



*THE ROYAL SOCIETY
FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATURE*

ANNUAL REPORT
1995 - 96

RSPN Pub-9

RSSN-Pub-9

ANNUAL REPORT 1995-96



THE ROYAL SOCIETY
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

Dasha Yangay Thawey

Table of Contents

	Page No.
I. Message from the President	3
II. Executive Summary - Secretary General	4
III. About the Society	5
IV. RSPN Projects and Activities 1995-96	7
V. Institutional Support	9
VI. Environmental Education Program	10
VII. Training and Workshops	12
VIII. Public Awareness Program	13
IX. Communications and Publications	14
X. The Black Necked Crane Program	17
XI. RSPN participation and input	20
XII. Financial Report	21

THE ROYAL SOCIETY
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

A Message from the President

I am glad that the RSPN has successfully completed another year of commendable work. This annual report directly reflects the amount of work that a small institution can achieve. Furthermore, the scope of activities implemented in the given fiscal year shows that the RSPN has matured into an effective organisation that can undertake diverse projects.

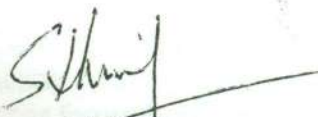
With the establishment of more than 30 functioning nature clubs around the country, RSPN has to a great extent achieved its goal of promoting environmental awareness among the public in general and the youth in particular. The RSPN has been successful in all its educational programmes in the formal sector. It is now envisaged that more thrust be given to the non-formal sector. To this effect the organisation has been involving the general public in its awareness campaigns.

Although RSPN has still to achieve its long-term goal of self-sustainability, a few projects mentioned in this report have been sustainable and these projects no longer require donor support.

On behalf of the RSPN I would like to sincerely thank the Mac Arthur Foundation - USA for providing institutional support to the RSPN. The RSPN has utilised this support as leverage to secure funds for its various projects. I would also like to thank the WWF-US for supporting the Conservation Education Program since its inception. The RSPN also owes a debt of gratitude to the SNV - Netherlands, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the UNDP, Save the Children/USA and various agencies and individuals for supporting the RSPN and its initiatives. The RSPN is also indebted to the Royal Government of Bhutan for allocating it with an office block from where it has been functioning until now.

Bhutan is blessed with a largely intact environment and under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty the King, is determined to keep it that way. The RSPN's role in this may be small and supportive but no less significant and may it continue to be so in the days to come.

Tashi Delek!



Dasho Sangay Thinley

Executive Summary by the Secretary General

The 1995 -1996 fiscal year was indeed a busy year for the Society. Apart from completing its KSP (publication programme) that was funded by the SNV it has ventured into new but familiar territory. The Society in collaboration with the NEC has initiated a water quality monitoring programme which will encompass all the major river systems in the country. Another new project that the RSPN is involved in collaboration with City Corporation, IECH Bureau, Education division and the NEC is the urban water supply and sewerage project. This programme is funded by Public Health Engineering and IECH. The RSPN's role in this project is to design guide books to promote better understanding of urban water supply and sewerage involving selected schools in five Dzongkhags. Both these project will be undertaken in the coming fiscal year.

The KSP project that brought much publicity to the RSPN with its various publications has completed its project period. All in all it has been a successful project as RSPN's environmental publications were distributed to all schools and institutions in the country, and was very popular amongst students. As the project developed RSPN's readership increased dramatically. However, with the culmination of this project the RSPN has to look for funds if it is to continue this important programme.

The SPIEC - Japan (Society for promoting intercultural education for children) that funded last years annual Crane count donated some equipment this year. The addition of a Video camera, cameras, mixers and a VCR deck has greatly improved the audio-visual units capability.

This Annual report provides a comprehensive insight into RSPN's activities for the year ended June 30th 1996. RSPN wishes to thank its donors, members and supporters for their generous assistance.



Kunzang Yonten

About the Society

The Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN) was established in 1986 under the Royal patronage of His Majesty, the King of Bhutan, who is a staunch advocate of bequeathing a clean and healthy Kingdom as a legacy for future generations.

The RSPN is the first Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Bhutan to exclusively concern itself with the environment. By virtue of its being a non-profit NGO, the RSPN must solicit funds from philanthropic societies to effectively function.

The principle objective of the Society is to raise the level of awareness on conservation issues both within the government and among the general public so as to enable the wise management of the rich natural heritage of Bhutan. In keeping with this goal, the society has been coordinating and developing activities to increase environmental consciousness among all levels of people and educate them about the hazards of biodegradation. In order to reach people from every walk of life; the Society has been actively involved with key organizations like the National Environment Commission (NEC), the Divisions of forestry and Education and the World Wildlife Fund.

Goals and Objectives

Goals:

1. To promote in the government and the public an awareness of and an active participation in the sustainable management of Bhutan's natural resources, and the protection and conservation of the rich biodiversity of Bhutan.
2. To encourage and instill in the public a sense of respect for the social, cultural, natural and religious values of the nation and to pursue active participation towards retaining this heritage.
3. To enable the self sustainability of the RSPN in the long run.

Objectives:

1. foster and encourage study and research, understanding and action relating to all phases of conservation of natural resources throughout Bhutan.

2. Act as a watch dog to government policies, and bring to the attention of the government environmental problems and where possible, assist in their solution.
3. Collect information from the concerned government/private agencies and nature clubs to serve the purpose of a data base resource center for environmental concerns.
4. Establish a resource center with a comprehensive collection of books, scientific papers, periodicals and other audio visual reference materials for students; members and the general public.
5. design, coordinate, and advance community involved environmental projects that contribute to the welfare of the present and the future generations.
6. coordinate and encourage activities, events and campaigns on days such as Earth day, World Environment day, Social Forestry day, etc..
7. develop an effective environment education program through the school curriculum and the community; to establish an effective network of nature clubs throughout Bhutan to create awareness about the environment and focus on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to work individually and collectively towards solution of current problems and prevention of new ones.
8. raise awareness and the involvement of the public by establishing a strong membership drive.
9. ensure that right communication strategy is adopted for target groups at all levels through strengthening of the communications unit.
10. acquire links with local, regional and international universities, scientists, aid agencies and government departments for technical program support and fund raising efforts.
11. raise funds both locally and internationally from aid agencies, members, donations and various strategic fund raising schemes.

What the RSPN does

- * training amateur naturalist
- * art and the environment projects
- * environmental campaigning
- * teacher training workshops
- * seminars/workshops
- * rural education and forestry schemes

- * environmental awareness camps
- * promoting school nature clubs
- * integrating environmental issues into the school curriculum
- * publications
- * public relations and membership
- * eco-tourism
- * films on nature
- * printed and visual reference facility
- * observance of environmental events



Training of Trainers - teachers participating in an ecological game

RSPN Projects and Activities - 1995 - 96 (at a glance)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

- ◆ Environmental Award Scheme
- ◆ Art and the environment competition
- ◆ Essay/Story/Poetry writing competition on environmental themes
- ◆ Financial support to nature clubs
- ◆ Technical support to nature clubs
- ◆ Field trip for nature club teachers to Manas
- ◆ Visit to nature clubs
- ◆ Award of best nature club
- ◆ Establishment of new nature club - Gasa
- ◆ Providing of reference books on various aspects of environment

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

- ◆ Study Tour to WWF-India, New Delhi
- ◆ Workshop on Asian NGO's combat on desertification, Pakistan
- ◆ Workshop for teacher trainees at TTC, Paro.
- ◆ Workshop for teacher trainees at NIE, Samtse
- ◆ Workshop for BFI trainees, Taba Thimphu
- ◆ Workshop for trainees at NRTI, Lobesa
- ◆ Workshop for nature club teachers at Manas
- ◆ Gups - environmental awareness program (Home Ministry)

PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

- ◆ Kuensel & BBS
- ◆ Clean up campaign - with City Corporation, NEC and Health
- ◆ Commemoration of World Environmental Events
- ◆ Library facilities - video and books for members
- ◆ Art exhibition

CITIZEN'S REPORT

- ◆ Compilation of information

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Membership drive
- ◆ Guide book for urban water and sewerage
- ◆ Rangzhin - a quarterly magazine
- ◆ Thrung Thrung Newsletter - Half yearly
- ◆ Brochure
- ◆ An environmental primer
- ◆ Flora/Fauna in a nutshell
- ◆ Annual Report
- ◆ Art and the Environment Calendar
- ◆ Report on the Fuelwood workshop
- ◆ Audio visual set-up

BLACK NECKED CRANE PROGRAM

- ◆ Annual Black necked crane count

NATURE CLUBS AND RESOURCE CENTER

- ◆ Establishment of new nature clubs - all Dzongkhags
- ◆ Financial and Technical support to the nature clubs
- ◆ Visits to schools to provide first hand professional guidance, support and
- ◆ monitor and evaluate the overall progress of the nature club activities

RSPN PARTICIPATION AND INPUT

- ◆ Bhutan Youth Development Association- Scout camps
- ◆ TAB - Environmental awareness input for trekking guides
- ◆ Clean up campaign of trekking routes along with TAB and tour agencies
- ◆ Gups - Environmental awareness education/input with Home Ministry
- ◆ Tree plantation project with social forestry unit, Forestry Services Division
- ◆ National Water Quality Monitoring Project with NEC

Description of projects/activities

The projects and activities listed in the previous pages would not have been possible if not for the institutional support received by the RSPN from The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation - a private, independent grantmaking institution dedicated to helping groups and individuals to improve the human condition - based in Chicago, USA.

The MacArthur Foundation has been funding the RSPN since 1992. The first grant of US\$ 105,000.00 was for a period of three years. It was envisaged then that the RSPN would achieve self sustainability after the grant period. The Society has been working towards this goal of achieving sustainability. However, insofar as public support by way of funding the RSPN goes, this goal is yet

Environment
Award
Scheme

**Institutional
Support**

Art and the
Environment

Financial and
technical
support to
nature clubs

to be realized and unlikely in the immediate future and the RSPN is still dependent on external agencies for its institutional support.

The causes for this are twofold: first, environmental issues are not of pressing urgency where the general Bhutanese public is concerned as the kingdom has largely retained its ecological balance. Second, the large majority of the people are illiterate, uneducated and unaware of the environmental repercussions of rapid development.

For these reasons, the RSPN will continue to depend on outside funding for the program it has undertaken with growing success to date and its self sustainability needs must remain a long term goal. On the other hand, the absence of such outside support will almost certainly terminate the well intentioned institution it has turned out to be.

At the moment the MacArthur Foundation has further granted an amount of US\$ 70,000.00 as institutional support for another three years beginning on July 1995. The RSPN has been using this grant as leverage to secure funding for its other projects and activities.

Environmental Education Program

The Environment Award Scheme was introduced in 1992 mainly to encourage students to participate in related projects. This scheme creates awareness, promotes understanding, exposes students to various issues and requires their participation and active involvement. Eight different themes have been identified to be implemented annually in a cycle of eight years. This will provide the RSPN a window through which to see changes, positive or negative, in peoples' attitude and the environment.

**Environment
Award
Scheme**

The theme for this year's Art and the Environment Competition is "*Urban Water Supply and Sewerage*". This particular theme has been selected to coincide with the introduction of the sewerage and the water billing systems in the urban centers of Thimphu and Phuntsholing. The main objective of the art and the environment project is to promote art as a means for the Bhutanese children to express their feelings and values in relationship with their natural surroundings.

**Art and the
Environment**

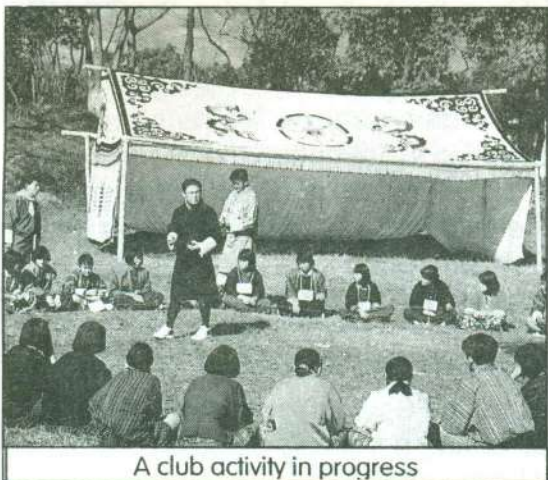
Financial support was provided to the nature clubs to run the club activities. Technical support was provided in the form of reference books and video cassettes on environment and visits by the Environment Education Officers to evaluate and guide the club activities.

**Financial and
technical
support to
nature clubs**

The RSPN has established nature clubs almost every District. At the initial stages of the nature clubs most activities carried out by these clubs were designed by the RSPN. In order for these clubs to become more meaningful the RSPN has been encouraging the clubs to design their own activities. An evaluation trip was made by the Education Officers to all the nature clubs between 1 - 15 November 1995. Although most activities, which were now carried out on their own initiatives, were found satisfactory the club teachers' lack of basic training on environmental education greatly limited their scope for carrying out diverse activities. For this reason most teachers expressed a need to have a basic training program on running a nature club during their vacation.

**Visit to
nature clubs**

In general, the head of the institutions, the teachers and the students demonstrated great interest and an increased sense of awareness about the environment. In fact the nature club was the most popular extra-curricula activity in most institutions.



A club activity in progress

In order to encourage and instill a sense of competition among the various nature clubs an award for the best nature club was introduced.

Tangmachu Junior High School was awarded the best nature club of 1994-95 and Wamrong Junior High School for 1995-96. The award was a

wall hanging with a endangered species found in Bhutan and the name of the award embroidered on it.

The RSPN, over the years, had established atleast one nature club in every district except Gasa. The Nature Conservation Section (NCS) of the Forestry Services Division had written a letter to the Headmaster of Gasa Primary School to form a nature club as part of their conservation awareness project in the Jigme Dorji National Park region. Meanwhile, the RSPN had also laid the foundations of setting up a nature club at Gasa by inviting the headmaster of the primary school there to attend a workshop organized for the nature club teachers in January 1996. In response to the letter from the NCS the headmaster while accepting their proposal had requested the RSPN for technical support to set up the club. Hence, a team from the RSPN made a

**New Nature
club, Gasa
April, '96**

trip to Gasa to set up the nature club with financial assistance from the NCS.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

**Workshop at
BFI August '95**

A three day workshop was organized at the Bhutan Forestry Institute, Taba for the 37th batch of Twenty three trainees. The workshop was aimed at explaining their role not only to safeguard the natural environment but also educators of the community.

**Study tour to
WWF - India
Dec '95 -**

The two Education Officers made a study tour to WWF - India to learn about their activities. The visit encouraged them to initiate similar activities in Bhutan.

**Conference
on Combating
desertification
Jan '96**

The Adm. assistant, Miss Karma Dema attended the Asian NGOs Conference on combating Desertification in Islamabad, Pakistan. The main objective of the conference was to develop a strategy for the involvement of NGOs in the National Action Programs to combat Desertification.

**Workshop for
nature club
teachers
Feb '96**

A workshop cum study tour was organized for the nature club teachers. After a day's workshop in Thimphu, the program was continued in the Manas National Park. This workshop was organized as a result of the evaluation visits made earlier by the Education Officers to the nature clubs. Besides the teachers, most RSPN staff also participated in this trip.

**GYT training
Program
Mar '96**

The RSPN made a slide presentation, talk and conducted different ecological games, for the Gewog Yargay Tsochung (GYT) members (village leaders) during a training program organized for them by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Workshop at
TTC, Paro
April, '96**

A three day workshop was organized at TTC, Paro for the final year trainees of the Zungkha teachers and Primary teachers from 4-6 April 1996. Eighty two trainees participated in the workshop. The aim of this workshop was to instill in the trainees the concept of ecology and environment and their role in its conservation.

**Workshop at
NRTi, Lobesa
May '96**

An Environmental Awareness Programme was conducted for the final year students of the Natural Resources Training Institute, Lobesa. There were sixty six participants representing the agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry sectors.

The Education Officers conducted a three workshop for the final year trainees of the National Institute of Education, Samtse. Seventy trainees attended the workshop. On their return the team also helped set up a nature club at Gedu Primary school.

**Workshop at
NIE, Samtse
June '96**

PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

Public awareness program included press releases and interviews to the Kuensel (national newspaper) and the Bhutan Broadcasting Service on news of environmental significance, like the arrival and departure of the Blacked necked cranes, the sighting of wild dogs, etc.

Press releases

The RSPN was also participated in the clean up campaign of the Thimphu city on the 7 April, 1996 organized by the National Environment Commission, the City Corporation and the Division of Health Services.

**Clean up
campaign
Apr. '96**

The RSPN commemorated the World Environment Day on the 5 June 1996 by writing a supplement in the 1 June issue of the Kuensel, the national newspaper.

**Commemoration
of
environmental
events**

BIOSPHERICAL BLUES

*Like a dust mote in a teeming sunbean,
Our planet in the milky way;
Insignificant though it may seem,
It's the only place to stay.*

*Mother Earth has many offspring:
Leafy, feathered and furred
And this bliss does man bring
Horrors beyond words.*

*Once a home to many a breed,
Now domain to predominant man,
Victim to his insatiable greed,
Ground to dust, smoke and sand.*

A
P
E
O
M
B
Y
T
H
E
R
S
P
N

The RSPN since its inception has been providing library and video facilities to students and members free of charge as part of its public awareness program.

**Library
facilities**

Communications and Publications

Membership Drive

In order to involve the local populace in the conservation initiatives of the RSPN, the Society has been writing to various individuals and institutions to enroll as members of the Society. Presently, the Society has twenty one individuals and a similar number of institutional members. Unfortunately, of the individual members only a handful of them are Bhutanese. As environmental issues at the moment are not of pressing urgency as far as the general Bhutanese are concerned and also as the concept of NGOs is relatively new, membership enrollment among the Bhutanese is negligible. Nonetheless in an effort to attract more Bhutanese members the RSPN is, presently, offering more facilities than what the membership fee can get and also a brochure on the RSPN has been produced to create greater awareness about the organization and its activities.

Publications *Rangzhin* & *Thrung Thrung*

The publications project, a three year undertaking, initiated in April 1993 recently ended in April 1996. The Project objectives as enunciated in the original proposal submitted by the RSPN to the Netherlands Development Agency (SNV) for funding are as follows:

- To create an opportunity for students, teachers and people to raise and share social and religious issues related to the environment.
- To extend the RSPN's environmental activities to different parts of the country.
- To generate a better understanding of the RSPN and its activities among the general public, government and donor agencies.

Insofar as the above objectives are concerned, the publications project has been well on course to achieving the same. Contributions, voluntary and otherwise, from the targeted groups all around the kingdom make up a significant portion of the journals' contents. The RSPN's environmental activities now receive due publicity and a better understanding of the organization's basic objectives has thus been achieved. The RSPN mailing list of those in receipt of its publications includes institutions of learning, government and donor agencies, environmental agencies worldwide and members at home and abroad.

The project activities may be summarized as below:

- ⇒ To publish two magazines, THRUNG THRUNG and RANGZHIN, for different target groups and an Annual Report constituting RSPN activities and financial statements.
- ⇒ To establish a mobile education unit to visit and spread the conservation message around the schools in other Dzongkhags (Districts).

With reference to the former, there have been, since the inception of the project, 7 ThrunG ThrunGs, 7 Rangzhins and 2 Annual Reports released to date. During this period, the RSPN has acquired, via an adjustment of the budget outlay, the equipment (computer, scanner and photocopier) necessary to render the unit self sufficient.

As regards the latter, the conservation education unit of the RSPN, in the course of their own project implementations, have undertaken countrywide tours and executed the activities of a mobile education unit. The communications unit, responsible for publications, had undertaken a tour in August 1993 in order to lay the foundation of a stringer-network, which formed the basis of the wider nature-club-in-charge network set up by the RSPN. Also, a film entitled "Mass participation towards nature conservation" has been produced, its budget being appropriated from the balance left over from other budget heads.

Some of the **positive results** accrued from this project include:

- * Contribution of articles from people in all walks of life, some voluntary, but mostly through the two Earth Day writing competitions held.
- * A network of environmental stringers in every Dzongkhag in the kingdom.
- * A mailing list and thereby a circulation both widespread and diverse.
- * A platform to publicize the RSPN and conservation messages and issues.
- * An increase in membership and an impetus to membership drives.
- * The wherewithal to publish a brochure, a poster, a video film and two booklets

**Outcome of
the
Publications
Project**

As publications represent a brand new venture for the RSPN practically every aspect of the task from conceptualization, to circulation was a new experience.

The occasional input from professionals is as revealing as are the ingenuous perceptions of children. Interviews with environmentally related individuals and news from our far flung stringers furnish novel insights into burning issues. Research, albeit superficial, into disciplines from as far afield as agriculture to zoology and everything in between forms a necessary part of the production of ecological journals.

Sustainability, an unwritten long term goal of the project is likely to remain one for the immediate future. Most of the issues are distributed gratis and the few that have been placed on sale in the local book stalls have enjoyed nominal sales and that too at subsidized rates. But one is optimistic that as awareness (another long term goal) increases, so will sales. Also, the purchase of the equipment mentioned earlier provides the basis to sustain the project.

Art And the Environment Calendar

The selected paintings from the annual Art and the Environment Competition was used for the production of calendars. The main aim of this venture, besides providing an avenue for the maximum exposure for both the artwork and the messages accompanying them, was to provide a pump-primer funding for the promotion of the project itself. Insofar as this is concerned this undertaking has achieved its goal. The project is now self sustaining and the production of future calendars do not require any external monetary assistance. The 1996 calendar



An entry from the 1996 Art & the Environment Calendar

was on the theme **Forest Management**. The paintings used were selected from the 1993 entries on the theme *fuelwood* and the ones from the painting competition held in 1994 to celebrate the ICIMOD anniversary on the theme *Our Mountains*.

The report on the fuelwood workshop held on the 5 June 1995 has been published in the form of a booklet for wider circulation. Translation work is presently going on to produce this booklet in Dzongkha, the national language so that this pressing issue of fuelwood consumption can be addressed even further.

**Report on the
Fuelwood
Workshop**

The Education unit of the RSPN has produced an education package on the Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Project which is currently under implementation. This package aims at creating awareness on the proper utilization of the sewerage system recently developed in the urban centers of Thimphu and Phuntsoling.

**Urban Water
Supply &
Sewerage
Project
Guidebook**

The RSPN has also published two booklets viz., Flora / Fauna in a Nutshell and An Environmental Primer (The ABC of Ecology). The first booklet aims to make the people, especially the young, aware of the richness of the nature that exists within our frontiers and thereby prompt their commitment to its conservation. The printing of this booklet was funded by the WWF - Bhutan Program. The second one, seeks to present in simple language and within a pleasing layout the basics of the subject, and to familiarize the reader with the jargon of ecology and bring to the layman's level the concepts and values otherwise restricted to the ivory towers of theoreticians. The printing costs of 500 copies of this booklet was borne by the UNICEF and another 500 copies by the Fanny and Leo Koerner Charitable Trust/Save the children/USA.

**Flora/Fauna in
a nutshell
&
An
Environmental
Primer**

In January 1996 SPIEC - Japan donated the RSPN a camcorder (video camera), a video editing machine and a video deck. With the acquirement of these the RSPN is now in a position to produce simple visual programs and also keep a visual record of its activities.

**Audio-visual
setup**

THE BLACKED NECKED CRANE PROGRAM

The counting and monitoring of the Blacked -Necked Crane is an annual undertaking of the RSPN. It has been felt necessary as Bhutan is one of the very few places in the world where this endangered species is known to roost in winter. There are three main areas in the country, Phobjikha, Bomdeling and Bumthang, to which the cranes migrate in the cold season. Towards this goal, the Society has employed two caretakers at their two largest concentration points in the kingdom, at Bomdeling and Phobjikha.

Introduction

The Black-necked crane project is one of the first projects undertaken by the RSPN. Owing to the unstinted efforts of the RSPN towards the conservation of the Black-necked crane and its habitat in Bhutan, the cranes have become one of the most popular bird in Bhutan, today. In fact the RSPN has become synonymous with the cranes and



few will talk of the cranes without referring to the RSPN or vice-versa. In appreciation of its efforts and the growing confidence in the RSPN with regard to the crane conservation program the Deputy Minister for the National Environment Commission, in April 1996, issued a letter to the International Crane Foundation declaring RSPN as the sole organization responsible for the monitoring of the Black-necked cranes in Bhutan. Any donor or International activity to do with these birds in Bhutan would now have to be routed through the RSPN.

**Phobjikha
&
Khotokha**

The counting of the Black-necked cranes at Phobjikha was undertaken by the Program and the Communications Officers. The first cranes to arrive at Phobjikha for the season was a group of 15 on the 26 October 1995. In 1994 the first batch of arrival took place on the 23 October and consisted of just two cranes. A total of 212 cranes wintered in the Phobjikha valley during the winter of 1995-96, an increase 4 as compared to the 1994-95 winter. However in Khotokha only 13 cranes arrived there, 3 less than the previous winter.

Bomdeling

The cranes started departing for their summer habitat on the 16 March 1996. By the 21 March all the cranes departed Phobjikha save one. This solitary cranes, which was probably old or sick died sometime during the first week of April 1996.

In Bomdeling, Trashi Yangtse, the other major roosting area a total of 144 cranes were counted of which 21 were juveniles. In the 1994-95 winter a total of 177 cranes had wintered at Bomdeling which indicates a sharp decline of 33 in the number of cranes arriving there during the 1995-96 season. This moving decrease may be attributed to the flash flood that occurred in the previous year washing away a part of the feeding area of the

cranes. Comparing to the cranes wintering at Phobjikha the ones at Bomdeling arrive around a week late but start departing for their summer habitats about a month earlier. (Note Phobjikha is almost a thousand meters higher than Bomdeling).



Black - necked Cranes at their roosting area in Bomdeling

Owing to heavy snowfall at the time of counting the cranes in Bumthang a detailed survey was not possible. The few cranes seen in Bumthang roost in small separate family groups. Because of the small number of cranes wintering there and the lack of resources the RSPN has not been able to appoint a caretaker there. There are two roosting areas in Bumthang, viz., Gyetsa and Thangbi. Seven cranes have been observed at Gyetsa and 10 at Thangbi.

Bumthang

The total number of black-necked cranes wintering in Bhutan during the 1995-96 winter was approximately 386 as compared to 425 the previous winter. This decrease though not so dramatic is nevertheless a matter of concern. The RSPN will be eagerly awaiting the return of the cranes in the forthcoming winter to see if the decrease in the number of cranes is continuing. This is the first instance of a decrease in the number of cranes wintering in Bhutan ever since the RSPN had started the counting and the monitoring the cranes.

Conclusion

RSPN PARTICIPATION AND INPUT

Youth Camp

Mr. Mincha Wangdi, Education Officer, participated as a resource personnel in the annual youth camp organized by the Bhutan Youth Development Association (BYDA). Conservation games and activities to demonstrate the food chain, food web, the ecological balance and environmental issues were organized.

Environmental Awareness talk to trekking guides

An environmental awareness talk was made by the RSPN to the trekking guides during a training program organized for them by the Tourism Authority of Bhutan. The talk included tips on eco-trekking and the role of the trekking guides in checking the adverse effects of tourism.

Clean - up Campaign

The RSPN also participated in the clean up campaign of the trekking routes along with the Tourism Authority of Bhutan and the local tours agencies.



National Water Quality Monitoring Project.

In August, 1995 the RSPN and the National Environmental Commission held a series of meetings on the development of a national project on National Water Quality Monitoring in Bhutan. The RSPN had been given the task of drawing up of a proposal for the same. An outline was submitted as the technical details and the field level information was not available. Therefore, the RSPN suggested that it would be wiser to conduct a nationwide tour to gather information and explore technical expertise within the country such as the Sherubtse College, Kanglung. The proposal was approved and a tour undertaken in two phases by Mr. lam Dorji, RSPN and Mr. Karma Loday of the NEC. The aim of which was to:

- gather information on the existing laboratory facilities in various districts. Given the facilities, whether the concerned laborites were willing to cooperate or not.
- Identify technical expertise and contact points/addresses for the required expertise. Hold talks with the Sherubtse College Principal and the Science faculty on their potential and extent to which they can contribute to the project.
- identify an appropriate location of the sampling stations.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 30 June 1996

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT NU.	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT NU.
GRANTS		GRANTS	
1. Institutional Support	938,100.00	1. Institutional Support	909,529.08
2. Conservation Edn.	465,250.00	a) Deficit balance due to change of Fiscal year 1994-1995	115,479.56
3. Env. Edn. in Bhutan	410,596.85	2. Conservation Edn.	460,952.00
4. BNC & Other Projects	243,009.80	a) Deficit balance due to change of Fiscal year 1994-1995	4,298.00
5. Fuel Wood Workshop	55,606.00	3. Env. Edn. in Bhutan	410,596.85
6. Art & Environment	164,000.00	4. BNC & Other Projects	234,394.97
7. Water Quality Monitoring	26,525.00	5. Fuel Wood Workshop	20,404.50
8. Educational Resources	36,760.00	6. Art & Environment	138,196.82
9. Capacity Building	74,340.00	7. Water Quality Monitoring	26,525.00
10. Know your Plants/ Animals	45,000.00	8. Educational Resources	36,760.00
OTHERS		9. Capacity Building	73,371.70
1. Membership	41,217.00	OTHERS	
2. Contingency	228,553.22	1. Membership	4,050.00
3. Photocopying	127,379.00	2. Contingency	186,521.90
4. Art & Environment	130,321.75	3. Photocopy maintenance	19,940.00
5. Eco-Tourism	18,535.00	4. Farming Matters (Deficit)	2,042.58
		ADVANCES	169,124.13
		SUSPENSE	35,865.10
		CLOSING BALANCE	
		a) Cash	8,554.70
		b) Bank	148,586.73
	3,005,193.62		3,005,193.62

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
as on 30.06.1996

Sl.	PROJECTS	AMOUNT	DONOR
I -	RSPN INSTITUTIONAL		Mac Arthur
	SUPPORT		Foundation - US
1	Salary	557058.45	
2	Provident Fund	51149.30	
3	Vehicle maintenance	123400.00	
4	Telephone / Fax	60691.33	
5	Furniture	15425.00	
6	Office Supplies	30850.00	
7	BNC Winter count	15425.00	
8	Postage Expenses	9255.00	
9	Promotion & Advertisement	15425.00	
10	Operation & maintenance	30850.00	
	Total	909529.08	
II -	CONSERVATION EDN.		WWF - Bhutan
1	STRENGTHENING NATURE		Program
	CLUBS		
a.	Financial Support to NC	30000.00	
b.	NC & project guide book - printing and designing	20000.00	
c.	Visit to NC Schools	30000.00	
d.	Purchase & production of resource materials - Video	22320.00	
e.	Purchase & production of resource materials - Books	94559.72	
f.	Award for the best Nc school of the year	4000.00	
g.	Development of interpretation center at NIE	15000.00	
2	AWARENESS WORKSHOPS		
a.	Teacher Training Center, Paro	14000.00	
b.	Bhutan Forestry Institute , Taba	6000.00	
c.	National Institute Educatioe, Samtse	26000.00	
d.	Natural Resource Training Institute, Lobesa	10000.00	
e.	Royal Institute of Management Thimphu	2000.00	
f.	Royal Institute of Health Sciences, Thimphu	2000.00	

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
as on 30.06.1996

3	TRAINING, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS INSIDE/ OUTSIDE COUNTRY		
a.	Workshop for NC teachers	80000.00	
b.	Training Workshop for EO's outside the country	60000.00	
c.	Study visit for best Nc teachers	20000.00	
4	YOUTH TRAINING/ MEDIA		
a.	Youth training/ Non-formal program	10000.00	
b.	Radio program/ Kuensel	5000.00	
c.	Painting competition	10072.28	
	Total	460952.00	
III -	ENVIRONMENTAL EDN. IN BHUTAN		SNV- Netherlands
1	Salary	114840.00	
2	Provident Fund	7750.00	
3	Edn. operating/ Fuel & misc..	8168.66	
4	Purchase of slides/ Video tapes/furniture	5000.00	
5	Contingency	8260.30	
6	Annual Report	20000.00	
7	Thrung Thrung Newsletter	54120.00	
8	Rangzhin Magazine	192457.89	
	Total	410596.85	
IV -	BNC & OTHER PROJECTS		SPIEC - Japan
1	Telephone/ Fax	11696.00	
2	Miscellaneous	138.84	
3	Plantation Project	218890.13	
4	Mats	2520.00	
5	Hand Gloves	1150.00	
	Total	234394.97	
V -	FUELWOOD WORKSHOP		NEC- RGOB
1	Publication of workshop outcome & proceedings	19050.00	
2	Stationery	1354.50	
	Total	20404.50	

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

as on 30.06.1996

VI -	ART & ENVIRONMENT		GTZ
1	Telephone / Fax	1297.02	
2	Advertisement	1270.00	
3	Printing	116400.00	
4	Vehicle Hire	1229.80	
5	Printing of Envelopes	18000.00	
	Total	138196.82	
VII -	WATER QUALITY MONITORING		NEC-RGOB
1	DSA	11475.00	
2	Vehicle Hire	15050.00	
	Total	26525.00	
III -	EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES		WWF - Bhutan Program
1	Educational Resources- Books	36760.00	
	Total	36760.00	
IX -	CAPACITY BUILDING		WWF - Switzerland
1	Computer	73000.00	
2	Bank Charges	371.70	
	Total	73371.70	
X -	MEMBERSHIP		
1	Miscellaneous Expenses	4050.00	
	Total	4050.00	
XI -	CONTINGENCY		
1	Painting Competition	420.00	
2	Office repair & maintenance	30000.00	
3	Salary	6723.00	
4	Miscellaneous	6002.00	
5	Video Cassettes	673.00	
6	Staff Welfare	10000.00	
7	Illustration	500.00	
8	Overtime Wages	900.00	
9	Food, beverages & Catering	57239.40	
10	Dust bins	273.50	
11	Entry Fee	9000.00	
12	Incentives	51210.00	
12	Miscellaneous	13581.00	
	Total	186521.90	
IX -	PHOTOCOPY MACHINE		
1	Annual maintenance costs	11940.00	
2	Donation to BFI	8000.00	
	Total	19940.00	
	GRAND TOTAL Nu.	2521242.82	