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On the very happy and historic occasion of the First Royal Wedding Anniversary, the Chairman, Board of Directors, Staff and the members of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature extend our heartiest felicitations and greetings to the Royal Couple and join the nation in celebrating the occasion



Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) to support RSPN

The Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), Japan, will be supporting a project for RSPN starting this year. The project title “Enhancement of Black-necked Crane Visitor Information Center in Phobjikha”, is aimed at improving the role of visitor information centre of Phobjikha in imparting environmental knowledge and awareness and strengthening local participation in environmental conservation in Phobjikha.

The overall objective is to contribute to conservation of Black-Necked Cranes and Phobjikha Valley as a result of positive change

in behavior and attitude of local community and visitors by enhancing the educational and training programs in the Black-necked Crane Visitor Centre.

The fund support for the first year from June 2012 till May 2013 has been committed, while for the next two additional years, KNCF will support RSPN based on the project performance. The project will be jointly carried out by RSPN and Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF) The Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) is a public trust established in 2000 and provides assistance for nature

conservation efforts implemented by NGO/ NPO in developing countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region and also provides assistance for nature conservation efforts and sustainable use of natural resources in Japan. Delegates from KNCF also visited Bhutan and RSPN office in 2011.

RSPN signs MoU with Embassy of Finland, New Delhi

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Embassy of Finland, New Delhi and Royal Society for Protection of Nature on 9th July 2012 at Thimphu to formalize continuation of support for the Community-based natural resource management program in selected villages under Lumang and Kangpara gewog in Trashigang Dzongkhag. The project worth 41,342 Euros shall be implemented over a period of one year.

The program broadly focuses on tackling localized watershed issues through participatory action-based research and capacity building programs. Water scarcity has been reported as one of the priority issues in the target villages (Moshi, Khaimanma, Madhuwa and Passaphu) as evidently they are losing their water sources to deforestation, overgrazing, and erosion (RSPN, SES Report 2008, pp. 16-34). Scarcity of water has also indirectly induced food insecurity in many of the villages in Wamrong and Kangpara affecting the overall livelihood of people. It is hoped that such approach to dealing with water issue will pave the way for a more sustainable watershed management practices in the area in future.

Similarly in the past, the Embassy had supported several programs relating to natural resource management including establishment of community forests in Lumang and Kangpara gewogs. This is the third grant of its kind and its support has also been instrumental in helping RSPN establish its presence in the eastern part of Bhutan.

Learning how to manage their local environment

About twenty three monks and five nuns from 21 Monastic Schools and Institutions from across the country took part in a week long Environmental Training organized by Education & Advocacy Program of RSPN.

The purpose of the training was to :

- Orient the monks and nuns on the concept of environmental education.
- Provide hands on training on environment related activities.
- Build capacities of monks and nuns to manage environmental activities in the Monastic Schools and Institutions.

The training program was specifically prepared for monks and nuns to make them understand the concepts of environmental education as well as to provide them with knowledge and skills which they would utilize to carry out environmental activities in their places.

Through video shows and poster displays, the participants were made aware of the broad global environmental issues and its consequences on human lives and livelihoods. The national and local environmental issues and its effects on the Bhutanese lives and livelihoods were also discussed.

Much of the time was spent in the field with practical exercises. From landscape development to flower garden preparation and the right methods of planting trees were some of the activities that monks and nuns spent time on. "No wonder that the trees we planted never survive as we did it differently, but now I know the right techniques of planting trees and I hope the trees we plant will survive", lophon Gembo Dorji commented. "I have of interest in flower garden and I am sure that with the knowledge that I got from this training, I can improve the outlook of my Shedra", Ani Tshering Pelmo said. Water as one of the major concerns raised by the participants. Waterharvesting, water source protections and SODIS techniques to address drinking water problems were conducted.

The participants were awarded certificates.

The participant's representative expressed their sincere gratitude to RSPN for such an eye opening program. He pointed out that without such program, their understanding about the environmental conservation would be very limited and as such their contribution would be very minimum. Now that they are equipped with knowledge and skills, they committed that they will do their best to contribute in the conservation of our environment in general and their respective monastic institutions in particular.

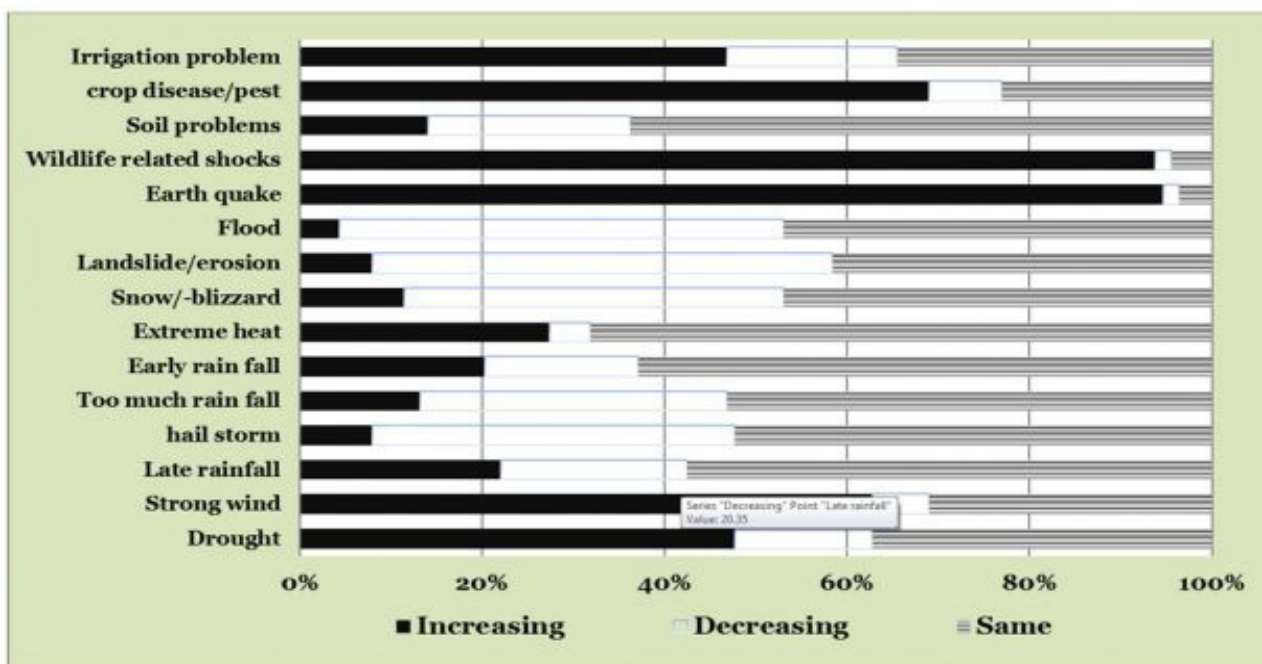


Climate Change Vulnerabilities Assessment in Kangpara Passangphu Tshowog, one of the largest settlements in Kangpara Gewog

Under the Joint Support Programme (JSP-UNDP, UNEP and DANIDA), funded through Gross National Happiness Commission, RSPN conducted an assessment of Climate Change Vulnerability for the communities of Kangpara Gewog, Trashigang. The study was carried out using both primary and secondary data sources using different methods including structured questionnaire interviews, focus group discussions, literature review and field observations. Secondary data was collected through review of past studies on Climate Change, Bhutan's Initial National Communication (INC) submitted in 2000, National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), Second National Commu-

nication of Bhutan, 2011, the RNR Census Data, relevant National Plans and Policies and reports and documents of RSPN about Kangpara. The primary data were collected through administration of a structured survey questionnaire at household level. The survey comprised of collection of information on socio-demography, livelihood strategies, health, water and natural resource situation of the Gewog besides compiling local people's perceived observation of climate change, its impacts and trends. Kangpara is one of the remotest Gewogs in Trashigang with 383 households, most of whom are dryland based subsistence farmers. Bamboo product is a major source of cash income.

While 51.6 percent of population comprised of females, only about eight percent of all households at the Gewog level were headed by females. The Gewog has a literacy of 48 percent and about 98.2 percent of children under 16 years attend school. The socio-economic problems in the Gewog are labour shortages, low market prices, occurrence of debt at household level, water related conflicts, poor access to market and certain level of unemployment as issues related to the economic environment. Other problems include lack of access to quality seeds, fertilizer availability and irrigation.



The analysis of the survey data was done in the context of exposure and sensitivity to the process of climate change and the adaptive capacity of the local communities and the local environment to adapt or withstand these changes. The Gewog is exposed to natural and climate related disaster such as drought, strong wind, late rainfall and early rainfall, temperature variations, hailstorm, frost and flooding and earthquake in recent times. These events have affected agricultural activities at larger extent. The graph (above) illustrates the percentage of households which reported their agriculture activities to have been affected by different factors in the last 12 months.

The recommendations of the survey are provided in the form of action plan that are formulated based on the analytical results of information from the survey. The action plan identifies actions in the areas of gender equity, literacy, improving in farm labour shortage situation, livelihood and income diversification, enhancing social support system, improving human health, drinking water management and nature conservation and environment management. Priority areas for these action areas have also been identified in the action plan based on severity and spatial distribution of problems faced by the communities. Replication of this study in the same location

over time might provide information about how the exposure, adaptive capacity, and sensitivity of Gewog change as adaptation practices are initiated. Future work might include refinement of the Social Networks sub-components in order to more accurately evaluate social bonds. Additionally, this approach could be tested at the different community level in order to compare vulnerability among communities within a District. Overall, it is hoped that the study will provide a useful tool for development planners to evaluate livelihood vulnerability to climate change impacts in the communities in which they work and to develop programs to strengthen the most vulnerable sectors. In order to facilitate, this study provides a rich repository of data

“Pilot Initiatives to Reduce Human Wildlife Conflict Management in Kangpara”

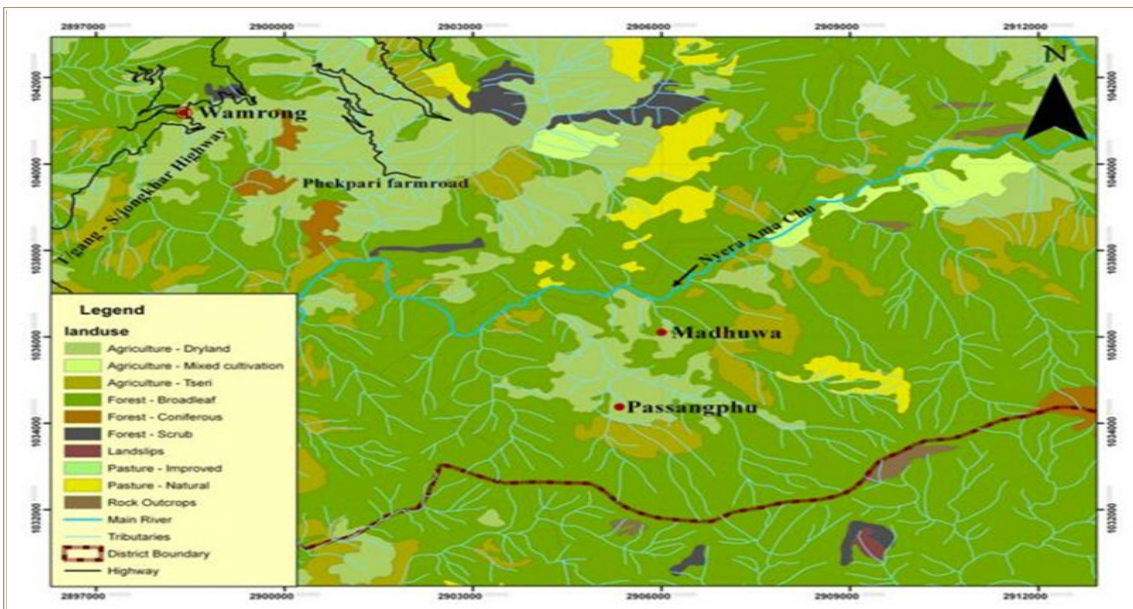
Under the Joint Support Programme (JSP- UNDP, UNEP and DANIDA), funded through Gross National Happiness

Commission (GNHC), RSPN initiated a project entitled “Pilot Initiatives to Reduce Human Wildlife Conflict Management in

Kangpara, Trashigang” from January 2011 to June 2012.



A Birdseye view of Kangpara settlement



Project Area: Landuse map of the Madhuwa and Passangphu and the peripheral area, Kangpara Gewog, Tashingang.

Sustainable Institutional Mechanism for HWC Management

In order to deal with the issue of HWC in the targeted villages of Kangpara Gewog, RSPN developed a mechanism based on the principles of sustainability and equity with components of insurance, research and ownership.

The sustainable institutional mechanism (SIM), was developed in close consultation with the communities and national stakeholders such as Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPs), Department of Livestock (DoL), Department of Agriculture (DoA), Wildlife Conservation Division

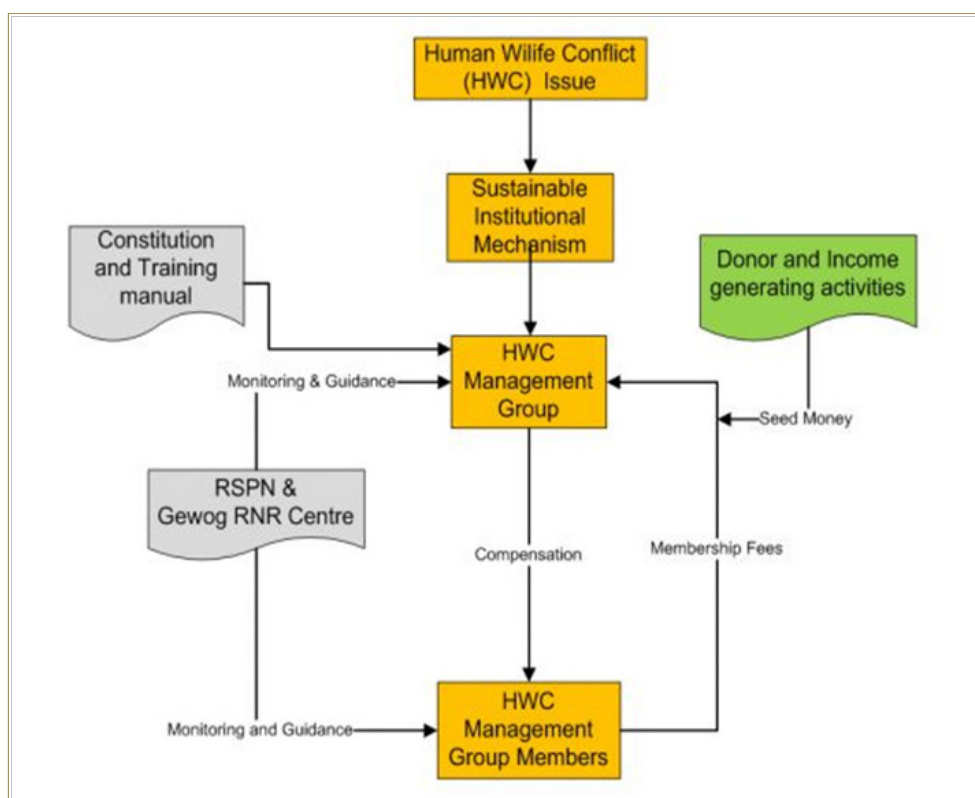
(WCD) and UNDP.

The SIM is a mechanism which requires the formation of groups with executing committee which will be guided by a constitution.

The constitution has prescribed ways in which the HWC affected households will be compensated based on the accepted formulae to calculate the loss and the equivalent compensation in monetary figures.

The Fund for the compensation is being provided by the project and RSPN jointly for the initial start up but later the fund have

to be sustained through membership fee collections, donor contribution and income generating activities by the members. The overall compensation, roles of the members, fee collection etc. will be guided by the Constitution developed for the group. A training manual for the group was also developed for the purpose of operationalizing the SIM. RSPN will closely monitor the functioning of the HWC management group and the SIM through the field office based in Wamrong.



Schematic representation of the functioning of the HWC Management group with Sustainable Institutional Mechanism

Acknowledgement:

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature would like to acknowledge the Liaison Office of Denmark, UNDP and UNEP Office, Thimphu under the Joint Support Programme (JSP) for funding the pilot project. We would like to thank all the stakeholders namely Wildlife Conservation Division (WCD) under DoFPs, Administration of Tashigang Dzongkhag,

Thrimshing Dungkag and Kangpara Gewog and RNR Centre and the Local Government of the Gewog for supporting the implementation of the project activities. The communities of Passangphu and Madhawa Tshowog are appreciated for their active participation in the project and supporting the concept of compensation. We would also like to thank the Gross

National Happiness Commission (GNHC) for the timely release of the fund and providing adequate time for report submissions. Lastly, it would not have been possible for the project to develop the Sustainable Institutional Mechanism without the enthusiasm of the RSPN staffs and stakeholders. Thank you all.

OBITUARY :

The Board of Directors, Members and Staff of RSPN express our profound grief for the untimely demise of our dear colleague, Mr. Tshewang Norbu who worked with RSPN since 2003. He expired in an unfortunate car accident on 29th August, 2012 at Sisiding (Thinleygang) at around 12:30AM.

Late Mr. Tshewang Norbu had lived an amazing life even though it was rather short. He was a great friend and made

wonderful company in a team. He was a staunch conservationist; very loyal bird-watcher; and a dedicated guide for birding troops from around the globe.

He died when he was on the way to monitor White-bellied Heron, a critically endangered bird species with whom he was associated since 2003. We will always remember him as an unfailing colleague, one who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. He

was 33 and is survived by his wife and three children.

He was one of the most active field staff who contributed to RSPN as an Assistant Research Officer, especially in White-Bellied Heron conservation.

He will always be remembered for his cheerful character, calmness and enthusiasm besides being an ardent bird watcher, trekker and guide. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



WORD SAFARI

Given below are the list of 15 species of butterflies found in Bhutan. Compiled from the book "Butterflies of Bhutan". Pay special attention to the English names (in bold) and search for the names in the maze below.

- Spangle (*Sainia protenor*)
(800-2000m)
- Redbreast (*Sainia rhetenor*)
(1000 - 2400m)
- Tailed Jay (*Idaides agamemnon*)
(<18000m)
- Punechinelloa (*Zemoros flegyas*)
(<2000m)
- Albocerulean (*Udara albocaerulea*)
(1400 - 2500m)
- Dark Judy (*Abisara fylla*)
(500 - 1900m)
- Pea Blue (*Lampides boeticus*)
(<32500m)
- Hill Jezebel (*Delias belladonna*)
(700 - 2700m)



please search for butterfly names and encircle them.

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

Blue Tit (*Chliaria kina*)
(1000 - 1850m)

Yellow Coster (*Acraea issoria*)
(<2500m)

Common Nawab (*Polyura athamas*)
(<1800m)

Blue Admiral (*Kaniska canace*)
(500 - 2500m)

Circe (*Hestina nama*)
(400 - 2400m)

Black Prince (*Rohana parisatis*)
(<1000m)

Bhutan Sergeant (*athyma jina*)
(800 - 1850m)

To facilitate the project activities, RSPN has initiated establishment of field offices in Wamrong, Trashigang and Bumthang. The field office in Wamrong will enhance the conservation activities of the CBNRM while the one in Bumthang will serve as the field office for the CEPF project. The field offices will also facilitate support and enhance better networking with the local communities and officials in the districts.



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