



རང་བཞིན། Rangzhin

RSPN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Royal Society for Protection of Nature

www.rspnbhutan.org

December 2013

Season's Greetings!

Happy New Year
2014

The Board of Directors, members and staff of RSPN wish you a very happy new year!

We want to thank our donors, partners, supporters and all well wishers for your ongoing support and cooperation.

We wish you happiness and well-being in 2014!



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Fund raising for Jigme Khesar Environmental Research Fund (JKERF)

Having launched the Jigme Khesar Environmental Research Fund (JKERF) in August 2013 by Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, Queen of Bhutan, the Royal Society for Protection of Nature initiated the first research fund raising of its kind with support from friends of RSPN from National University of Singapore.

Dr. Edward Webb, Dr. David Bickford, Ms. Mary Rose Posa, and Ms. Rachel Conejos Webb were the first group of in-



JKERFund raising biking

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Annual Black-necked Crane Roost Restoration

Having observed that the cranes prefer artificial roosts over the natural ponds for roosting, the annual crane roost maintenance in Phobjikha were carried out in mid-September 2013 as preparation for the crane arrival.

The restoration work involved uprooting of grasses, pooling water and clearing. Streams flowing into the wetland are diverted to the cleared

spots to create shallow ponds. Around two to three such ponds are maintained annually. A total of seven roosts, including the three artificial roosts are currently being used by the cranes.

In 2010-2011, new roost measuring 50x50 meters with 0.5 meter depth at the base of hill was developed to accommodate increasing number of cranes to roost in.



Maintenance of Crane roost in Phobjikha

Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Gender and Energy



Participants - Knowledge sharing workshop on Gender and Energy

The project on “Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka” aims to increase rural women’s access to affordable and reliable clean energy sources and technologies in selected project sites.

As part of ADB funded project on “Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan”. a half-day Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Gender Review of National Energy Policies and Programmes in Bhutan was organized by RSPN on 1st October, 2013 in RSPN’s Auditorium, Thimphu during

which the project team made presentation on detailed project profile including the importance of understanding gender status of existing energy sector policies and strategies and practices in Bhutan.

About 13 key stakeholder members from the Department of Renewable Energy, Bhutan Power Corporation, UNDP, Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Craft, Bhutan Association of Women Enterprise, Loden Foundation, Zhemgang Dzongkhag, Rural Development Training Center (Zhemgang), Royal Manas National Park and 11 staff members of RSPN attended the workshop.

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Fund raising for Jigme Khesar Environmental Research Fund (JKERF)



dividual donors from Singapore National University who has helped in building the research fund. The group visited Bhutan from 20-28 September 2013 and generously contributed US\$ 10,000 to the JKERF, which will be judiciously used to support immediate research proposals received from the emerging research students within Bhutan. The group also interacted and discussed on various future approaches to build the research initiative with the RSPN team.

Biking in Phobjikha

Biking tourism is another CBST product available in Phobjikha. With support from the Austrian Coordination Office (ACO) and the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO), seven mountain bikes and accessories were provided to the new CBST Group in Phobjikha

Two local guides Mr. Gyaltshen and Mr. Sonam Dorji were trained at the Yu-Druk Mountain Bike Shop in Thimphu from 10th to 15th September 2013 in basic maintenance and repairs of bikes. They were also given field orientation training as biking guides in Phobjikha.

The trainees were awarded certificates and souvenirs by ACO, ABTO and RSPN and wished them luck for the new tourism product.



Black-necked Cranes

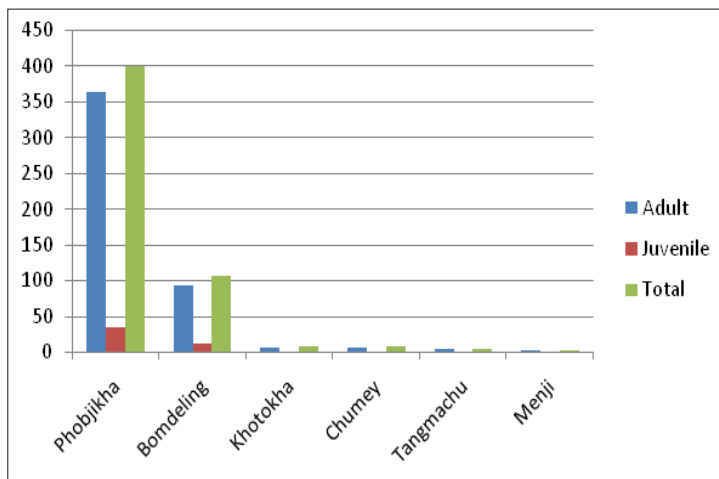


At around 2PM, amidst the high blue clear sky, two adult Black-necked Cranes emerged and landed in Phobjikha on 22 October 2013. In 2012, the first group of cranes arrived on 27 October in Phobjikha and on 30 October in Bumdeling in Trashi Yangtse. The crane spends around 5 months in their wintering habitats in Bhutan and migrates to their summer habitats in Tibet.

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Black-necked Cranes



BNC Statistics as of 31st December, 2013

The total number of cranes recorded in Phobjikha for 2013-2014 is 381, followed by Bumdeling with 53 individuals. The total cranes recorded as 30 December 2013 is 450 individuals.

To observe the importance of BNC and their arrival, the 15 Annual BNC festival was celebrated in the courtyard of the magnificent Gangtey Gonpa in Phobjikha on 11 November 2013 coinciding with the 56 Birth Anniversary of His majesty the Fourth King of Bhutan.

Dr. George Archibald, Co-founder of International Crane Foundation, USA, graced the festival as the guest of honor. Dr. George’s association with the cranes and the cranes of Bhutan dates as early as the 1990s and has also assisted the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) in banding and color tagging of the Black-necked Crane in 2005-2006 winter in Bomdeling and Phobjikha.



BNC enthusiast tourist - judging the art competition



Rainwater Harvesting Facility for Tashitse



Students working for rain water harvesting

Problems of inadequate water supply for drinking and other purposes, particularly in schools and institutions are a major problem and Tashitse Higher Secondary School in Wamrong is one such example. To address the issue, RSPN field office in Wamrong initiated and installed a low cost and high efficiency

rainwater harvesting facility in the school. This facility will not only address to the water shortage problem but also improve the general health and sanitation of about 640 students. The facility will be monitored and maintained by the school administration.

Contribute Articles / Pictures for RANGZHIN

Do you have any articles or pictures related to any environment conservation works that you have carried out?

Please send us your articles and pictures to be featured in our next issue of Rangzhin.

We will also publish on our website which has a wider reach. You can send us your materials to rspn@rspnbhutan.org any time.

Climate Adaptation, Food Security, and Population Dynamics



A three day conference “South Asian Parliamentarians and Policymaker’s at Work: Putting Climate Adaptation, Food Security, Population Dynamics Back in the Agenda” was held in Islamabad from 16 to 18th December 2013 with the objectives to:

1. Enhance knowledge and understanding of participants about latest climate science findings in the context of threatening food, water, energy security and population dynamics while promoting biodiversity, eco-system services and sustainable development.
2. Promote collaboration, alliances and improved linkages through exchange of Knowledge, Skills and Resources for strengthening climate resilience and food security across national boundaries within the region.
3. Promote engagement between members of parliament/government representative and civil society in South Asia through joint learning and agenda-setting on issues related to climate change, food security and resilience.
4. Jointly develop an action plan to effectively influence national governments and other key actors in the region by exploring the setting up of a regional advocacy platform for MPs and civil society.

Members of the Parliament from the National Assembly of Bhutan, National Council of Bhutan along with representative from the Royal Society for Protection of Nature attended the conference.

Be a Member of RSPN:

When you become a member of RSPN, you become a part of a dedicated network of individuals and groups working to preserve Bhutan’s pristine natural environment and incredible biodiversity for generations to come. Whatever financial support you pledge will be used to aid our projects in schools, communities, and protected areas throughout the country. As the nation’s first environmental NGO, we depend on the generosity of concerned individuals like yourself to enable our research and advocacy – we can’t do it without you, and every bit counts!

www.rspnbhutan.org/be-a-member

WORD SAFARI

In this edition, we have compiled a list of Partridge-like birds, birds living on or near water and other large birds and have listed the parks they are found. We will continue to publish this data in our next Rangzhin editions. (Source: page 87-89 of *Bhutan's Natural Heritage - A Legacy of the Monarchs*, published by RSPN, Thimphu).

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

IUCN Status	Partridge-like birds, birds living on or near water and other large birds		Protected Areas**										
	Common name	Latin name	J D N P	J S W N P	B W S	R M N P	T N P	S W S	P W S	W C P	T S N R	K W S	
Endangered	Chestnut-breasted Partridge	<i>Arborophila madellii</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Endangered	Blyth's <u>Tragopan</u>	<i>Tragopan blythii</i>						X					
Near threatened	<u>Satyr</u> Traopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Critically Endangered	White-belleid <u>heron</u>	<i>Ardea insignis</i>	X	X		X							
Near Threatened	Blyth's <u>Kingfisher</u>	<i>Alcedo hercules</i>		X		X							
Near Threatened	Ferruginous <u>Duck</u>	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	X			X							
Endangered	Black-necked <u>crane</u>	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>		X	X		X	X					
Endangered	Rufous-necked <u>Hornbill</u>	<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>		X	X	X	X		X		X		
Near threatened	<u>Great</u> Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>		X		X	X		X		X		

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

** **JDNP**: Jigme Dorji National Park; **JSWNP**: Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park; **BWS**: Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary; **RMNP**: Royal Manas National Park; **TNP**: Thrumshingla National Park; **SWS**: Sakten Wildlife Sanctuary; **PWS**: Phibsoo Wildlife Santuary; **WCP**: Wangchuck Centennial Park; **TSNR**: Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve; **KWS**: Khaling Wildlife Sanctuary

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