for conservation of this important bird.

## In-country Study visits on forest management

As a means of building capacity in natural resource management, RSPN organized in country study tour for 18 members of Trashigang Dzongkhag Forestry staff from 20 July to 3 August 2009. The objective of the tour was:

- To exchange knowledge and skills relating to community forest, natural resource management and enterprise development.
- To create a network among the stakeholders to allow more exchange of ideas in

forestry and natural resource management

The participants consisted of the Dzongkhag Forest Officer, Assistant Dzongkhag Forest Officer, Sr. Forest Officer, Assistant Forest Officer, and Geog Extension Forest Officers.

During the tour, the group visited various institutions in the country such as the Renewal Natural Resource Research Centres (RNRC), RNR-Sub Centers, Community forests and Private Forest Areas, Phobjikha

conservation area, watershed management project areas under Mongar, Bumthang, Trongsa, Zhemgang, Gelephu, Sarpang, Tsirang, Wangdi, Punakha, Thimphu, Haa and Paro Dzongkhags. It was the first time such an extended tour was organised for the forestry staff in the district, and it enabled the participants to visit places of better practices in natural resources management. It was also an opportunity for the forestry officials to share knowledge and experiences and initiate professional networking with related agencies across the country.

## Waste management program in Wamrong



>> Students participated in the cleaning campaign

Wamrong, though a relatively a rural area, faces a growing problem with waste disposal and littering. Its location along the Trashigang-Samdrup-jongkhar highway accompanied by a rapidly growing population makes it especially vulnerable to littering.

Streams, gullies, road side and slopes are particularly prone to waste dumping that cause water pollution and a resulting loss of hygiene. Additionally, a lack of awareness and no waste management facility in the market area are two of the main causes of the growing waste problem in the area.

In response to the problem, RSPN collaborated with the local government authority and the public by organising a mass clean-

ing campaign in Wamrong and Reserboo, a neighbouring area on 5th June 2010 coinciding with the World Environment Day. The campaign was intended to encourage a collective effort to manage the local waste problem and to initiate a formal waste management system for the area

The campaign was joined by about 700 volunteers consisting of shopkeepers, staff, local residents and students from Trashitse Higher Secondary School, Wamrong Lower Secondary School and Moshi Community Primary School.

As a part of waste management program, RSPN also supported waste management facilities for Wamrong town, Khaling School and market. Two common waste bins have

been supplied for Wamrong town and 10 waste bins have been placed surrounding the Khaling School and along the way towards Khaling market.

Additionally, the program also supported construction of Sodis shade. SODIS water is already in use by the students. SODIS is a method of water treatment that uses solar energy for heating water, using ordinary PET plastic bottles as containers. SODIS is widely regarded as economical and effective way to treat contaminated water. Read more about the SODIS water purification system at [http://www.sodis.ch/methode/anwendung/index\\_EN](http://www.sodis.ch/methode/anwendung/index_EN).



## Energy efficient cookers installed in schools



>> It is an effort to reduce consumption of firewood in schools

In an effort to minimize consumption of firewood, RSPN procured and distributed two high-efficiency cookers to Wamrong Lower Secondary School and Thungkar Lower Secondary School in Thrimshing. Records show that prior to the installation of the new, high-efficiency stoves, Wamrong School consumed approximately 480 cubic centimeters of firewood per year while the Thungkar School consumed about 120 cubic centimeters

of firewood per year.

One the new stoves is electric and the other is a wood-burning “Althaus” stove. This design, originally from Switzerland and modified for Bhutanese conditions, significantly reduces firewood consumption, which in turn reduces the drudgery of the parents who contribute firewood to the school. The time saved can be focused to be utilized for other productive work that would increase

their income and gradually the standard of living. With the reduction of deforestation, local watersheds will be maintained and soil erosion will be controlled. Although at a micro level, these stoves also, reduce the time needed for cooking, eliminate health risks from smoke inhalation, and reduce greenhouse emissions.

## Local Conservation Support Group (LCSG)

Building grassroots civil society support for bio-diversity conservation, a CEPF project for RSPN had supported the organization to realize its mission of – “Inspiring personal responsibility and actively involve the people of Bhutan in the conservation of the Kingdom’s environment” through the establishment of Local Conservation Support Group (LCSG)



in six dzongkhags. (Trashigang, Lhuntse, Bumthang, Zhemgang, Sarpang and Punakha). Upon establishment, LCSGs are affiliated with RSPN

through a formal mutual agreement. The LCSGs will become members of RSPN at the grassroots level. The LCSG at the grassroots are groups of individuals who are genuinely concerned for the environment and support conservation through local actions. These groups support RSPN as environmental ambassadors and watchdogs at the local levels. LCSGs provide a platform for the local communities to raise concerns and act collectively to address environmental issues in their locality and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Over the years, the LCSGs have identified number of local environmental issues within their dzongkhags

and locality. In order to address these issues, the LCSGs have prioritized locally relevant issues for local actions. Through RSPN’s initiative to build grassroots civil support for bio-diversity

conservation, LCSGs have implemented different projects and activities.

They include:

- Trashigang - Study on determining possible factor that contribute to the decline in Genshing (*Panax pseudo-ginseng*) population in the forests of Wamrong.
- Lhuntse - Environmental awareness program for local community. Bumthang – Reforestation of Shamzur watershed area and community awareness program.
- Zhemgang – Non-wood forest resource assessment and establishment of Community group for resource management at Subrang village
- Sarpang - Water Source Protection & Management at Shompangkha geog villages
- Punakha - Awareness on White Bellied Heron (WBH) and its conservation along Phochu river



## Reports from LCSGs



### Bumthang

**F**orest management and community awareness program for Shingkar Excess timber and fuel wood extraction from Shamzur over the years has converted the marshy area to a dry land. The wetland of Shamzur, which is located about two kilometers from Shingkar village, Ura is also the main water supplier to the mini hydel based at Lirichhu basement. Due to insufficient water supply there has been poor generation of

power to the geog.

The failure of integrated forestry management project (IFMP) in the area had left huge number of felled trees whereby, reducing the richness of the soil. A resident of Shingkar said, "People from other parts of the dzongkhag also extracted timber from here." "The area might completely dry up which will lead to shortage of water for plants, animals and the villagers." The royal society for protection of nature (RSPN) under its Building grassroots civil society support for biodiversity conservation in Bhutan project, has formed

a local community support group (LCSG) at the dzongkhag and geog level where the local communities were given awareness on environment degradation with particular focus on sustainable use of forest and its products. More than 1500 saplings were planted in the area to reclaim the affected area. The area has also been included in the community forest for sustainable management and development.

### Lhuentse:

**E**nvironmental awareness program for local community. One of the furthest and out-reached dzongkhag of the country, Lhuentse is challenged with various issues today. Four pertaining issues were identified critical by the local community support group (LCSG) which are waste management, forest fire, land management and water source protection. The LCSG members said that addressing and creating awareness was foremost and most important thing. The royal society for protection of nature (RSPN) through its project: Building grassroots civil society support for biodiversity conservation, is supporting the dzongkhag to create awareness across the dzongkhag. Rinchen Phuntsho from Minbee gewog said, "We were shown videos and pictures on various issues and learned many things." "We even started to try things practically," he added. Another villager, Tsagay said that the issues were also put up at the geog meetings also. Awareness boards with environmental conservation and waste messages will be set at various locations through the project.





## Punakha

**A**wareness on white-bellied heron and its conservation along the Phochu river

Today, punatsangchu hydro power project, roads and other infrastructure development has posed great threat to the conservation of the white-bellied heron. The development activities concentrated along the punatsangchu river has increased human settlements and other related economic activities looming threats to the habitat of this critically endangered bird. The royal society for protection of nature (RSPN) under its project: building grassroots civil society support for biodiversity conservation, has formed a local community support group (LCSG) in Punakha to work on the conservation of the White-bellied Heron.

A core-group at the dzongkhag level and sub-group at gewog level was formed to carry out the activities. The team has created awareness on the bird in three gewogs (Toewang, Chhubu and Dzomi) which form the prime WBH habitat. They were also given awareness on forest fire in-order to protect the habitats. Three patrol groups were also formed in each gewogs.



A farmer from Tsekha village, Tashi said, "People in the village didn't know anything about the bird earlier now every individual in the village knows about the bird and its importance." "We don't allow the trucks and other big vehicles to come near the habitat,"

said another villager. A sub-group member, Seldon said that the grazing areas were also changed and moved far from the habitats. She said, "We don't let our children play next to the habitat and told them not to throw stones if the bird was seen anywhere."



The water source supports 24 households at Darjaythang and 12 households at Phurbaling.

A resident from Darjaythang, Manarath Achariya said that the two village are left with very less water for the three months in winter which is not enough for cooking purpose either. He said that the village has been facing water shortage for the past eight years. Farmers say that they would be content if they have enough water to drink and for irrigation. The royal society for protection of nature (RSPN) is supporting the village to protect the water sources through the project: building grassroots civil society support for biodiversity conservation. The two water source has been protected through fencing and plantation of

## Sarpang

**T**emperature started to drop and the rains that caused streams and rivers to swell and block roads have lessened. Winter is closing in, and Sarpang residents

are glad to welcome the pleasant winter. But not to the residents of Phurbaling and Darjaythang village under Sampangkha gewog. At this time of year, water is scarce in the these two villages. Villagers are worried that the only water source is drying up every year.

water absorbing trees in the area. "The village will not be able to grow anything if the water dries up as it was the only water source," a villager said. "Adding to the scarcity, cattle has muddied and destroyed the source." Villagers said that with fencing and plantation they hope to receive clean and sufficient amount of water in the future.





grassroots civil society support for biodiversity conservation. The project however aims to enable the communities to harvest Genshing sustainably for income generation of the local people. The herbal areas were identified and awareness created to the residents. More than 400 samples were planted on trail which will be further planted in the community forest. Nidup Jertsen, 65, said, "The plant was not known by many earlier but now that people have come to know, they started extracting excessively." "We cannot find the plant in places where it use to grow abundantly," he added. Nidup said that the plant was good for the skin, appetite and blood pressure," he said.

## Zhemgang

The 17 households of Subrang village under Zhemgang rely on forest resources for both domestic consumption and more than 60 percent of their income is generated from the sale of the pre-dominant bamboo and cane

## Trashigang

It was not known to many, but those who used the medicinal herb Gensing (panax pseudo-gensing) have treated common ailments and even serious disease and injuries. But today, the medicinal herb is under serious threat. The herb is a perennial with dark green leaves branching from a stem with a red cluster of berries in the middle. It is both cultivated and gathered from wild for-

ests. Earlier, gensing was found abundantly at Wamrong, Trashigang but the residents who used the herb for ages say that the plant is declining every year.

Dorji Wangdi, 65, said, "The unsustainable collection by the local people because of its high medicinal value and farm road construction has caused to the decline of the herb."

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) is working with the residents to protect the herb through its project: building

products. The other source of main income is through off-farm activities where they work as labourers for the contractors. Cane and bamboo play an integral role in the daily life of the khengpas which are used for various purpose.

However, there is bad news looming for the residents. The raw material they use, cane and bamboo, once abundant is now fast disappearing. Unsustainable harvesting, deforestation and forest fires has caused decline in the resources. Villagers said that bamboo and cane found at a distance of 30 minutes



now took about an hour. According to Zhemgang's environment officer, Sangay Norbu, Subrang village has great potential in non-wood forest products but lack forest product management. The royal society for protection of nature (RSPN) under its local community support group (LCSG) project has conducted a basic research and assessment on bamboo and cane in the village. The villagers were made aware on the sustainable use of the resources and the potential for commercializing few products. Through the project, 27 non-wood forest products were listed in the village of which some are bamboo shoot, avocado, wild mango, soapnut, mushroom and fern. Zhemgang forest officer said, "Recently, buyers have shown interest in buying bamboo shoot from the village." The above initiative of RSPN has been made possible with support under the Critical Eco-System Partnership Fund

(CEPF) for the Eastern Himalayas.



## Invasive species and climate change form a 'deadly duo', warn top scientists

Two of the greatest threats to the natural world - invasive species and climate change - when combined, not only have devastating impacts on the environment but can also cost countries ten per cent of their Gross Domestic Product. In a report, released this week in Nagoya, Japan, scientists are urging countries to take immediate action against the 'deadly duo'.

A study by the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) supported by its partners, CABI, IUCN and TNC, and funded by the World Bank, identifies how invasive species and climate change are linked and looks at what needs to be done to lessen their impact. The report, *Invasive Species, Climate Change and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation: Addressing Multiple Drivers of Global Change* urges governments to integrate the prevention and management of invasive species into how they respond to climate changes. From a policy perspective, invasive species and climate change have largely been kept separate.

"The dangers posed by this 'deadly duo' cannot be overestimated," says Sarah Simons,

Executive Director of GISP. "Each driver poses an enormous threat to biodiversity and human livelihoods but now, evidence is rapidly emerging which shows that climate change is compounding the already devastating effects of invasive species, resulting in a downward spiral with increasingly dire consequences."

Estimated damage from invasive species worldwide totals more than US \$1.4 trillion annually - that's five per cent of the global economy. Estimates of economic losses from global climate change are also about 5% of annual GDP.

"Climate change is already receiving significant attention in the research and policy communities," says Bill Jackson, Deputy Director General of IUCN, "But this report shows the need to dig deeper on where climate change interacts with invasive species. The financial costs of not responding should be enough to encourage policy makers to take urgent action."

Examples of the spread of invasive species being linked to climate change include

the livestock disease, bluetongue, which in 2007 alone cost in excess of US \$200 million; *Miconia calvescens*, an invasive tree species which increases the risk of landslides when coupled with high rainfall; and the fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), thought to have contributed to the massive extinction of primarily tropical frog species.

"Fortunately, we already know many of the actions necessary for offsetting the threat of invasive species to key ecosystem services, such as erosion control and freshwater availability," says Stas Burgiel, GISP's Policy Director and lead author of the report. "Such ecosystem-based approaches are not simply about saving ecosystems, but rather about using ecosystems to help 'save' people and the resources on which we depend."

GISP is calling on delegates at the meeting of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity currently being held in Nagoya, Japan, to recognise the so-called, 'deadly duo', as drivers of change.

Source: <http://www.iucn.org>

## Asian 'Unicorn' sighted for first time in over ten years

For the first time in more than ten years, there has been a confirmed sighting of one of the rarest and most enigmatic animals in the world, the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) from the Annamite Mountains of Laos and Vietnam.



The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (also known as Laos) has announced that in late August villagers in the central province of Bolikhamxay captured a Saola and brought it back to their village.

When news of the Saola's capture reached Lao authorities, the Bolikhamxay Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office immediately sent a technical team, advised by the IUCN Saola Working Group and the Lao Programme of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), to examine the Saola and release it. Unfortunately, the animal, an adult male, weakened by the ordeal of several days in captivity, died shortly after the team reached the remote village. The animal was photographed while still alive.

"The government of Lao PDR and WCS are to be commended for their rapid response and efforts to save this animal. We hope the information gained from the incident can be used to ensure that this is not the last Saola anyone has a chance to see," says William Robichaud, Coordinator of the IUCN Saola Working Group.

This is the first confirmed record of the species since two photographs of wild Saola were taken in Laos by automatic camera traps in 1999.

The Saola was first discovered in 1992, in Vietnam's Vu Quang Nature Reserve, near the country's border with Laos. With their long horns and white facial markings, the Saola resembles the antelopes of North Africa, but is more closely related to wild cattle.

Saola are secretive and so seldom seen (no biologist has ever reported seeing one in the wild) that they have been likened to unicorns, in spite of the fact that they have two horns. It's been speculated that a Chinese myth of a magical unicorn, the qilin, may have been derived from familiarity with Saola in pre-historic China, although the species does not occur there today, if it ever did.

The Saola is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and probably no more than a few hundred exist. With none in zoos and almost nothing known about how to maintain them in captivity, extinction of Saola in the wild would mean its extinction everywhere.

"The death of this Saola is unfortunate," says the Provincial Conservation Unit of Bolikhamxay Province. "But at least it confirms an area where it still occurs and the government will immediately move to strengthen conservation efforts there."

The animal was reportedly found in the village's sacred forest in remote Xaychamphon District, but it is not clear why the villagers took it into captivity. After its death, the technical team took the carcass to Pakxan, the provincial capital, where biologists from WCS and the Lao government preserved all parts for analysis, future study and reference. This is the first Saola specimen to be so completely preserved.

"Study of the carcass can yield some

good from this unfortunate incident. Our lack of knowledge of Saola biology is a major constraint to efforts to conserve it," says Dr. Pierre Comizzoli, a veterinarian with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and a member of the IUCN Saola Working Group. "This can be a major step forward in understanding this remarkable and mysterious species. It's clear that further awareness-raising efforts about the special status of Saola are needed but the Saola doesn't have much time left. At best a few hundred survive, but it may be only a few dozen. The situation is critical."

The Lao Department of Forestry (DoF) and provincial and district authorities are urging villagers in the area not to capture Saola, and immediately release any they might encounter.

"As a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and as outlined in our National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Laos is committed to conserving biodiversity, and we want to give special attention to 'flagship species', such as the Saola," says Bouaphanh Phanthavong, Director of DoF's Division of Forest Resources Conservation and a member of the IUCN Saola Working Group.

"This incident highlights the importance of Laos to global wildlife conservation. Saola and several other rare endemic species are found almost nowhere else in the world," says Ms. Latsamay Sylavong, the national representative for the IUCN Lao Programme. "Our knowledge of them is limited, and in Laos we need to improve protection of both the ecosystems and the special species they hold, like the Saola. Much needs to be done".

Source: <http://www.iucn.org>

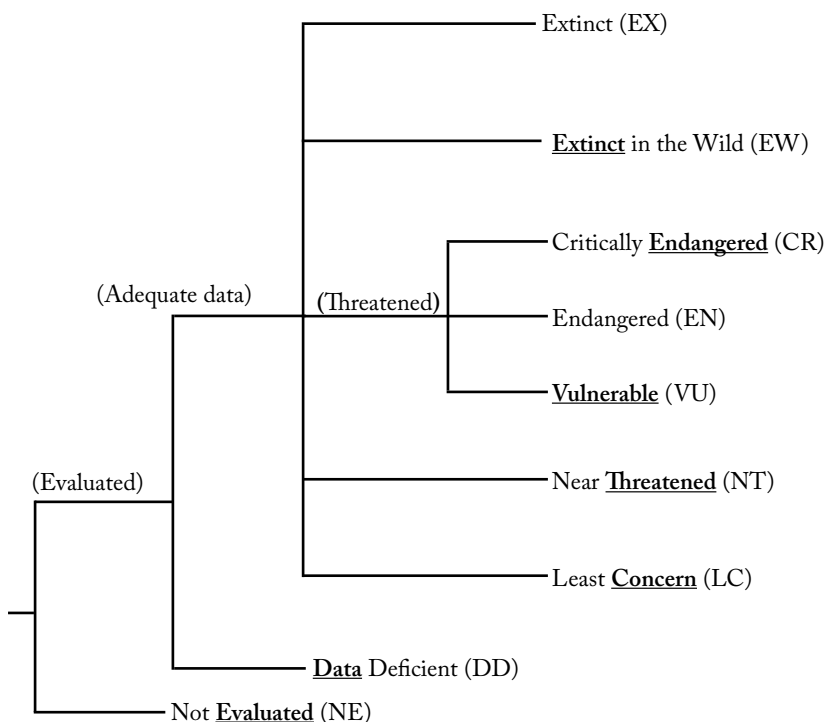


# WORD SAFARI

In this edition, we have compiled structure of categories of IUCN Red List.

Find and encircle the texts which are under-lined and bold. We have encircled one to help you get start with.

## Structure of the Categories



T	S	P	A	E	A	R	T	H	E
I	H	H	H	I	B	S	L	R	V
A	K	R	Y	T	R	E	I	O	A
<b>E</b>	T	A	E	D	K	T	T	N	L
V	E	E	R	A	D	K	H	L	U
A	F	N	X	G	T	V	O	F	A
L	N	D	V	T	E	E	S	A	T
U	S	A	P	U	I	L	N	L	E
A	C	N	H	A	L	N	H	E	D
T	P	G	E	N	R	E	C	O	D
E	R	E	R	G	S	R	R	T	A
<b>D</b>	E	R	E	Y	E	A	E	E	T
F	B	E	F	U	A	B	L	R	A
R	N	D	D	H	B	L	N	I	S
I	T	E	A	T	I	E	O	Q	T
Q	V	U	L	N	E	I	R	O	A
S	U	R	E	A	P	I	N	X	R
E	F	E	L	O	U	H	E	O	U
W	I	G	C	O	N	C	E	R	N
W	I	A	Q	U	I	F	E	R	S
S	M	B	N	X	V	C	Z	G	E

Source: 2001 IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria version 3.1

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