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RSPN registered under CSOA

RSPN is now registered under the Civil Society Organization Authority (CSOA) as one a Public Benefit Organization (PBO). The official registration certificate was given to RSPN on 1 October 2010 by the Chairman of the CSOA, DASHO Palden Wangchuk. In the absence of CSOA, RSPN was registered under the Company's Act of Bhutan with a special clause on non-profit entities and has been working in the fields of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and environment education since 1987.

With the third strategic plan (2010 – 2015) already in place, RSPN will work to strengthen its role on three major thematic program areas: (i) environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods; (ii) environmental education and advocacy and (iii) research on both natural and social sciences in complementing the Royal Government of Bhutan's effort to enhance environmental conservation.



>> CSOA registration certificate

New visitors arrive in Gelephu



>> Black-necked cranes in Gelephu, Sarpang

For the first time in the known history of RSPN, a family of black-necked cranes (BNC) comprising of two adults and two juveniles has been sighted in Gelephu under Sarpang Dzongkhag (district).

On 22 November 2010, the RSPN head office in Thimphu was informed by Gelephu Dungkhag officials about the spotting of BNCs in Karbithang village under Gelephu Dungkhag (sub-district) in Sarpang Dzongkhag. The team of officials from the Agriculture Support Sector Project, Department of Agriculture, Chuzegang Gup (local leader) and RSPN jointly visited the area and saw the cranes foraging and gleaning in the paddy fields of Dawathang and Karbithang (N.26.87147, E 090.51690) villages at 265 meters above sea level.

According to the Gup, the cranes were first spotted on 14 November in Karbithang village, which is about 200 meters away from

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New visitors arrive in Gelephu

the Mau Khola river, a location where BNCs have never been seen before.

Although RSPN has been involved in monitoring and researching the cranes since 1986, it is the first time that the cranes have been spotted at such a low altitude. In fact, cranes have been never spotted in any of the

southern dzongkhags until today. Education and awareness amongst the local communities is necessary and urgent as they may disturb the cranes that have visited the area for the first time. The cause for the cranes migrating to the record-level low altitude is still unknown.

Announcing the new RSPN Head Office



>> Model of the RSPN head office and ERC

For many years, RSPN has rented office space in Thimphu with the vision of one day owning its own office building. Through hard work and several generous grants, that vision will become a reality this year.

By May 2011 RSPN will move to its new office building located in Kawajangsa, Thimphu. With support from The Philanthropic Collaborative (TPC), USA, and inspiration drawn from other organizations, the construction of a permanent office premise for RSPN was started in May 2009 and is well on its way to completion. Once ready, the

new RSPN headquarters will house all the administrative, financial and program units under one roof, helping RSPN to operate its programs with even greater efficiency.

A separate building attached to the main office will house the new Environmental Resource Center (ERC) and a mini auditorium to facilitate seminars, conferences, workshops, meetings and research on environmental issues. The construction and furnishing of the ERC was further supplemented by generous grants received from the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation and the MacArthur Foundation.

The Coming of the Cranes

The first group of black-necked cranes comprised of two adults and two juveniles that arrived in Phobjikha on 2 November 2010 at around 1:25 p.m.

The records maintained in the crane information center in Phobjikha show that a total of 326 cranes visited Phobjikha valley in the winter of 2008-2009. The total number of cranes that arrived in Bhutan was 462 in 2008-2009, while 457 cranes arrived during the winter of 2007-2008. The other black-necked crane winter habitats in Bhutan in-

clude Bumdeling in Trashiyangtse, Khotokha in Wangduephodrang, and Choekhor, Gaytsa and Thangbi in Bumthang. The cranes usually spend over four months in their major winter habitats in Bhutan and leave for their summer habitats in Tibet in mid-March.

Meanwhile, the Royal Society for Protection of Nature and Phobjikha Environment Management Committee observed the Annual Black-necked Crane Festival on 11 November to celebrate the arrival of the cranes. The festival was also aimed at creating awareness on the importance of crane conservation among the general public.

Five additional Community Forests named for Gangtey Geog

With the additional approval of five more community forests (CFs), a total of seven CFs have been established and handed over to the community of Gangtey Geog (block). The five additional CFs newly established in the Geog are Gela Chithuen, Pel Tokha Delek, Mole Thangka, Aeko-Sangtena and Dunshing-Pokto.

The objective of the establishment of a community forest is to engage community participation in the sustainable use of forest resources and ultimately improve the livelihood of the community. These establishments were funded by the MacArthur Foundation under the sustainable natural resource management project. A total of 151 households will benefit from the establishment of the five community forests, and the local communities of the respective regions in the Geog will manage and operate the CFs.

Providing First Aid for Cranes

Several incidences of crane attacks and injuries leading to deaths were reported in Phobjikha for the last few years. Unfortunately, it has almost become a regular phenomenon for the wintering birds and has been a concern for RSPN and many other conservationists.

To address the problem, RSPN in collaboration with Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre organized a one-day training on first aid treatment for injured cranes in Phobjikha on 27 December 2010. The participants included staff from Territorial Forest, Livestock and Health departments and RSPN field staff from Phobjikha, Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (the second major wintering habitat) and Khotokha.

The training focused on detecting injury or diseases of the cranes and handling methods during capture and medication. The trainees were also sensitized on different types of medicines for treatment, appropriate dosage for different injuries and the proper way to clean wounds and care for the birds thereafter. As one of the outcomes from the training session, the concerned agency from each winter habitat agreed to keep in stock the required medicines and closely collaborate with the livestock and health officials during treatment of the injured cranes.

A big nature's treat for a small locality: The coming of the Black-necked Cranes in Lhuentse



>> Black-necked cranes in Lhuentse

Although it is not unusual for the local communities, the arrival of five black-necked cranes in Lhuentse were reported by Mr. Ugyen Tshering, Forest Ranger I, to whom we extend our appreciation. Lhuentse Dzongkhag in Eastern Bhutan has a history of black-necked cranes visiting in winters, but such visits have often been largely unreported.

The birds, a critically endangered species, are esteemed guests of the communities in Lhuentse. Although people claim that the cranes have been wintering to this area for many decades, of late the visits have become irregular. The irregularities may be due to the disturbances from children who hunt the

birds with bows and arrows. This can be attributed to the low understanding of the significance of these birds in an environmental arena.

This is where governmental departments, NGOs and individual conservationists should come into play. To maintain the current trend of annual migrations, communities require advocacy, education and awareness about the cranes. Otherwise, in years to come, threatened by extinction from nature as well as people, the cranes will stop migrating to the area. The cranes can be seen foraging in the paddy fields of Menbi and Minjay Gewogs in Lhuentse Dzongkhag.

SAARC gains observer status



Bhutan, serving as the Chair for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), made an intervention in the Conference of Parties plenary on 29 November 2010 relating to admission of the organization as observers under FCCC/CP/2010/4.

The intervention was promptly supported by India and Pakistan and in response the parties agreed to accredit SAARC as an observer organization under the UNFCCC.

United Nations climate change conference in Tianjin, China



>> Conference in session in China (Photo: UNFCCC)

Mr. Dai Bingguo, State Councilor of the People's Republic of China, and Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC.

In opening remarks, the dignitaries emphasized the need to recognize the challenges that climate change will create around the world and the urgent need to act together. The speakers also discussed China's interest and concern in climate change issues that led to this first climate change talk in Tianjin, China.

Ms. Christiana, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, urged the attending parties to act wisely by stating that now is the time to rise to our challenge. Prior to this meeting, the Climate Action Network (CAN) organized a two-day strategy session and consultation meeting on framing the Cancun Building Blocks to be discussed during the 16 Conference of Parties (COP16) in Mexico. The conference ended on 9 October 2010.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Tianjin, China, started on the morning of 4 October 2010

with the opening remarks from His Excellency Mr. Huang Xingguo, Mayor of Tianjin Municipal Government, His Excellency

Sixteenth Conference of Parties in Cancun, Mexico



>> Opening session of COP16 in Cancun, Mexico (Photo: UNFCCC)

The 16th UN Climate Change Conference opened on Monday, 29 November 2010, in Cancun with a welcoming ceremony and opening remarks by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Ms. Christiana Figueres, Mexican President Felipe Calderón, IPCC Chairman Dr. Rajendra Pachuri and other dignitaries. The conference was attended by thousands of delegates from 194 nations and ended on December 10, 2010.

With regard to the common long term goal for an agreement on climate change, countries recognized the need to keep average global temperature of 2°C below pre-industrial levels. Parties also agreed that there was the need to strengthen this target to 1.5°C and would be reviewed based on new scientific evidence. This review will begin in 2013 and end in 2015.

Bhutan, along with other Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and small island countries, has supported 1.5°C target. Warming over mountain areas will be much higher than the global average and the most ambitious target will be needed to avoid severe impacts in LDCs, small islands and mountain areas.

Under the nationally appropriate mitigation action (NAMA) by Developing Country Parties, Bhutan has committed to “green growth” as part of her Economic Development Policy and declared that our emissions will not exceed the sequestration capacity of our forests.

Bhutan as a developing country could contribute to mitigation by reducing deforestation, degradation, conservation of forests,

sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks as recognized under Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) plus.

The new Cancun Adaptation Framework and Adaptation Committee provides for countries like Bhutan to make long term adaptation plans and to seek support for its implementation. Bhutan has been actively participating in the matters related to LDCs from the creation of the LDC work program in 2001 to the current negotiations.

Bhutan was one of the first countries to prepare its NAPA and was the first to start implementing it. The GLOF project in Lunana, and the early warning system for Punatsangchu Valley are funded through the LDC Fund as a direct result of these efforts.



Cancun agreement adopted by acclaim



>> Adoption of Cancun Agreement in COP16 in Cancun, Mexico (Photo: ENB)

During two weeks of climate negotiations under the UNFCCC and with the able leadership of the Mexican Conference President Patricia Espinosa, COP 16 in Cancun for the first time in UN history officially accepted to limit the global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius in all countries.

The climate summit in Cancun opened the ground for new dynamics to combat climate change after the COP 15 deadlock. The summit agreed on important climate protec-

tion packages including adaptation to climate change for the most vulnerable countries, technology transfer, protection of rain forests and the establishment of a Green Climate Fund for financing these projects.

The time has now come to renew the political will to drive these negotiations forward to a global deal. The decisions made in Cancun demonstrated the likely UNFCCC process for groundbreaking achievements in next year's summit in Durban, South Africa.

Foundation for climate deal laid in Cancun - IUCN

Governments at the UN climate talks in Cancun, Mexico, managed to approve a series of tangible if modest steps that set up a 'global climate fund' to help poor nations create a mechanism to share clean technologies, protect tropical forests and help the poor adapt to impacts ranging from storms to rising sea levels, says IUCN.

“The progress in Cancun puts talks back on track and revives hopes that a wider, legally binding treaty that sets concrete and credible targets to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions is possible in the future,” says Stewart Maginnis, IUCN’s Director of Environment and Development. “Under Mexico’s strong leadership and guidance, governments in Cancun have ensured that confidence in the UNFCCC process is being rebuilt, which brings us a step closer to that final deal.”

Adaptation, finance and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) were some of the key issues IUCN wanted to see the 194-nation talks move forward on. Today’s deal is a move in the right direction, but in the end, only an equitable, comprehensive and legally binding agreement will bring the much needed international commitment to manage the climate crisis, says IUCN.

“We have moved away from the post-Copenhagen paralysis,” says Claire Parker, Senior Climate Change Policy Advisor. “Developing countries can now see new money on

the table which they can draw on to adapt to the impacts they’re already facing and reduce emissions.”

The inclusion of REDD as part of the Cancun deal is a key step toward resolving the issue of climate change, says IUCN.

“Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time conserving forest natural resources on which millions of vulnerable people depend, is a win-win solution for people and nature,” adds Maginnis. “It has been one of the most promising developments in the negotiations so far, and now this further push by governments makes REDD an integral part of the climate deal.”

IUCN welcomes the recognition of women within the deal struck on REDD and elsewhere in the agreement. Women make up 70% of the world’s poor and provide up to 90% of the food in forest-dependent communities. They depend on forest resources for gathering fuelwood, forest fruits, vegetables and medicines.

Source: www.iucn.org

IYB wins the Green Award as best global environmental campaign



With the slogan “Biodiversity is Life. Biodiversity is our Life”, the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) won the coveted 2010 Green Award for best Global Campaign in recognition of the strength of a campaign that inspired activities throughout the world that showcase the value and beauty of biodiversity. IUCN is delighted to have been involved with creating the slogan and logo.

The award ceremony took place at London’s Natural History Museum on 2 December with more than 400 guests. The ceremony was attended by Sir David Attenborough, Britain’s best loved naturalist with more than 50 years of broadcast experience including the BBC Life series.

“The celebrations organized for the International Year of Biodiversity by the citizens and Governments of 191 countries and partners around the world have been an extraordinary human experience aimed at reconnecting people with nature. It has demonstrated the resolve of the people of the world to protect life on Earth,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “The 2010 Green Award is recognition of and tribute paid to people of the world for this achievement.”

IUCN through its Countdown initiative worked with Futerra Sustainability Communications to create the logo and slogan for the campaign.

Source: www.iucn.org

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Rangzhin and
our Annual Reports

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and opinions for our
website and Rangzhin.

Mail your articles to:
rspn@rspnbhutan.org

WORD SAFARI

In this edition, we have compiled lists of poisonous mushrooms. (Please note that this is not a complete list of poisonous mushrooms)

Find and encircle the words which are **bold** and underlined. We have encircled one to help you get start with.



Amanita muscaria



Clitocybe
cerussata



Amanita
pantherina



Coprinus
atrametarius



Amanita virosa



Gymnopilus
spectabilis



Boletus satanas



Inocybe
fastigiata



Russula emetica



Ramaria formosa

A	S	P	A	E	I	R	T	C	E
M	H	H	H	I	N	S	L	O	V
A	K	R	Y	T	O	E	I	P	A
N	V	A	E	D	C	T	T	R	L
I	E	I	R	A	Y	K	H	I	U
T	M	G	R	G	B	V	O	N	A
A	U	Y	V	O	E	E	S	U	T
U	S	M	P	U	S	L	N	S	E
A	C	N	H	A	L	A	H	E	R
C	A	O	E	N	R	E	C	O	A
L	R	P	R	G	S	R	R	T	M
I	I	I	B	Y	E	A	E	E	A
T	A	L	O	U	A	B	L	R	R
O	N	U	L	H	B	L	N	I	I
C	T	S	E	M	E	T	I	C	A
Y	V	U	T	N	E	I	R	O	A
B	U	R	U	A	P	I	N	X	R
E	F	E	S	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

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