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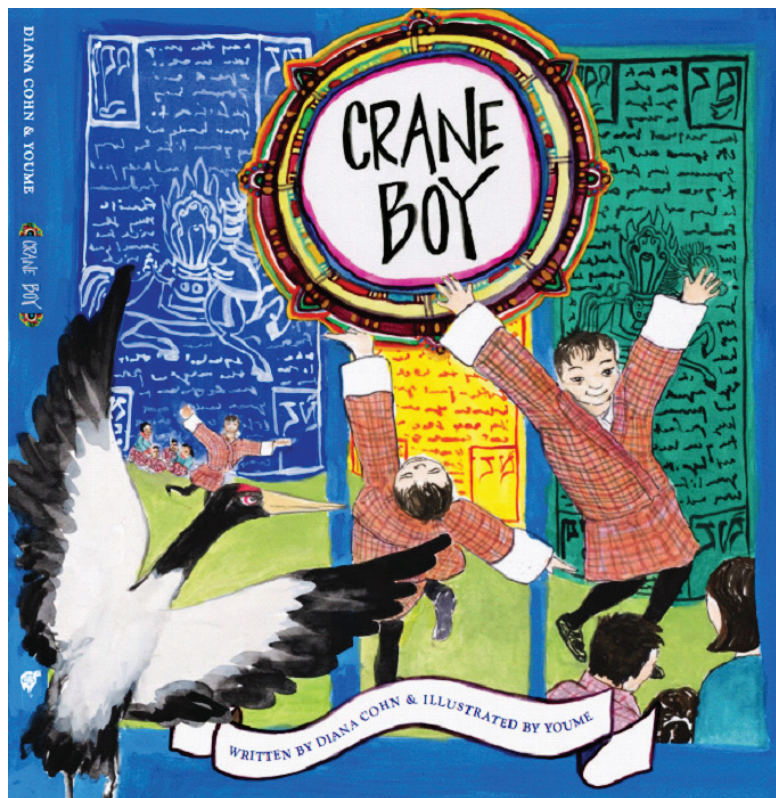
Be a Member of RSPN!

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. As the nation's oldest 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!

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Crane Boy coming soon to Bhutan!



Cover of *Crane Boy*, written by Diana Cohn and illustrated by Youme

The *Crane Boy* is the 7th picture book by award winning author & educator Diana Cohn (www.dreamcarver.org) and is being illustrated by award winning author/illustrator/educator Youme Landowne. The book tells the story of a

young Bhutanese boy named Kinga who learns that the beautiful Black-necked crane, that have migrated to his village from Tibet for thousands of years, is fac-

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Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) workshop in schools and monastic institutions



Workshop in session for one of the monastic institutions

The mission of Behavior Change Communication (BCC) workshop, as part of Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (RSAHP), is to improve the health of the school and monastic institutions by reducing the incidence of water borne related diseases. It is also to bring about improved health quality of life through access to quality sanitary toilets, hygienic use of toilet and adequate facilities for hand washing with soap.

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Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) workshop in Schools and Monastic Institutions



The participants of the workshop



A session with teachers of various schools



A session with students.

The objectives of the workshops were to:

- Ensure boys and girls in schools, monks and nuns in monastic institutions use a hygienic toilet when at school and monastic institutions;
- Let them practice hand washing with soap during critical junctures;
- Support girls and nuns in learning and practicing good menstrual hygiene

- management; and
- Make children, teachers and monks play as a “Change Agent” for promoting Rural Sanitation and Hygiene.

The BCC Workshop as part of RSAHP was conducted from 9th-17th August 2015. In addition, the facilitators used pictorial images (posters) and participatory adult learning tools during

the entire BCC workshops aiming for easy understanding by all age groups.

The BCC workshop could cover more than 53 teachers and 602 students of Yoeseltse Middle Secondary School and Phuntshopelri Lower Secondary School. In addition, the workshop could also cover 21 monks and Principals of Yoeseltse and Namgaycholing Dratsangs (monastic Institutions).

Preliminary Rapid Watershed Assessment of Buli Watershed



Assessment team measuring the length of a stream to measure velocity and volume by float method.



require a management plan and any other interventions, looking at the intact watershed conditions, the rich biodiversity in the area and the special cultural practices within the watershed, there was no harm in recording and documenting the extraordinary state of the watershed through the project.

The *Table 2* shows the quality of the water within Buli watershed. The parameters used for measuring the water quality was done using a PCS tester that measures five parameters in the field, without changing the probe. The parameters are : TDS, temperature, pH, conductivity and salinity.

Buli watershed has three management areas with plans within its boundary. There is a Forest Management Unit (FMU) – Gonglathang Malaithang – for commercial timber harvesting. There are two Community Forest Management Groups – Rinchen Nrobuling

and Phendey Norbuling – for sustainable community timber and non-timber utilization.

As indicated in the *Table 1*, Buli watershed is in intact condition and all fall within pristine conditions.

Although Buli watershed does not

Way-forward

The biodiversity, especially in and around Buli tso is intact and has not been

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Table 1 Waterhed classification in Buli Watershed

Sl No	Stream ID	Score (%)	Watershed Class	Description
1.	Chenrizi dupchhu	70.48	Pristine	spring water with medicinal benefits
2.	Rumrangchhu	68.57	Pristine	water for irrigation
3.	Rongdegangchhu	68.57	Pristine	Seasonal
4.	Berpangchhu	70.47	Pristine	Water for irrigation, source from many lakes upstream
5.	Kharetangchhu	73.1	Pristine	Very clean spring water
6.	Mephangchhu	70.14	Pristine	Confluence – a good permanent location for discharge measurements
7.	Yongbarichhu	71.43	Pristine	Confluence – a good permanent location for discharge measurements

GPP Bhutan conducts seminar to disseminate its first year research findings



Participants of the GPPB seminar

On September 3, 2015 at the Ariya Hotel in Thimpu, delegates from the public and private sector came together to learn about and discuss the findings of a EU-funded, SWITCH Asia project on Green Public Procurement in Bhutan.

The seminar was open, and 'highly

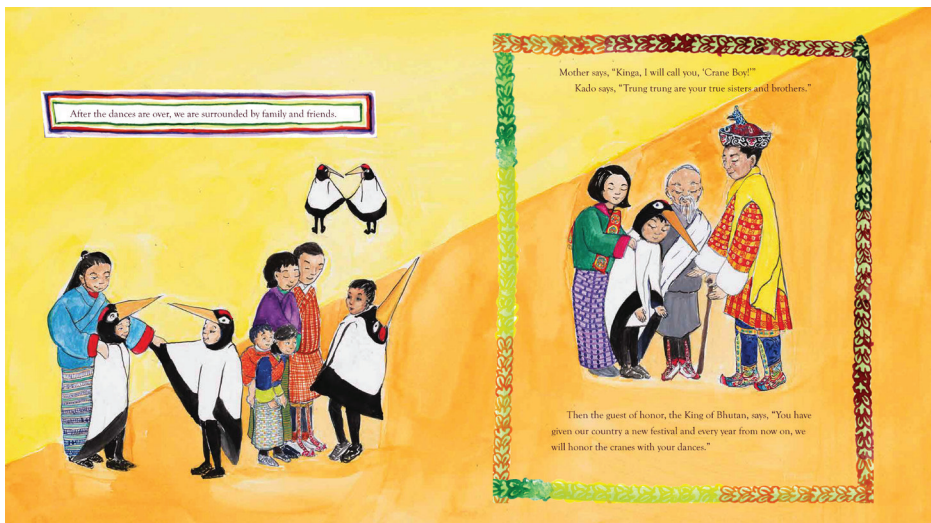
interactive' according to participants. The Year 1 Findings from the project show that the legal and policy space for practicing GPP is already in place in Bhutan, and participants had many comments and questions to deliberate on in light of the findings presented.

Participants also learned about two

other SWITCH-Asia projects in Bhutan: the Low Carbon Tourism Project in Bhutan and the Sustainable & Efficient Industrial Development (SEID) project in Bhutan and Nepal, undertaken by the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO) and SEID Bhutan respectively.

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Crane Boy coming soon to Bhutan!



Pages from *Crane Boy*, written by Diana Cohn and illustrated by Youme

ing gradual threats from modernization. He wants to find ways to help the birds. Inspired by the centuries old tradition of 'tsechus' (festivals) in Bhutan, where songs and dances tell stories and teach lessons, Kinga and his classmates decide to create a new festival that would celebrate the arrival of the cranes to their Val-

ley. But first they must observe the cranes and then create a dance! The author and illustrator spent time together in Bhutan over a year ago. The illustrated children's book is about 40 pages, including an afterward and each book is a gift from many kind hearted individuals from USA, who have donated

to make this book possible.

For many children in Bhutan, this will be their first children's book that reflects Bhutanese culture, brilliance, and talent. Crane Boy is published by Cinco Puntos Press (www.cincopuntos.com) has a publication date of September, 2015. Both Diana and Youme have taught writing (and art) to students as elementary school teachers and as teaching artists. Their intention for this project goes beyond the book Crane Boy: that is to inspire and build collaboration with, and support the literary community in Bhutan, and be part of a new movement for children's books. Bhutan Friendship Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for Diana and Youme.

Acknowledgement:

RSPN would like to wholeheartedly thank Diana, Youme and Michael D. McClelland, President of Bhutan Friendship Foundation for their kindness and Dasho Ugyen Rinzin and Mr. Karma Loday of Yangphel Adventure Travel for connecting RSPN to such lovely people.

Images extracted from the book.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Awareness program conducted in Yoeseltse MSS conducted



The resource person trains students to make custom sanitary pads.

The time has come to promote – loudly and unashamedly – the role of good Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) as a trigger for better and stronger development of girls and women on their personal, educational and professional.

MHM Awareness was conducted on 12th September 2015 jointly by RSPN

and Comprehensive School Health Programme (CSHP), Department of Youth and Sports (DYS) of the Ministry of Education with objectives:

- To educate and make aware on menstrual hygiene to adolescent girls in schools;
- To support girls in learning and practicing good menstrual hygiene

management;

- To sensitized and educate the school management on menstrual hygiene management and requirement of girl friendly toilets and sanitary products; and
- To educate boys on menstrual hygiene and importance of providing peer-support to adolescent and menstruating girls in the school.

The day-long MHM awareness programme was facilitated by Mrs. Deki Tshomo, Dy. Chief from CSHP, DYS-MoE and Mr. Tsheten Dorji, Project Officer from RSPN who are well experienced on the subject. understanding by all age groups of students.

About 138 students (116 girls and 22 boys) from classes 6-10 and 3 teachers of Yoeseltse Middle Secondary School participated in MHM Awareness Programm. they assured to act as a “change agent” in promoting MHM and its importance in their local community and other

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Preliminary Rapid Watershed Assessment of Buli Watershed

disturbed. The team observed that the cultural practices and folklores connected to the lake has indirectly, prevented the lake vicinity to remain intact with rich biodiversity. Thus, a thorough biodiversity study in Buli watershed and more specifically around Buli Tsho is recommended.

The marshes near the Buli town, though intact today, is more likely under threat from fragmentation and conversion to other land uses. The marshes harbor good amount of avifauna and creates a good scenic location for Buli village.

Hydrologically, the excess irrigation water and other overflows during the monsoon is channeled through this wetland area, creating a natural buffer and filtration point. Thus, awareness and interventions on wetlands management can be a preliminary step in encouraging the community of Buli to continue protecting the wetlands in the vicinity.

The met station, installed with support from National Soil Service Center (NSSC) in 2003 is no longer functional and there are no data recorded as of today. Through the project, with effective and

efficient bilateral communication with the agencies involved, the met station can be upgraded to a hydro-met station and more sustainable management of the station can be established.

The team also observed the existence of a weak professional communication amongst the Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) staff in Buli. Thus, the team recommends involving all the sectors within Buli watershed to meet and communicate efficiently to bring all the development partners together and to discuss the various plans and programmes within the watershed can create a good example of a proper management planning process. this can be done through a slow and continuous process of involving all concerned within Buli, to understand why RSPN is in Buli and what is the long term goals. This can also create a platform to solve the various environmental and related social issues within the area.

Reported by: Mrs. Sonam Choden, Water and Wetlands Section, Watershed Management Division, DoFPS, MoAF.

*Edited by: Mr. Tshering Phuntsho, RSPN
Photo: Tshering Phuntsho, RSPN.*

Table 2. Water Quality of various streams in Buli Watershed

S No	Stream ID	TDS	Temp	pH	Conductivity	Salinity
1.	Chenrizi dupchhu	42.2	16.3	8.5	59.2	31.2
2.	Rumrangchhu	15.8	19.1	7.8	22.6	16.9
3.	Rongdegangchhu	28.1	20.8	7.2	39.4	24.2
4.	Berpangchhu	37	23.1	7.1	52	30.2
5.	Kharetangchhu	54.9	17	6.8	77.2	39
6.	Mephangchhu	29.9	21.5	7.9	41.5	25.6
7.	Yongbarichhu	15.2	22.5	7.6	21.8	11.2

Second quarterly meeting on CBST project held



The meeting in session

The 2nd quarterly meeting of the steering committee for the community-based sustainable tourism (CBST) project in Haa was held on 29th July 2015 at the Jigme Khesar Environmental Resource Centre (JKERC) Auditorium, RSPN in Thimphu.

During the meeting the members were updated on the progress and the ongoing activities of the CBST project and the next quarterly work plan. The main discussions during the meeting was focused on the draft report presentation of the tourism baseline survey conducted by the project team in the three gewogs of Bjee, Uesu and Katsho gewogs in Haa.

Board walk in Phobjikha partially damaged by monsoon rain

The boardwalk of Gangtey Nature Trail located between the Chorten and Khewang Lhakhang has been partially damaged by flash floods. Due to the recent heavy monsoon rains from 25-30 July, 2015, the river have swollen and swept dried bushes, sand, plants, and cloth rags from the upstream.

The river washed all the debris on its way to the wetlands and deposited it on the boardwalk. Although there were no complaints regarding the damaged boardwalk from any guests or guide, RSPN officials at the Black-necked Crane Visitor Center in Phobjikha (Gangtey and Phobji) were engaged in clearing the debris for one hour and making boardwalk safe for use.



The flooded wetland board walk.



The staff later cleaned the board walk.

RSPN Staff take part in Biking Trail development



RSPN staff volunteered in eco-friendly biking trail development



The staff of RSPN participated in an ongoing project of an eco-friendly biking trail development from Kuensel Phodrang to Motithang on 4th August, 2015. The NRED officials said the total length of trail from Kuensel Phodrang to Motithang is more than 4km of which only around 1.4km of the trail has been completed.

All staff expressed their satisfaction in contributing to such a noble recreational facility initiated to commemorate the 60th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

Birds of Bhutan

In commemoration of the 60th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, we will publish collection of pictures of birds found in Bhutan. His Majesty was awarded Champion of the Earth in 2005 for his exemplary leadership in environmental conservation.

Bhutan ranks in the top 10% of countries with the highest species density on earth, and it has the highest fraction of land in protected areas as well as the highest proportion of forest cover of any Asian nation.

- (<http://www.unep.org/champions/laureates/2005/DrukGyalpo.asp>)

Common name: Red-flanked Bluetail
Scientific name: *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Photographer: Koji Tagi



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The screenshot shows the website for the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN). At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, About Us, About Bhutan, News & Events, Programs, Resources, Support Us, and Contact us. Below the menu, there is a section for the 'Jigme Khesar Environmental Resource Centre - Library' and 'Mini-auditorium'. The library section features a row of books and text describing the JKERC Library as a modern reference library designed to support environmental researchers. The mini-auditorium section lists features like a capacity of 100-150 people, a professional wireless conference system, and high-speed WiFi internet access. A 'BOOK IT ONLINE NOW!' button is visible. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a call to action: 'Log on to www.rspnbhutan.org for Latest news, Membership forms, Project Reports, Newsletters, and Annual Reports.'