

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION
OF NATURE

ANNUAL REPORT '99

RSPN ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1998-JUNE 1999



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FOREWORD

It gives me immense gratification to write these prefatory remarks in the RSPN Annual Report (1998-99). The Royal Society for the Protection of Nature has come a long way since its establishment in 1987. During the initial phase of its inception, RSPN had limited staff, no external funding and operated from the residence of the then President. It devoted its attention entirely to the monitoring, counting and protecting of endangered species, specially the Black Necked Cranes, so much so that the society has almost become synonymous in Bhutan with these magnificent birds.

Over the years, the society has ventured on to other conservation activities such as Environment Education programs, advocacy programs, an ICDP project etc, though the Black Necked Cranes still hold a significant place in the action plan every year. Twelve years have passed since the establishment of this society, and it is remarkable to observe how such a small institution has achieved so much. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of various National and International organizations viz. The MacArthur Foundation, WWF US/Bhutan Program, International Crane Foundation, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, JICA, SPIEC, SNV, GEF/SGP, UNDP, UNICEF, International Snow Leopard Trust, Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation and the Royal Government of Bhutan.

I am very pleased to inform you that the last fiscal year 1998-99 turned out to be yet another chapter of achievement for RSPN. In August 1998, His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, Dasho Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, granted his consent to become the Royal Patron of the Society. To add to this blessing, RSPN was granted institutional support by the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation for a five-year period starting from 1st July 1998 till 30th June 2003. These fortunate developments have been a source of great inspiration for the board and staff and have empowered the society with a strong base and a promising future for its conservation efforts in the Kingdom. Another notable accomplishment was the development of a strategic plan for RSPN, which had long been felt imperative, especially after the attainment of NGO status in 1997.

The new millenium brings new challenges for RSPN, the foremost being its goal towards self-sustainability. The society, with a membership strength of seventeen hundred, has already embarked on development of a fundraising strategy. Presently, the majority of the Bhutanese are environmentally illiterate since the Kingdom's environment is largely intact. Therefore, in the preliminary stage of the fundraising venture, environment education will have to play a major role in raising awareness about growing environmental concerns.

The silver jubilee year of our Majesty's glorious reign has indeed been a blessed year for RSPN. Under his enlightened leadership, RSPN in close collaboration with the Royal Government, hopes to ensure that Bhutan, in the future, will remain the model nation that it is today.

Dasho Sangay Thinley,
President.

INTRODUCTION



The Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN) was established in 1987 as the first and the only non-governmental organization (NGO) to exclusively concern itself with environmental conservation and its related issues.

MISSION

The mission of an organization is in fact the reason for its existence. Although the core business of RSPN is the protection of nature as indicated by its name, the reasons for its existence go beyond that. Each of these reasons has been carefully taken into consideration in the formulation of RSPN's mission statement.

RSPN aspires to be an organization that will lead by example (inspire). Being a citizen based organization, it will work toward involving the people both individually and collectively in the conservation of the Kingdom's environmental heritage. This heritage, cultural and religious traditions support preservation of the natural resources. The organization also envisages becoming a leading provider of information on the environment of Bhutan. This will be augmented through conduct of applied research in selected areas. RSPN will not operate in isolation but will work in partnership with relevant institutions and social organizations ranging from government agencies to student clubs.

It is intended that the essence of the organization as explained above, be captured in the following mission statement.

Mission Statement of RSPN:

To inspire personal responsibility and actively involve the people of Bhutan in the conservation of the Kingdom's environment through education, applied research and information dissemination; and collaboration with concerned agencies and indigenous institutions.

RSPN's secretariat and Board have carefully considered how they will relate to members, the general public, organizational partners and the Royal Government. These have been outlined in a set of guiding principles that will serve as a reminder of the

values the members of RSPN staff, Board and members will abide by in the conduct of the organization's activities.

The guiding principles of RSPN are:

- *Respect Tsa-wa-sum*
- *Recognize and draw strengths from Bhutanese culture*
- *Be totally committed to conservation goals*
- *Be accountable and transparent*
- *Be flexible and responsive to the public's environmental concerns*

Program Priorities and Objectives

RSPN intends to be a value-added and self-sustaining organization, meaning its goals go beyond the self-interest of the organization. Once specific programs have been instituted or usable models developed, RSPN intends to delegate responsibility for ongoing implementation and replication to other appropriate institutions or local groups.

RSPN's goals are to:

1. Become a catalyst in promoting positive attitudes and self-sustaining citizens' action to conserve Bhutan's rich environmental heritage.
2. Become an efficient, effective, and financially self-reliant conservation organization
3. Become a major resource for information on Bhutan's environment.

The following programmatic five-year objectives support the above mentioned goals.

1. Establish self-sustaining Nature Clubs in 50% of the Kingdom's schools
2. Establish pilot religion and environment program
3. Establish in-house environmental education training programs in all training institutions.
4. Establish model ICDP in Black Necked Crane habitats.
5. Establish model self-sustaining citizen involvement program for urban solid waste management.
6. Establish dynamic and effective management and governance.
7. Obtain at least three thousand (3000) members by 2004.
8. Create at least one million dollar reserve by 2004
9. Develop resource center for information on Bhutan's environment
10. Create forum for discussion on environmental issues
11. Establish national database for avifauna.

TECHNICAL REPORT

ACTIVITY UPDATE FY 98-99

Institutional Support from BTF

The 1998 fiscal year began on a very positive note for RSPN. The Bhutan Trust for Environment Conservation (BTFEC) agreed to grant institutional support to RSPN for a five year period starting from 1st July 1998 till 30th June 2003. The BTFEC was established in 1991 by the Royal Government in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US) in order to provide a long term guarantee of funding for conservation programs in Bhutan. The grant has been divided into two phases: the first phase from July 1998 to June 2001 and the second phase from July 2001 to June 2003.

The support from BTFEC enabled the Society to procure new computers, a printer and a fax machine, and set up a local area network (LAN) in the office. An EPABX system, which had long been felt necessary, could also be installed. Furthermore, some new furniture which became a requirement after the relocation of the RSPN office, could also be purchased. This remarkable enhancement in the office infrastructure has greatly lubricated the activities of the Society.

Royal Patronage

The month of August '98 hosted an epochal event for RSPN. His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, Dasho Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, granted his royal consent to become the Patron of the Society.

In a visit to the RSPN office, His Royal Highness met the President, Vice President and the staff. He expressed his concern for the environment and emphasized the role of environment education and youth in Bhutan's conservation efforts.



The Royal Patron with RSPN Staff

The Royal Patronage has greatly ameliorated the status of the Society and has been a source of inspiration to the Board and staff of RSPN.

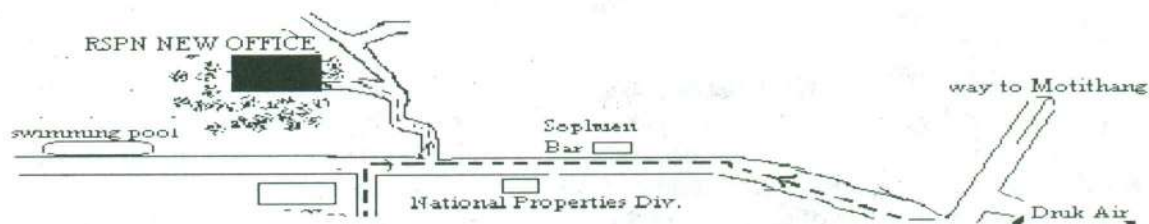
Strategic Plan Development

The need for a well-defined strategic plan had long been felt necessary by the Society. When the Royal Government legally recognized RSPN as a non-profit organization under the Companies Act in 1997, this need became even more imperative. Hence, with assistance from the WWF-Bhutan Program, a strategic plan workshop was organized in October 1998. With Dr. Judith Brown, a distinguished American consultant as the facilitator, various stakeholders including the BTFEC, NEC, WWF, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation Section(FSD), Thimphu City Corporation, Jigme Dorji National Park, Bhutan National Bank, RSPN Board of Directors, members and the staff participated and contributed to the development of a five year strategic plan for RSPN. This workshop identified RSPN's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the context of present and future. Based on the experiences of the past, potentials and opportunities in the future, the strategic plan includes a revised RSPN mission, guiding principles, goals and objectives, and a vision of the kind of organization it aspires to be. Much of its plans and programs are developed with the strategic plan as the base.

The draft plan was presented for the Board's input in another workshop. The Five-year Strategic Plan now in place was presented to a WWF-US delegation led by its President, Ms. Kathryn Fuller, during their visit to Bhutan in December.

RSPN Office Moved

RSPN shifted its office quarters to the lower Changangkha area, in the traditional bungalow of Lyonpo D. Tshering, the former Minister of Finance.



Conservation and Development Unit

Integrated Black Necked Crane Conservation and Development Project (ICDP), Phobjikha

On 31st December 1998, RSPN became the first recipient of the GEF Small Grants Program, when the UNDP approved a grant of US \$ 42,281 for an Integrated Black Necked Crane Conservation and Development Program at Phobjikha. Under this project, the first of its kind in Bhutan, RSPN will be facilitating community-based activities that addresses conservation as well as local economic needs.

Nakechhu River, Phobjikha



The Conservation and Development requirement of this project will be addressed through the following project components:

1. *Community Organization and Development Component:*

Establishment of committees comprising community representatives for local management of the project to facilitate people's participation. To create an ICDP plan from a survey carried out by RSPN and the communities.

2. *Eco-tourism Development Component:*

Development of locally managed Eco-tourism through the development of facilities such as nature trails, bird walks, construction of crane observation and education center.

3. *Research and Conservation component:*

Scientific research on Black-necked Cranes and their migratory routes for possible Trans-boundary conservation programs (e.g. bird banding); research on land use and cropping pattern; natural resource conservation activities (e.g. social forestry).

4. *Energy Component:*

To encourage use of sustainable energy sources to reduce fuel wood consumption. To include provision of subsidized solar water heaters, solar electricity, improved house insulation, improved stove design etc.

5. *Agricultural Development:*

To promote agricultural practices that enhance the welfare of the Black-necked Cranes as well as that of the people.

Accomplishments till date.....

The project got under way with basic establishment activities such as building strong relationships with the local people and Dzongkhag Administration; introducing the project concepts and winning the people's support for their participation in both conservation and development activities. Since the start of this project, much progress has been made and are explained below:

Activities in FY 98-99:

- ❖ The Dzongkhag administration and the local people have been familiarised with the project idea and their endorsements have been sought. A series of meetings have been held by RSPN with the local representatives.

- ❖ A committee comprising of various representatives of the villages and Geogs in the Phobjikha valley has been formed. The committee is called PCAP (Phobjikha



PCAP Committee members

Conservation Area Programme) Committee. Several meetings have been held so far including two quarterly meetings. Since this committee encompasses representatives from all Geogs within the valley, coordination will be enhanced. A Terms of Reference has been developed for the PCAP Committee and the same is being translated into Dzongkha for easy understanding by the committee members.

- ❖ With the implementation of the WWF funded *Women in Environment* component, two women, Mrs. Sangay Dem and Mrs. Pem, were the first women to be represented on the PCAP committee. With this, women have been included in the decision-making processes of the committee.
- ❖ RSPN in consultation with the committee and considering the issues discussed in the PCAP meetings, proposals for other ICDP components have been developed.
 - Women in Environment Program
 - Facilities for Observation and Education Center
 - Eco tourism

The Women in Environment Program component of ICDP took off sooner than expected when the WWF agreed to grant Nu. 5,04,000 for its initiation.

The project objectives and activities are:

- ◆ To form women's groups under the different geogs (blocks) especially Phobji and Gangtey geogs.
- ◆ To initiate different income generating and conservation activities for the women groups.
- ◆ To build the capacity of women to carry out income generating and conservation activities.
- ◆ To create a revolving fund to facilitate introduction at household level

The project officially took wings with the inauguration of a Weaving Program for Women, coinciding with the silver jubilee celebrations of His Majesty's Coronation. Two experienced weavers were hired from Pema Gatshel to impart weaving training. A revolving fund has been established whereby twenty-six women (twelve from Phobjikha, ten from Gangtey and four from Bjena village) have been provided credit facility to enable them to meet the start up cost for the venture. Under this scheme, the PCAP (Phobjikha Conservation Area Program) committee, with assistance from RSPN, will be responsible in ensuring timely repayment so that the facility can be extended to more households. The weavers will be putting up their first products for sale at the Crane Festival in November 1999.



The weavers with RSPN personnel

- ❖ The drawings for the Observation and Education Center have been completed and minor changes if required will be made and finalized.
- ❖ The ICDP survey is ongoing. The survey will cover the following aspects:
 - Biodiversity
 - Ecosystem
 - Plants
 - Animals/ Birds
 - Social/ Cultural and Traditional aspects
Although some information have already been collected, traditional resource utilization institutions, oral information, beliefs, legends related to Phobjikha valley are being recorded.
 - Land Use Pattern
 - Demarcation of Crane habitat

The biodiversity survey was conducted from 17 May 1999 to 22 June 1999 by Mrs. Rebecca Pradhan (Botanist), Mr. Tandin Wangdi (Plant Taxonomist) and Mr. Lhab Dorji, Forest Guard (Black Mountains National Park)

Sixty plots around the valley were sampled for vegetation study. The survey resulted in the categorization of five different types of vegetation, viz. Pure Blue Pine forest, Blue Pine mixed with Rhododendron Forest, Mixed coniferous forest, Dry Grassland and Marsh Grassland.

- ❖ Nature trails have been identified and the community people are actively involved in the construction of Nature trails. The committee decision categorized community contributions to building the trails into two:

1. Trails that already exist: The broadening and maintenance of existing trails will be carried out by the people with daily wage of Nu. 50 without food. Normally daily wage in Bhutanese villages are provided with food for that day. The value of food provided is not considered as part of the wage. However, daily wage for work without providing food are much higher. Existing wage rate is between Nu. 70 – 80 with food.
2. New trails: Trails that have been newly identified will be constructed by the local people at a daily wage of Nu. 100 without food.

Three nature trails have been identified so far and are tentatively named as :

Gangtey Nature Trail: extending from Gangtey Gompa through the forest down into the valley. The trail further diverges into three, one towards north, another across to the western side of the valley and the third one extending down south on the eastern side of the valley to the school.

Community participation in nature trail development in the Phobjikha valley



Tshelela trail : leading to Tshelela pass at an altitude of 3400 m.asl. which finally leads to Gogona. This trail is beneficial both in terms of use by the local people and tourists.

Kilkhorthang Trail: This trail is located in between the upper and lower valleys of Phobjikha and extends from Kilkhorthang on the eastern side and crosses the main river over to the other side of the valley.

Work on the first two trails have already been initiated and nearing completion. Wooden bridges have been built over rivers, streams and marshy areas. Signboards and other necessary directions will be put up soon.

Table 1 Progress made against indicators:

Activity No.	Progress against Indicator	Remarks
1.	PCAP committee is represented by village and sector heads and meetings have been held.	
2.	Community management document partially completed.	Translation is under progress.
3.	PCAP committee is the central coordination mechanism. The system is further being developed. People are not fully acquainted to decision making processes and bearing responsibilities. Only few activities have not been completed in time.	It is a slow process.
4.	ICDP survey partially completed and surveys for some aspects are ongoing. Community people are more cooperative in providing reliable and true information.	
5.	Eco-tourism Workshop, yet to be implemented.	Proposed for postponement time frame. (December)
6.	Eco-tourism management plan awaits the Eco-tourism workshop.	
7.	Annual Crane Festival to be held on 12 Nov. 1999. Tour companies already notified about program and date.	
8.	Three Nature trails identified and constructed.	
9.	Construction of viewing shelter pending as it is a community contribution and people suggest need for some funds	Proposed for re appropriation of budget for Solar light to partial labor and material payments.

10.	Photographers hide not yet constructed due to lack of expert ideas. Information and suggestions are being solicited from International Crane Foundation.	
11.	Drawing for Crane observation and Education Center is already complete. Proposal for facilities inside the center has been developed.	

The project with its balanced approach to conservation and development has generated a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the residents of Phobjikha. With benefits emanating from the project, people are beginning to be more participatory in the project activities and hence are beginning to see conservation as the basis for their future prosperity. Another important accomplishment is the establishment of the PCAP community committee, which has given the community a sense of ownership for the various project activities. Although, in the beginning, the local people were little skeptical about the project, they are now seeing it positively as they are involved in decision making and implementation of project activities.

Crane festival

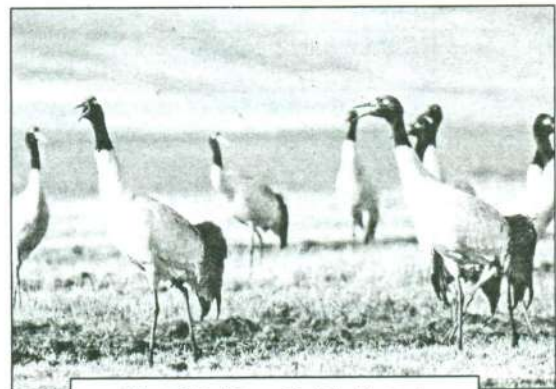
On the 12th of November 1998, RSPN in collaboration with the community and the Primary School of Phobjikha successfully organized the first ever Crane festival in Bhutan. Masked and folk dances by the communities of Gangtey and Phobji and various cultural activities by the students of the primary school added very much to the gaiety of the festival. The student artists of Voluntary Artist Studio Thimphu (VAST) also organized an art exhibition especially on the cranes. It had been quite a few days since the "chief guests" of the festival, the Black Necked Cranes, had arrived, and they provided a very enchanting atmosphere to the whole festival.

RSPN hosted a lunch for more than four thousand local people who attended the festival. Dozens of international tourists as well as guests from the International Crane Foundation including Mr. Robert Welch, the Senator of Wisconsin, USA, were also present to experience this maiden carnival of the cranes.

The festival is intended to help boost the local economy of Phobjikha as well as promote the conservation of cranes and our cultural heritage. Owing to the immense success of the festival, it has been decided that the festival will become an annual feature, on 12th November, coinciding with the birth anniversary of our beloved King.



Guests from the International Crane Foundation



The "Chief Guests" of the festival

Environment Education Unit



The Environment Education Unit (EEU) has been through several changes and programs in the past few years, but the one thing that has remained unchanged is its packed schedule. The last fiscal year (1998-99) was no different. In addition to the regular annual activities, a major accomplishment of the EEU this year was the affiliation of more than 40 school Nature clubs to RSPN. The EEU is supported mainly by the Keidanren Nature

Conservation Fund (KNCF), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-UK), WWF-Bhutan Program and the UNICEF.

Nature Club Evaluation Tour

An evaluation tour to nature clubs throughout the country was conducted to assess RSPN activities in Nature clubs. The outcome of the tour has been considered in framing the 1999 conservation education programs.

Training Program for Teachers

A weeklong training workshop was organized in Gelephug from 30th Jan.- 6th Feb. '99 for a group of eighteen teachers from schools located in the Jigme Dorji National Park and the Royal Manas National Park. The program focused on increasing the teachers knowledge on environmental education, environmental issues and policies of protected areas system in Bhutan and enhancing their skills in managing environmental activities in their schools. During the training program, a field trip to the Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary was organized to acquaint participants with how nature could be best employed in promoting biodiversity education. The teachers also developed an action plan for nature club activities to be implemented in their schools.

EE Program for RMNP Staff

An environment education program was organised for the RMNP staff at Manas on 28th and 29th April. The aim of the program was to enhance the level of understanding of the park staff on environmental problems, RMNP management plans, policies and ecology. It also focused on developing basic communication skills of the staff in dealing with the local communities. Mr. Mincha Wangdi, the EEO of RSPN, who conducted the whole program, found it quite difficult to decide on the medium of instruction since the forty-one staff members participating in the program belonged to different backgrounds (eg. Retired RBG, Boatmen, Mahout, forest guards of Sarchogpa, Ngalongpa, Khengpa, Lhotshampa and Indian origin etc.) He highlighted on the different roles and responsibilities the national park staff should have in the management of the park. A full session was dedicated on the facts and figures of RMNP, its total area, number of species of trees, plants, birds and animals for the benefit of the staff. In an attempt to make the program more interesting and effective, environmental games and informal debates were organised for the RMNP crew. A verbal feedback session indicated that the whole exercise had been quite fruitful for the staff, especially regarding their roles, responsibilities and communication skills when dealing with the community.

Best Nature Club of 1998

The RTI Nature Club of the Royal Technical Institute, Kharbandi was adjudged the best Nature Club of 1998 in recognition of the efforts made by the faculty and students towards conservation. As an award, RSPN provided them a weeklong camping program at Manas from 30th Jan to 6th Feb 1999. It was also an opportunity to facilitate discussions on a wide range of issues such as emerging environmental problems, policies of protected area system in Bhutan, biodiversity education of RMNP, development of a Nature Club Action Plan for 1999 etc. A total of eighteen students and four teachers attended the camp.

EE Workshop-I



Participants of the workshop

The Environment Education Unit, Curriculum and Professional Support Section of the Education Division with assistance from RSPN organized a national level environmental education workshop at the Royal Technical Institute, Kharbandi from the 11th to the 23rd of January. A total of twenty-nine teachers from schools around the Kingdom attended. The EEO of RSPN, Mr. Mincha Wangdi, was one of the resource persons. In order to sensitize the participants to actual environmental problems, a field trip was arranged to some of the

industrial sites and pollution prone areas in Phuentsholing. An additional field visit was conducted to the nearby Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary in India to give the participants an opportunity to observe some of the endangered plants and animal species and to study other aspects of a sanctuary. One of the outcomes of the workshop was an environment education framework, which will be reviewed and adopted as a guide for future development of environmental activities in Bhutan.

EE Workshop II

An Environment Education workshop was held on the 6th and 7th May at Thimphu. Organized by RSPN with technical assistance from WWF, the aim of the workshop was to develop a sound conservation education strategy for Bhutan. Participants from various technical and educational institutions as well as conservation agencies – viz.

Mr. W. Rabten (Director, TTC), Mr. G.P. Sharma (Lecturer, NRTI), Mr. Wangpo Tenzin (Science Unit, CAPSS), Mr. Tshering Tenzin (EEU, CAPSS), Mr. Kunzang Dorji (Deputy Director, NEC), Mr. Sonam Norbu (WWF), Mr. Kinzang Namgay, (WWF), Ms. Karma Yangzome (WWF), Mr. Norbu Wangdi (Range Officer, RMNP), Dr. Kinlay Dorjee (WWF/RSPN), Mr. Mincha Wangdi (RSPN), Mr. Lam Dorji (RSPN) and Mr. Mathan Lal Bangah, Regional Education Officer, WWF, Malaysia took part in the workshop. Under the supervision of Mr. Mathanlal, a SWOT analysis was carried out on the prospects of Environment Education in Bhutan. The result of the analysis showed that the potential for implementing EE in Bhutan is very good. The programs and activities to be carried out under conservation education were properly outlined and it was decided that all functions should be clearly delineated among the different implementing agencies involved in conservation education. Within the overall conservation strategy, emphasis was laid on developing a guideline for the roles and responsibilities that RSPN would be best suited for. On the second day, a brainstorming session followed to discuss a suitable approach in implementing Environment Education in the school curricula and the general community, and concepts like the whole school approach, infusion/integrated approach, block system, cross-curricular approach etc. were turned and tossed around the participants. This was followed by a discussion on the long term goals and objectives of EE in Bhutan. The workshop was officially adjourned with the development of a proposal entailing all programs

and activities that RSPN was entrusted with, under the national conservation education strategy, to be submitted to donor organizations.

Non Formal Education

Since the beginning of 1998, RSPN in collaboration with the Management of the Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) has been actively involved in organizing National Park related awareness programs in the local villages. As a part of this chain of activities, an awareness program for the local communities in the RMNP was organized with an aim to highlight the rationale behind the creation of RMNP and the new policies associated with park management. Two day programs were organized in different villages in Panbang (Zhemgang) and Norbugang (S/J) geogs from 21st Dec. 1998 to 26th Jan. 1999. A total of 388 farmers (145 in Panbang and 243 in Norbugang) attended these programs. Ecological games and video shows were also incorporated into the program to enhance scientific knowledge and understanding of the local people on the environment in a more interesting and effective manner. In addition to the awareness programs, the participants were briefed about the Integrated Conservation and Development program (ICDP) activities in the national park and their role towards achieving its objectives.

Painting competition

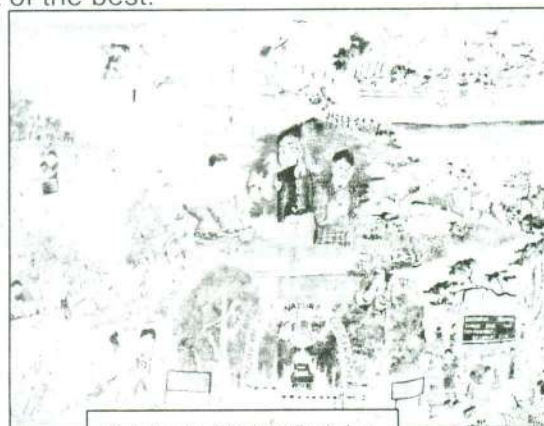
A painting competition was organized for the youth in the kingdom to raise awareness about their responsibility in conserving the environment of Bhutan. Hence the theme of the competition was appropriately "The role of youth in conservation of Bhutan's Environment". Students from schools all around the country took part. It was remarkable to observe the enthusiasm and hardwork that all the participants had put in their efforts. It was quite difficult to judge the best among them. But a competition has to have winners and hence the following students were judged to be the best of the best:

First : Rinchen Gyeltshen, XII, Jigme Sherubling High School, Khaling

Second : Ugyen Wangchuk, Bajo High School, Wangdi

Third : Karma Gyeltshen, Jigme Sherubling High School, Khaling

Consolation Prizes: Gyembo Tenzin, Drukgyel High School, Paro; Nangsi Dema, Drukgyel High School, Paro; Amit Raj Gurung, Royal Technical Institute, Kharbandi; Ugyen Zangmo, X C, Jigme Sherubling High School, Khaling



Painting by Rinchen Gyeltshen

Affiliation of Nature Clubs

One of the crowning achievements of the EE Unit in the last fiscal year was it being able to affiliate more than 40 school nature clubs around the country. Sponsored by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, RSPN, with the objective of establishing a better network of conservation activities, had sent affiliation certificates to more than 55 school and institutes in various Dzongkhags around the Kingdom (See Table 2). With such an affiliation, the Nature Clubs will now be working hand in hand with RSPN in making conservation our common cause. A Nature Club Handbook has been developed (containing information about setting up a nature club, details about membership, format for financial reporting, format for planning out the annual activities, directions and criteria for applying for grants and a list of benefits the affiliated NC would be entitled to), to help the clubs in planning and carrying out their various activities systematically and efficiently. Furthermore, a NC Directory (containing information and annual plan of each Nature Club) is being compiled to be distributed to all

the nature clubs. This would help facilitate the exchange of information between the nature clubs and hence enhance our joint efforts of conservation in Bhutan.

Table 2 List of Nature Clubs affiliated to RSPN:

School / Dzongkhag	Name of Nature Club
1. Bajothang HS, Wangdi	Green Club
2. Chhuka High School	
3. Daga HS, Dagana	Daga Nature Club
4. Damji CS, Gasa	Rangzhin
5. Damphu Pry Sch, Tserang	SEBC
6. Dongdongbi Comm. Sch, Zhemgang	
7. Drujeygang JHS, Dagana	Nature Club
8. Drukgyel HS, Paro	Chari Chen
9. Gelephug JHS, Sarpang	Env. Edu.
10. Goenshari PS, Punakha	EVS Club
11. Gomphu PS, Zhemgang	Gomphu NC
12. Goshing PS, Zhemgang	Yula Tshokdey
13. Gyelpozhing HS, Mongar	Dze Pai Rangzhin
14. Jakar HS, Bumthang	
15. Khasadrapchhu JHS, Thimphu	Pema Metho
16. Khuruthang JHS, Punakha	Nature Club
17. Mongar HS, Mongar	
18. Nangkhon JHS, Pemagatshel	Euiphel Metok Hoem
19. Nganglam HS, Samdrupjongkhar	Science & Environment Club
20. Nganglam JHS, Samdrupjongkhar	Ketshel Nyamga
21. NIE, Samtse	Society for Protection of Nature
22. Norbugang Pry Sch, Nganglam	
23. Panbang PS, Zhemgang	Golden Langur
24. Pantang Primary School	Pantang NC
25. Pantang Pry Sch, Zhemgang	
26. Paro JHS, Paro	Red Panda
27. Pemagatshel JHS, Pemagatshel	Nature Club
28. Phuentsholing HS, Chhuka	Rangzhin
29. Punakha HS, Punakha	Gang Zig
30. Radhi JHS, Trashigang	Lee's NC
31. Rangjung Jr. Hg, Trashigang	
32. RTI, Kharbandi, Chhuka	RTI NC
33. S/jongkhar JHS	Green Teen
34. Samtse JHS	Env. Club
35. Sarpang JHS	Orchid
36. Shaba HS, Paro	Friends of Earth
37. Sherubtse college, Trashigang	Singye Karm
38. Tangmachhu HS, Lhuentse	Ecofans
39. Teachers Training College, Paro	
40. Tingtibi PS, Zhemgang	Green Youth
41. Trashigang JHS	Env. Friendly
42. Trashiyangtse HS, Trashiyangtse	Ngojong Dethren
43. Tsenkharla JHS, Trashiyangtse	Tsenkhar Tsenden
44. Ugyen Dorji HS, Ha	Nature Club
45. Wamrong JHS, Trashigang	Mother Earth
46. Wangdue JHS, Wangdue	Nature Club
47. Yebilaptsa JHS, Zhemgang	Hornbill
48. Zhemgang HS	Thrung Thrung Karmo
49. Zilukha Jr.Hg.Sch, Thimphu	Babylon Garden

Communications Unit

Fundraising and Membership Strategy

The long term goal of self sustainability of RSPN had been in question for some time. Hence, with this perspective, it was considered imperative to develop a more strategic approach to fundraising and membership in RSPN. This would also help achieve the dual objective of creating a one million dollar reserve and a membership strength of 3000 by the year 2004, as set out in the strategic plan.

RSPN had the good fortune of being able to acquire the assistance of Ms. Gail Murray and Mr. Paul King, both from WWF-UK, for this task.

The following is their joint report:

In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, it was necessary to undertake some research with a range of RSPN stakeholders. This consisted of:

- interviews with RSPN Directors;
- interviews with other interested parties;
- a series of workshops with all RSPN staff;
- a workshop with RSPN members, lapsed members and non-members;
- a questionnaire sent to a broad sample of RSPN members;
- desk-based research and other discussions.

The two processes, examining fundraising and membership, were conducted in parallel. Each took into account a wide range of external factors as well as the organisation's past experience, its strengths and weaknesses. The analysis of these factors resulted in a range of opportunities and strategic options for RSPN. These were further refined and examined against criteria such as feasibility, acceptability, cost-effectiveness, risk etc., and a series of strategic choices were made.

Two documents, *A fundraising guide for RSPN* and *A membership strategy for RSPN*, were produced. In addition to the recommended strategies, these documents contain an analysis of the research findings, a rationale for the strategic choices made, and comprehensive guidance for their further development and implementation. The documents also include one year action plans, to get the ball rolling.

The recommendations for fundraising

The recommended strategy for cost-effective fundraising for RSPN focuses on four key areas:

- segmented membership schemes;
- effective project funding proposals;
- company fundraising;
- consultancy and contracted services (with emphasis on the tourism sector).

In addition, consideration is given to launching an appeal specifically to establish the target \$1 million reserve.

The recommendations for membership

The recommendations for attracting and retaining members for RSPN focus on three complementary strategies:

- re-framing RSPN's core membership scheme to promote individual action;
- developing an 'RSPN Guardians' scheme targeted at wealthy individuals;
- developing a 'Partners in Conservation' scheme to attract company support.

The membership strategy also recommends ways of improving the administration of membership (to ensure effective rates of renewal and member upgrade), developing new membership literature, specific appeals and so on.

The recommendations for resourcing fundraising and membership

It is recommended that the existing Communications Unit be enhanced to a new *Fundraising & Publicity Unit*, with two full-time staff: a *Fundraising Officer* and a *Publicity & Information Officer*. A *fundraising guide for RSPN* looks at the kind of personal attributes required for these posts. Responsibilities and initial one year work plans have been prepared and approved by the Board of Directors.

Fundraising and membership will require significant investment of both time and money if the targets set out in the Strategic Plan are to be achieved. Fundraising will always require a 'team effort' and should be recognised as an important part of everyone's role in RSPN.

Fundraising will always be hard work. There are unlikely to be any miracle solutions. However, a strategic and sustained approach to fundraising will ultimately contribute to the development of sufficient reserves to ensure the long-term viability and success of RSPN.

Membership can and should thrive in RSPN. The strategies set out for its development will ensure successful recruitment and, vitally, retention of many new members. These members will help contribute funds, but perhaps more importantly will become part of an ever-expanding movement of people committed to taking responsibility for the environmental impacts of their own lives and actions.

RSPN Library Enhancement

With the financial assistance from JICA, KNCF and the WWF, RSPN was able to purchase as much as two hundred and fifty books for the library. The books comprise a varied range of subjects, starting from children's story books, nature encyclopedias, birds, animals, environment education, ecosystem, craft work, Buddhist teachings relating to environment etc. With the influx of these new books, the Library has become very popular amongst the student members of local schools so much so that it is now become one of the major motivating force in attracting new student members.



HRH Crown Prince Dashi Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck browsing through the RSPN library.

A hundred and fifty video cassettes were also procured for the RSPN video library. The cassettes mostly comprise documentaries on wildlife, nature conservation etc though a few include movies for children like the *Jungle Book*, *Beast Master* etc. Video cassettes,

especially the documentaries, have proved to be a boon for the Environment Education Unit in the formal and non-formal programs.

Snow Leopard Posters

RSPN produced one thousand copies of a poster depicting the foodweb of the Himalayas. It comprises an extraordinary artwork of the snow leopard and other animals and shows their interdependence on each other in the fragile Himalayan environment. This venture, undertaken in close collaboration with the International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT), USA, was part of an environment awareness campaign, especially focusing on the snow leopard. Besides providing RSPN with the negatives for the printing of the poster, the ISLT also provided a grant of

US \$2000 to meet printing and other related costs. The posters were distributed free of cost to the National Assembly members of the Royal Government, the staff of National Parks, RSPN Board Members, Nature Club Coordinators and selected individual and student members.



Distributing ISLT posters to nature club students

JICA EQUIPMENT FUND

RSPN received an equipment grant of US \$34,016 from JICA through the Japanese embassy in New Delhi at the end of fiscal year 1997-98. It was hence possible to procure field equipment such as binoculars, compasses, barometers, altimeters, rucksacks, sleeping bags, mats, tents(single & mess) and cooking utensils. Some electronic items such as microphones, recorders etc. could also be acquired through this grant. The remaining amount, as mentioned earlier, was used to buy books for the RSPN library.

Members now have the privilege of hiring out these equipments for a minimal fee. This has greatly facilitated the promotion of outdoor activities among students and other members.

Although the fees collected from the hiring charges of field equipments and video cassettes does not quite comprise a significant amount, it has in a way become an avenue of fundraising for RSPN.

RSPN ARCHERY TEAM



The RSPN Archers

The RSPN Archery Team was formed with the aim of promoting the national sport as well as raise awareness about the Society and its activities. The archers, comprising staff and members, has consistently been doing well in the past few years. This year, in an archery tournament commemorating the silver jubilee year of our beloved King's enthronement, RSPN archers finally managed to lift the winners trophy that had been eluding them for so long. Over the years, the team has become as renowned in Bhutan as the Society's association with the Black Necked Cranes. This popularity has been utilized to a certain extent to spread environment awareness among the public through environment friendly messages, banners, posters, dustbins etc. put up during the archery tournaments.

1999 Black Necked Crane Calender Project

As part of a fund raising effort, RSPN produced calenders for the year 1999 featuring the black-necked cranes in their different roosting grounds in Bhutan. The credit for the beautiful photographs in the calender goes to Ms. Eleanor Briggs, researcher & photographer

associated with the International Crane Foundation. The venture turned out to be quite successful and the proceeds were deposited in the RSPN reserve fund.

Advocacy Programs

Waste Plastic Collection Competition

This decade has often been referred to as the plastic age, what with almost everyone depending on products of these carbon polymers. But the menace that waste plastic has become to our environment, especially due to its non biodegradable nature, has raised a question in many minds about whether we want to carry on this plastic dependency to the new millenium.

RSPN, in collaboration with the Thimphu City Corporation, conducted a waste plastic collection competition amongst Thimphu residents and schools during the months of November and December 1998.

During the same time, a similar program was initiated in Phuentsholing with the help of the Royal Technical Institute, Kharbandi. The main aim of the competition, besides actually cleaning the environment, was to raise awareness of the problem by practically demonstrating to the people the amount of plastics that they use and waste.

Waste plastics weighing approximately 6000 Kgs. were collected. Prizes, sponsored by the American Bhutan Council, USA, were awarded to schools and individual students with the largest collection, on the 16th and 17th of December 1998, at Thimphu and Phuentsholing respectively. Due credit must be given to the enthusiasm, support and commitment of the teachers and students of all schools and institutions for the immense success of this venture in both places.

As of 2nd June 1999, the Royal Government has banned the use of plastics nationwide.

City Bus Service

Cars, Cars and more cars lead to smoke, smoke and more smoke and of course, traffic jams, the bane of cities all over the world.

Our capital, Thimphu, seems to be "driving" towards the same direction. But unlike cities of other countries, Thimphu has a small population, which can prove advantageous in curbing the problem, before it is too late.

Taking this factor into consideration, it was decided that one of the immediate measures that could be taken to reduce



vehicular traffic would be the introduction of a city bus service. Hence, the Voluntary Cell of RSPN undertook the conduction of a feasibility survey for the introduction of a city bus service in Thimphu, in order to combat the growing traffic and its associated pollution problems. The results of the survey were submitted to the Thimphu City Corporation.

We would like to acknowledge the Royal Civil Service Commission, Ministry of Communications, National Environment Commission and Thimphu City Corporation for their assistance and

provision of all relevant data that made this study possible.

On 5th June '99 the Thimphu City Corporation introduced a city bus service comprising a fleet of buses.

Support Group Activities

RSPN facilitated the initiation of support groups in many dzongkhags in the Kingdom in order to decentralize its conservation activities, as well as to inculcate a sense of personal responsibility amongst fellow citizens. An RSPN support group comprises mostly active adult members who sacrifice their free time in organizing environmental programs, awareness campaigns, cleaning activities, Nature trail marking etc. in their respective dzongkhags.

We have included here a report of three active support groups who have provided us with timely reports of their activities.

DRUK NATURE CLUB (DNC), THIMPHU ESTD: June 1998

International Bird Watching Day, 10th Oct. '98

The International Bird Watching Day was observed for the first time in Bhutan. In order to raise and promote awareness of birds in our environment, Druk Nature Club organized a bird watching hike for students of two schools in Thimphu. Along the Sangaygang and Babesa nature trails. The students showed a lot of enthusiasm and patience in observing and learning about the different types of birds. In the evening, a video on birds and wildlife was shown to the general public at the Changlimithang grounds. Amazingly, over three hundred people turned up for the event.

Nature trails

Of the four Nature trails initially identified by DNC, only the trails at Sangaygang and Dochula were found to be feasible for the public. Pits labelled for different types of garbage, were dug along these trails. After some minor repairing, the trails were marked with directive symbols. Furthermore, signboards showing a map of the trail were erected at the starting points. This endeavor was made with the financial assistance from Etho Metho Tours and Travels, Thimphu as well as

contributions from the members themselves.

Khaju Festival

The spring of '99 was welcomed in style with the Khaju (Cuckoo) Festival organized by the Druk Nature Club of Thimphu on the 3rd of April at the Changlimithang Ground. The cuckoo is one of the first birds to signal the change of seasons from winter to spring. The countdown to the festival started about a month before with an inter-school Cuckoo painting competition. The prizes (sponsored by Karma Art Gallery) were bagged by Pema Tshering(VIII A, Changangkha JHS), Bhim Kr. Subba (VIII B, Choeden JHS) and Leki Phuntsho (LJHS). Village elders were actively involved in the festival and sang traditional songs (Lozay) which made the atmosphere quite enchanting. A quiz competition on birds was also conducted for school children in which Lungtenzampa JHS 'flew the highest'. Mr. Kunzang Wangdi, the Director of RIM gave an interesting talk on the Khaju. Later in the evening, a video show on birds was organized for everyone. This was one day the Cuckoo might really have felt like the 'King of birds'.

spot here with benches, shades, bird-feeding tables and pits for waste disposal. But due to time constraint and other unavoidable circumstances, this venture

could not be completed in the last fiscal year, and hence only the garbage pits could be built so far.

BUMTHANG SUPPORT GROUP ESTD: April 1998.

Lamegompa Stream Cleaning Campaign

The Lamegompa stream flows through clustered villages, schools, residential areas and the main town area of Jakar, before joining the Chamkhar Chhu. The course of this stream through so many human settlements has resulted in it being quite polluted, hence becoming a serious health risk to the people in the locality.

The Bumthang Support Group plunged into action and decided to facilitate the Lamegompa stream cleaning campaign on the 31st of October, 1998. It got an amazing response from the public with as much as three hundred volunteers comprising Jakar High School Nature Club members, the police force, residents & shopkeepers of Chamkhar & Jakar showing up for the task.

The stream was divided into four sections for the cleaning operation :

1. Jakar HS bridge to cremation grounds : Jakar High School Nature Club members
2. Cremation ground to U. DEE carpentry Bridge: Jakar residents & police force

3. U. DEE carpentry Bridge to Bridge below BOD : Chamkhar village residents
4. Bridge below BOD to Chamkhar Chhu: shopkeepers

Video Show : On the same evening, a video show on environment related issues and health sanitation was organized for the public. The event, with a gathering of as much as four hundred people had an atmosphere of satisfaction and pride of the day's achievement, and hence carried on late into the night.

The expenditure for refreshments during the entire project was made possible with financial assistance from the following individuals and organization:

- U. DEE Carpentry Workshop, Jakar Lakhang, Bumthang
- Proprietor, Kaila Guest House, Bumthang
- Vegetable Dying Unit, MTI, Bumthang
- Jakar High School Nature Club
- RICB, Bumthang
- Bank of Bhutan, Bumthang

MONGAR SUPPORT GROUP ESTD: October 1998

Korilla Nature Trail

The Mongar Support group, though quite new as compared to the above two nature clubs, has established a nature trail at Korilla, Mongar. The trail was inaugurated by Dasho Dzungdag on 3 June 99 as part of the Silver Jubilee celebration.

The nature trail is expected to serve as:

- a) educational paths for students, trainees, botanists & researchers;
- b) trekking and recreational route to nature lovers, educationists & environmentalists;
- c) Provide venues for study of flora/fauna diversity in wet mixed hardwood forests of Korilla region; and
- d) inculcate and extend conservation education

The Mongar RSPN support group plans to prepare a simple pamphlet/brochure on the Korilla Nature Trail in due course for distribution to interested visitors and students.

Annual Black-necked Crane Count

The counting and monitoring of the Black Necked Cranes (BNCs) is an annual undertaking of RSPN. Phobjikha (Wangduephodrang) and Bomdeling (Trashiyangtse) are the main areas in the Kingdom where the cranes immigrate to in the winter (Oct-March). Small flocks can also be spotted at Khotokha in Wangduephodrang and the areas of Gyetsha, Dhur and Thangbi in Bumthang. The major donors in this venture have been the International Crane Foundation and SPIEC (Japan).

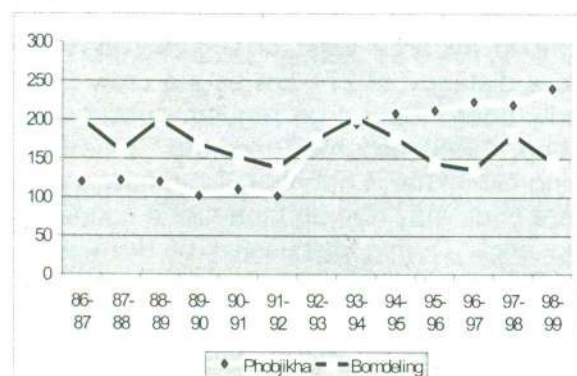
The total number of black-necked cranes wintering in Bhutan during the 1998-99 winter was more or less consistent with last winter's figure of 423. However, there was a sharp decrease in the crane count at Bomdeling (see table 3). Besides the black necked cranes, 3 common cranes were also sighted in the 1997-98 winter but only one common crane was seen in 1998-99. In addition a demoiselle crane was also spotted. The sharp decrease may be attributed to disturbances, caused by construction activities, occurring at their daytime feeding ground at Chorten Kora. In contrast to Bomdeling, a record number of cranes was counted at Phobjikha during the winter of 1998-99. More than 240 cranes were counted, although a precise count could not be made because the cranes roosted in two different places as compared to only one roosting place during the previous winters. The count at Bumthang and Khotokha were more or less consistent to the previous years.

Distribution of BNCs in Bhutan since the winter of 1986-87

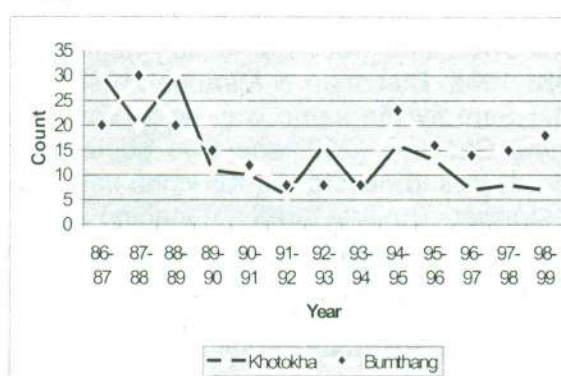
Table 3

Winter	Phobjikha	Bomdeling	Khotokha	Bumthang	Total
1986-87	120	200+	30	20	370+
1987-88	122	160+	20	30	332+
1988-89	120	200	30	20	370
1989-90	102	169	11	15	297
1990-91	111	152	10	12	285
1991-92	102	139	6	8	255
1992-93	175	175	16	8	374
1993-94	195	203	7	?	405+
1994-95	208	177	16	23	424
1995-96	212	144	13	16	385
1996-97	223	136	7	14	379
1997-98	219	181	8	15	423
1998-99	240+	146	7	18	411+

3.1



3.2



Remember Sam Bomdeling & Jocie Yangtse?

In Feb-March 1998, RSPN and the International Crane Foundation had embarked on a project to study the migration route and locate the summer breeding areas of the Black Necked Cranes wintering in Bhutan by using a technique called satellite telemetry. Two juvenile cranes, named Sam Bomdeling and Jocie Yangtse, had been captured and banded in Bomdeling. A radio had then been attached to the back of Sam Bomdeling, the healthier of the two. Both of them, though at different times, were observed to be flying out of Phobjikha. Sam's migratory movements could be monitored for approximately four months with the help of the radio transmitter, till he moved further north.



Sam & Jocie with ICF and RSPN personnel

Where did Sam go after that?

A follow up study about Sam's possible whereabouts has been carried out by Piet van der Poel, Chado Tshering, Ugyen Pelden and Tenzin [Socio-economic survey consultant (Danida Environmental Sector Program Support/Denconsult-NNR), and Sanctuary manager and deputy wardens of the Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (NCS, FSD, MoA)].

Sam Bomdeling did not return to Bomdeling last winter. Sam showed us a great deal about his migratory route from Bhutan to Tibet/China. Unfortunately, Sam's radio was only designed to work for some 5-6 months, which is insufficient to find out if he died or moved to a different wintering site. Sam's sibling, Jocie, which got ringed, also did not return. Unless Sam expired shortly after his radio died, he must have gone to a different wintering site. This is not unlikely since the fluctuations in numbers of cranes in Bomdeling and the increase over the last decade of the number of cranes in Phobjikha (see figure) do away with the notion that cranes return to their parental wintering ground (Chacko, 1992). It would not be good for the species if that were the case, since it would only increase inbreeding, but it could be that most male or female birds do return to their parental wintering grounds. Since we don't know the gender of Sam and Jocie, we can not say yet if the black-necked cranes are a matrilocal (males move to the parental wintering grounds of their female partner) or a patrilocal (females move to their male partner's parental wintering ground) society or none of the two. It may be that the independent young birds choose to go to new pastures/fields.

Sam showed that from Bomdeling he flew straight to an area west of Dakeshi in Tibet (RSPN, 1998; Dietzman & Mirande, 1998). That is a distance of 271 km as the crow flies. But did Sam fly the same way as a crow reportedly does? Based on regular sightings by villagers, Chacko (1992, and also quoted by Bishop, 1996) assumed that the Bomdeling cranes fly in and out via the Kurichhu valley, passing Dungkhar, Lhuentse, Tangmachu and even Mongar. The first three are staging areas where birds may rest and feed for a couple of days to a week before flying on to the wintering area. During discussion of Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary staff with villagers in or near the Sanctuary two other staging areas were discovered: Menji, opposite Tangmachu, and Babtong, opposite Khoma, while one of the BWS staff also reported a staging area in Gangzur.

If from Tangmachu or Menji the cranes would fly to Bomdeling, the most likely route would be via the Dongla pass and the Dongdi chhu valley. However, no sightings were reported from Drisa and Sakshing villages in that valley. Phurba Wangdi, the crane caretaker in

Bomdeling reports that the cranes arrive from the north and depart to the north, via the Kulong chhu valley. Farmers and yak-herders in all villages north of Bomdeling confirm seeing the cranes leave in the first Bhutanese month (February/March) for 5 to 6 days in groups of 5 to 50 cranes along the western ridge of the Kulong chhu valley. Several farmers in Chheng and Panglewog, the two villages just north of Bomdeling and the regular crane feeding grounds, reports of seeing them arrive in the 10th Bhutanese month (November/December). The cranes are reportedly very high up in the sky and fly along the eastern as well as the western ridge of the valley. So high that for villages further north, it would be extremely difficult to detect the cranes flying in. No staging areas were reported. But several villagers reported that just before leaving, for a couple of days groups of 5 to 70 cranes fly north to above Pangkhar and circle around before returning to Bomdeling. These appear to be training flights.

Phurba Wangdi also reported that a few weeks before the cranes leave, some 6 other cranes join the group in Bomdeling. Apparently, there must be another roosting area somewhere in the Kulong chhu valley. Womenang valley seems to be the most likely location for a search.

Thus, if the cranes flying down the Kurichhu valley are not the Bomdeling cranes, they must be either the Bumthang cranes or the Phobjikha cranes or cranes wintering in some area not yet discovered. The reports of cranes flying past Mongar (Chacko, 1992) confirms that these are not the Bomdeling cranes. But Mongar seems to be out of the direction if these cranes were flying to Bumthang or Phobjikha. Some more light/shadow is shed on the issue by a report from the headmaster of the Sherzhong primary school. In May (or at least after the start of the school: probably March) 1997 a group of some 25 to 30 cranes arrived at Sherzhong from the south, circled and landed in a wetland area. After being disturbed by curious kids the cranes took off again and disappeared to the south. This happened on a very dark and cloudy day. Apparently the group lost its orientation, missed the turn, and ended up in the Sheri chhu valley instead of the Kurichhu valley. The size of the group appears to be too big for the Bumthang cranes, which was reported to consist of just 14 cranes in 1997 (RSPN). However, Kurichhu seems a long way out of their way for the Phobjikha cranes.

If these are the Bumthang or Phobjikha cranes it also shows that the feeding habits of the Bomdeling and Phobjikha groups are not as different as reported earlier. Both groups frequent paddy fields. The Bomdeling group all the time and the Phobjikha/Bumthang group only in the staging areas, relying on wheat or potato fields at their wintering sites, where they do not have a choice.

It is suggested that someone follow the migration route from Lhuentse southwards by interviewing farmers and herders along the way. I am quite sure that this should eventually lead to their wintering site.

References:

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AWARDS

ORDER OF THE GOLDEN ARK

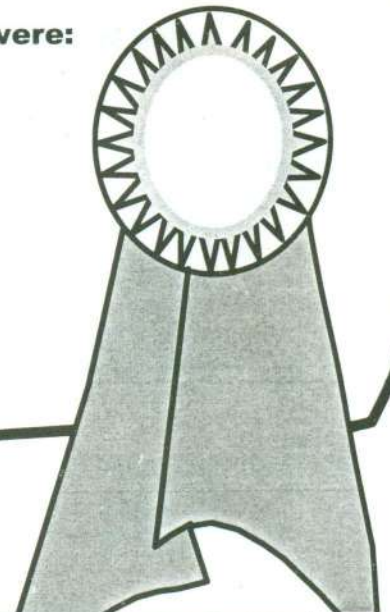
The President of RSPN, Dasho Sangay Thinley was awarded the prestigious International Conservation Award for 1998, the Order of the Golden Ark by His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in a ceremony at the Soestdijk Palace, Netherlands in November 1998. There were a total of thirteen recipients of the award from different parts of the world. Dasho Sangay Thinley is also the Joint Secretary of the Forestry Services Division under the Ministry of Agriculture.

ABRAHAM CONSERVATION AWARD

The WWF-Bhutan Program and RSPN joined hands to recognize grass root level conservation efforts by initiating the Abraham Conservation Award in Bhutan. This award scheme was started by Ms. Nancy Abraham, who, during a visit to Nepal, was deeply moved by a touching incident. A lowly paid forester had saved the life of a baby rhinoceros apparently gored by a tiger, by utilizing his own meager earnings for its medical treatment. The Abraham Conservation Award thus grants reward and gives recognition to such special individuals.

In Bhutan, the first recipients of the award were:

1. Mr. Namgay, Park Warden, JDNP
2. Ms. Rebecca Pradhan, Research Assistant, Forestry Services Division
3. Mr. Nima Tshering, Nature Club Coordinator, Tangmachhu High School.



"The Wind Beneath Our Wings"

We would like to acknowledge the financial assistance from the following organizations viz. Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BT FEC), Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF, Japan), The MacArthur Foundation(USA), WWF-Bhutan Program, WWF International, International Crane Foundation (ICF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNICEF, Society for Promoting Intercultural Education for Children (SPIEC, Japan), Global Environment Fund/Small Grants Program (GEF/SGP), UNDP, International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT), America-Bhutan Friendship Council (ABC), Discovery Initiatives (DI) without whose aid, our conservation programs so far, would never have materialized.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the Royal Government of Bhutan and its various national organizations and divisions viz. CAPSS, Education Division, Thimphu City Corporation, Nature Conservation Section, National Environment Commission, National Park Staff, Tourist Authority of Bhutan, Dzongkhags as well as private companies viz. Etho Metho Tours & Travels, Karma Art Gallery, Voluntary Artist Society of Thimphu (VAST) and many others for their cooperation and provision of technical support and logistics in our conservation endeavours.

An honorary mention should also be made of our valuable Members, Nature Clubs, Support Groups and many other *unsung heroes* for their relentless support to the Society in its conservation endeavours in the Kingdom.



Patron

HRH Crown Prince Dasho Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck



Board Members

Dasho Sangay Thinley	President (FSD, Ministry of Agriculture)
Aum Dago Bida	Vice President (Etho Metho Tours & Travels)
Mr. Chador Wangdi	Member (Non Formal Education Unit)
Mr. Kinley Dorji	Member (Kuensel Corporation)
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Mr. Karma C. Nidup	Member (National Environment Commission)
Mr. Karma Tshiteem	Member (NBAC)
Mr. Phuntsho	Member (PPD, Special Commission)
Mr. Tshering Phuntsho	Member (Tourism Authority of Bhutan)
Dr. Kinley Dorji	Member Secretary

The ReSPiANs

Dr. Kinley Dorji	Executive Director
Mr. Lam Dorji	Conservation and Development Unit
Mr. Mincha Wangdi	Environment Education Unit
Mrs. Rebecca Pradhan	Botanist
Mr. Hishey Tshering	Communications Unit
Mr. Miraj Pradhan	Communications Unit
Mr. Karma Loday	Administration & Finance Unit
Ms. Karma Delma	Administration & Finance Unit
Mrs. Damcho Dema	Administration & Finance Unit
Mr. Chenning Dorji	Driver
Ms. Nyima Om	Volunteer
Ms. Choki Penjor	Volunteer
Mr. Paul King	Volunteer, WWF-UK
Ms. Gail Murray	Volunteer, WWF-UK

FINANCIAL REPORT


Auditors' Report
on
the Financial Statements of Royal Society for the
Protection of Nature and projects for the years ended
30th June 1998 to 30th June, 1999.

1. The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) audited the Financial Statements of under noted projects implemented by the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) for the year ended 30th June, 1998 and 30th June, 1999.


S/No.	Projects name	Funding agency
1.	Institutional support.	Mac. Arthur Foundation-US/SPIEC-Japan/ICF-US/BTF(1999)
2.	Institutional Dev. Support.	WWF-Bhutan
3.	Conservation Education.	WWF-Bhutan/KNCF
4.	RMNP	NCS-FSD
5.	Keep Thimphu Clean.	NEC-Bhutan
6.	BNC and other projects.	ICF-US
7.	Plastic Waste collection.	ABC
8.	Phobjikha.	ICDP/UNDP
9.	Supply of equipments to EE.	JICA
10.	Plantation.	SPIEC
11.	Snow Leopard Poster.	ISL

2. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of accounting records, transactions, internal controls and such other auditing procedures as were deemed necessary for the purpose of the audit.
3. Based on the examination of accounts and records made available and information and explanation given, the RAA reports that , in its opinion, subject to observations in 3.1 to 3.4 below, the above mentioned Financial Statements may be relied upon to fairly present the expenditure of RSPN for the years 30th June, 1998 and 30th June, 1999 and the status of fund balance as on the respective year ended dates.
 - 3.1 Expenditure to the amount of Nu.10,468.00 incurred for Photocopier machine maintenance and office supplies were wrongly booked under vehicle maintenance resulting in understatement and overstatement of respective accounts.
 - 3.2 RSPN had purchased reference materials/audio visual aids for the project "Conservation Education in Bhutan" worth Nu.105,220.00 from Kashinath & Sons, Kalimpong during the financial year 1995-96. However, the payment for the above purchase was made in 1997-98.

- 3.3 It was seen that a sum of Nu.72,217.96 was lying outstanding against officials and staff as on 20.8.99.
- 3.4 Purchases were generally made without inviting quotations.
4. The Royal Audit Authority reports that in its opinion that Projects' disbursements were valid and supported by adequate documents and were made in accordance with RSPN's Administrative and Financial Guidelines 1997.
5. The RAA further reports that subject to as above, in its opinion, necessary books of accounts have been kept by the management so far as it appears from the examination of the books.


(Choida Jamtsho)
Dy. Chief Auditor

Concurred by :


Khandu
Division Chief
Division VI



**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE
THIMPHU : BHUTAN**

CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENSES STATEMENT AS ON 30.6.1998

	CONTRIBUTION		EXPENSES		BALANCE	
	NU.	US \$	NU.	US \$	NU.	US \$
PROJECTS						
Institutional Support	819,233.03	1,900.00	583,096.68			1,900.00
Deficit carried from previous year			298,565.71			
			881,662.39		(62,429.36)	
Institutional Development Support	684,000.00		674,776.30		9,223.70	
Conservation Education	355,000.00		289,775.00		65,225.00	
RSPN-RMNP program	297,856.00		246,287.92		51,568.08	
World Environment Day Celebration	80,000.00		62,589.00		17,411.00	
BNC project	17,690.00		16,792.00		898.00	
Supply of Equipment for EE		34,016.00			-	34,016.00
Keep Thimphu Clean Campaign	250,000.00		250,000.00		-	
	2,503,779.03	35,916.00	2,421,882.61	-	81,896.42	35,916.00
OTHERS						
Contingency	81,770.56	146.77	17,812.50		63,958.06	146.77
Photocopy maintenance	97,756.00		9,800.00		87,956.00	-
Art & Environment	75,842.45		6,660.00		69,182.45	-
NC estd. at Gasa	10,940.00		10,940.00		-	-
Fuel for vehicle			8,500.00		(8,500.00)	-
Vehicle maintenance			34,052.00		(34,052.00)	-
Vehicle maintenance	160,023.00				160,023.00	-
Operation fund	387,970.00				387,970.00	-
Membership	69,573.50	110.00			69,573.50	110.00
Financial Support to NC schools			3,150.00		(3,150.00)	-
Retirement benefits	111,000.00		111,000.00		-	-
Operation fund			202,950.00		(202,950.00)	-
Video production			23,708.00		(23,708.00)	-
CD Account 1822		2,042.00			-	2,042.00
FC Account 158			78,000.00		(78,000.00)	-
	994,875.51	2,298.77	506,572.50	-	488,303.01	2,298.77
TOTAL	3,498,654.54	38,214.77	2,928,455.11	-	570,199.43	38,214.77

CASH IN HAND	20,170.73	50.00
BALANCE WITH BANK	275,869.36	38,164.77
ADVANCE RECEIVABLE	186,930.33	-
SUSPENSE	87,229.01	-
TOTAL	570,199.43	38,214.77

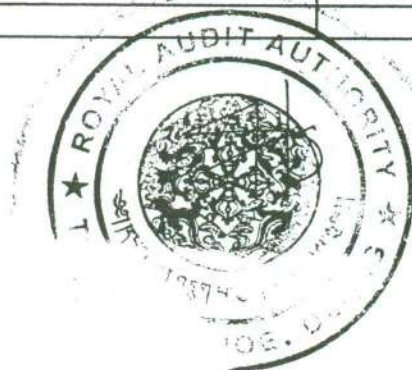


ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE
THIMPHU : BHUTAN

EXPENSES STATEMENT AS ON 30 JUNE 1998

SL.NO.	PARTICULARS	EXPENSES (Nu.)
I	INSTUTIONAL SUPPORT	
1	Salary	398,026.00
2	Provident Fund	34,285.00
3	Tele/Fax	7,485.38
4	Postage	2,127.00
5	Operation & maintance	25,118.00
6	Office Supplies	25,111.00
7	Promotional & Advertisements	16,746.00
8	Refreshments	4,211.30
9	Vehicle maintenance	17,321.00
10	Fuel for vehicle	5,987.00
11	Vehicle Insurance	5,435.00
12	BNC audio tape	2,000.00
13	Salary to BNC caretaker	18,000.00
14	Pay to enumerator	3,000.00
15	Kuensel Avertisemnet	18,244.00
		583,096.68
II	INSTUTIONAL DEV. SUPPORT	
1	Instutional Dev. Advisor	180,000.00
2	Office Supplies	20,000.00
3	Registration of RSPN	29,500.00
4	Publicity/Communication	48,965.50
5	Membership drive	108,601.80
6	Publications	3,425.00
7	Adm./Financial manual	32,284.00
8	Instutional Support	252,000.00
		674,776.30
III	CONSERVATION EDUCATION	
1	Reference materials/audiovisuals	72,000.00
2	Project Managemnet Officer	108,000.00
3	Env. Edn. Program-NRTI	3,220.00
4	RSPN Newsletter	8,300.00
5	Project Monitoring	19,160.00
6	Commemoration-Social Forestry Day	36,295.00
7	Tech. Backstopping to NC	28,800.00
8	Painting competetion on Env. Themes	14,000.00
		289,775.00
IV	RSPN-NCS RMNP PROGRAM	
1	Villager's Program	88,082.85
2	Teacher's Program	73,541.20
3	Zhemgang Teachers & students prog.	84,663.87
		246,287.92
V	PHOTOCOPY MAINTENANCE	
1	Annual Maintenance	9,800.00
		9,800.00
VI	CONTINGENCY	
1	Salary	4,800.00
2	Misce.	270.00

3	Book Binding	1,105.00
4	Equipment maint.	7,937.50
5	Binoculars	2,000.00
6	Office supplies	1,700.00
		17,812.50
VII	ART & ENVIRONMENT	
1	Advertisements	6,660.00
		6,660.00
VIII	NC ESTD. AT GASA PS	
1	Supply of Books	10,940.00
		10,940.00
IX	OTHER RECEIPTS	
1	Fuel for vehicle	8,500.00
2	Vehicle maintenance	34,052.00
		42,552.00
X	BNC PROJECT (ICF)	
1	Crane Feed	4,000.00
2	Tele./Fax	162.00
3	BNC count	11,330.00
4	Video dubbing	1,300.00
		16,792.00
XI	KEEP THIMPHU CLEAN CAMPAIGN	
1	Temporary staff	6,000.00
2	Video filming	44,196.00
3	Transport cost	4,500.00
4	Tel./Fax	1,000.00
5	Exhibits developmnet	20,000.00
6	Bags	75,000.00
7	Stickers	25,000.00
8	Run for Environment	4,779.00
9	Banners	20,000.00
10	Exhibition committee	8,095.00
11	Document/Kuensel supplement	9,360.00
12	Mis. Expenses	12,070.00
13	Project mgd.cost	20,000.00
		250,000.00
XII	WORLD ENV. DAY CELEBRATION	
1	World Env. Day Celebration cost	62,598.00
		62,598.00
XIII	OTHER BALANCES	
1	Financial Support to NC Schools	3,150.00
2	Retirement Benefits	111,000.00
		114,150.00
XIV	OPERATION FUND	
1	Sr. staff cost	202,950.00
		202,950.00
XV	VIDEO PRODUCTION	
1	VHS tapes	23,708.00
		23,708.00



**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE
THIMPHU : BHUTAN**

EXPENSES AS ON 30.6.99

CHARGEABLE HEADS	EXPENSES	
	NU.	US \$
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT- BTF		
Pay & Allowances	968,890.00	
Provident Fund	50,094.00	
Office Supplies	50,840.00	
Office maintenance	50,000.00	
Travel/Training	130,629.00	2,300.00
Maintenance of vehicle	85,000.00	
Publicity	127,945.40	
Workshops	88,552.35	
Telephone/Fax	162,729.25	
Purchase of vehicle	717,050.83	
Computer/printer/copier/fax	997,387.05	
Office furniture	141,845.00	
	3,570,962.88	2,300.00
BNC FESTIVAL		
Award	11,500.00	
Vehicle hire	34,883.50	
Food and Lodge	244,514.10	
Cloth materials	10,155.00	
	301,052.60	
SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO ENV. EDN.		
Electronic items	133.00	6,012.88
Trekking equipments	885,350.00	
Pots and Pants	6,766.90	
Books	130,086.00	
IB charges		87.22
Bhutanese tent and equipments	161,019.10	
	1,183,355.00	6,100.10
CONSERVATION EDUCATION- WWF		
EE program- RIHS	3,912.00	
Support to NC schools- ref. Materials	130,231.00	
Workshop/NE/SE- nature excursion to Phob.	10,000.00	
Support to NC schools- tech. backstopping	38,049.05	
EE program- NIE Samtse	12,500.00	
EE program- TTC Paro	11,244.00	
EE program BFI Taba	4,917.00	
Workshop/NE/SE- school greening	15,607.00	
	226,460.05	
CONSERVATION EDUCATION- WWF		
News Letter	12,500.00	
Environment Awareness program- TTC	11,011.00	
	23,511.00	
CONSERVATION EDUCATION- KNCF		
Project evaluation	1,768.00	
	1,768.00	

WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENT		
Credit to Weavers	233,350.00	
Salary to master weavers	7,000.00	
Recruitment of weavers	13,114.00	
	253,464.00	
DONATION- DI		
BNC caretaker pay	6,000.00	
	6,000.00	
ICDP PHOBIKHA		
Management Documents	3,550.00	
ICDP survey	10,670.00	
	14,220.00	
RMNP PROGRAM		
Village I program	135,392.00	
Village II program	48,697.20	
Park Staff program	46,009.20	
RTI students program	93,502.23	
Teachers program	97,525.00	
	421,125.63	
WASTE COLLECTION COMPETITION		
Prizes (ABC)	8,478.00	
	8,478.00	
CONTINGENCY		
Environment Book	US \$ 10.00	
Mini Microphone	US \$ 27.91	
Publicity	2,000.00	
Plastic Waste Collection	12,522.00	
	14,522.00	
	US \$ 37.91	
OTHERS		
Video Production	56,333.00	
ICF Donation	32,000.00	
Calander	90,644.00	
Bus service	35,762.00	
Financial Support to Support Groups	40,000.00	
	254,739.00	
SALE OF VEHICLE		
Vehicle- Sale of vehicle		3,500.00
		3,500.00
BNB SAVING		
BNB saving a/c	500,000.00	
	500,000.00	
SUSPENSE		
Suspense	25,229.01	
	25,229.01	
ADVANCES		
Dzongkhag tour	2,890.00	
RSPN-RMNP	633.00	
Advance to Bumthang tour	6,000.00	
RMNP activities	55,928.37	
Staff	72,217.96	
Adv. to vehicle fuel	4,832.74	
DANIDA Tour advance	15,000.00	
	157,502.07	



ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1999

	As at June 30, 1999 (IN NU.)	As at June 30, 1998 (IN NU.)	(IN US \$)	(IN US \$)
INCOME				
Reserve Fund	1,145,290.46	0.00	185.00	0.00
Account Balance	7,409,735.25	2,503,779.03	8,400.10	35,916.00
Other Income	747,933.08	994,875.51	3,557.81	2,298.77
TOTAL	9,302,958.79	3,498,654.54	12,142.91	38,214.77

EXPENSES				
Institutional Support	3,570,962.88	583,096.68	2,300.00	0.00
Institutional Development Support	0.00	674,776.30	0.00	0.00
Conservation Education	251,739.05	289,775.00	0.00	0.00
Royal Manas National Park Program	421,125.63	246,287.92	0.00	0.00
Keep Thimphu Clean Campaign	0.00	250,000.00	0.00	0.00
World Environment Day Celebration	0.00	62,589.00	0.00	0.00
BNC and Other Projects	0.00	16,792.00	0.00	0.00
Women in Environment	253,464.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1999

Plastic Waste Collection	8,478.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ICDP Phobjikha	14,220.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donation (Discovery Initiatives)	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BNC Festival 1998	301,052.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
Supply of Equipment to Env. Edn.	1,183,355.00	6,100.10	0.00	0.00
Reserve	254,739.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	14,522.00	3,537.91	506,572.50	0.00
Total Expenses	6,279,658.16	11,938.01	2,629,889.40	0.00
Balance for the Year	3,023,300.63	204.90	570,199.43	38,214.77
Deficit brought forward from the previous year	0.00	0.00	298,565.71	0.00
TOTAL	9,302,958.79	12,142.91	3,498,654.54	38,214.77

Significant Accounting Policies

1. These accounts have been prepared on a cash basis.
2. Fixed Assets are not capitalized and are expensed.
3. Figures from previous year have been grouped wherever required.



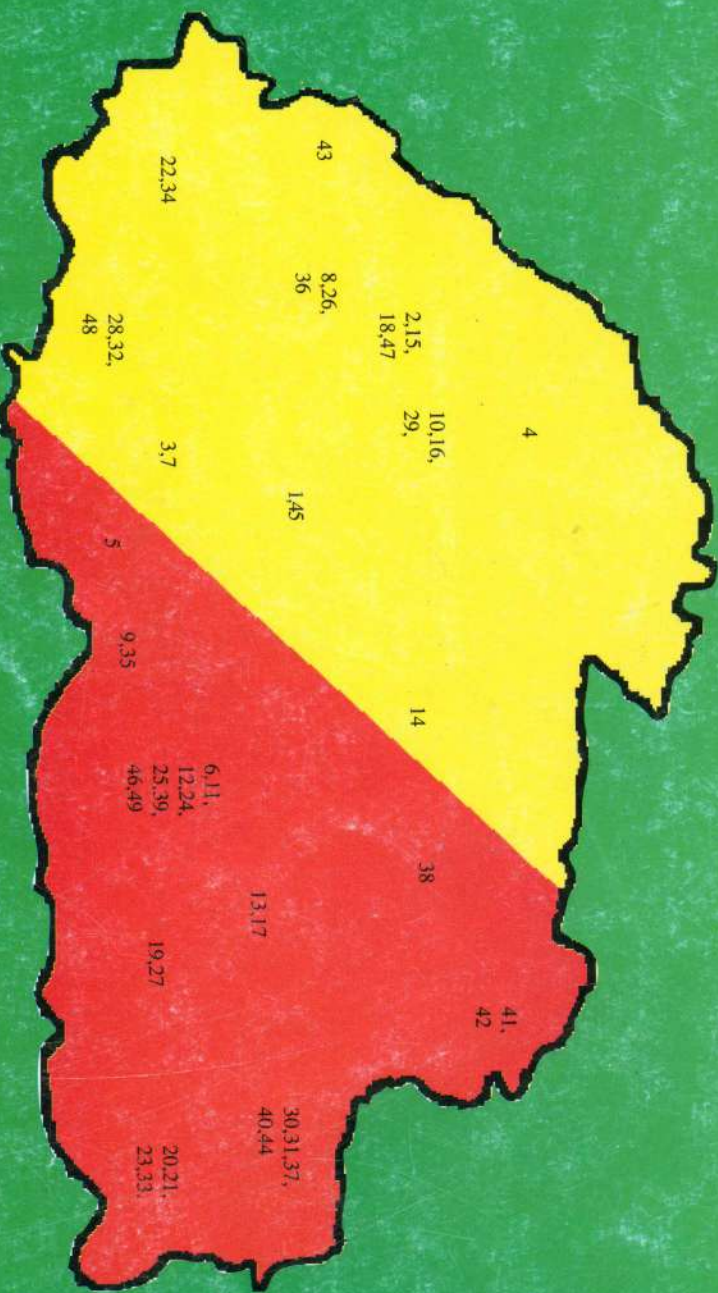
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE
THIMPHU : BHUTAN

TRIAL BALANCE AS ON 30.6.99

PROJECTS/CHARGEABLE HEADS	RECEIPTS		EXPENSES		BALANCE	
	NU.	US \$	NU.	US \$	NU.	US \$
Institutional Support (BTF)	3,747,628.75	2,300.00	3,570,962.88	2,300.00	176,665.87	-
Conservation Education (WWF)	226,460.05	-	226,460.05	-	-	-
Conservation Education (WWF)1999	246,000.00	-	23,511.00	-	222,489.00	-
Conservation Education (KNCF)	-	-	1,768.00	-	1,768.00	-
Women in Environment	-	-	253,464.00	-	253,464.00	-
Plastic Waste Collection (ABC)	8,478.00	-	8,478.00	-	-	-
ICDP Phobjikha	887,880.00	-	14,220.00	-	873,660.00	-
Snow Leopard Poster (ISL)	84,234.86	-	-	-	84,234.86	-
Plantation (SPIEC)	550,264.59	-	-	-	550,264.59	-
Donation (DI) DISCOVERY INITIATIVES	25,434.00	-	6,000.00	-	19,434.00	-
EE Program- Royal Manas	450,000.00	-	421,125.63	-	28,874.37	-
BNC festival (ICF)	653,704.00	-	301,052.60	-	352,651.40	-
Supply of equipments to EE (JICA)	1,183,355.00	6,100.10	1,183,355.00	6,100.10	-	-
Reserve fund	1,145,290.46	185.00	254,739.00	-	890,551.46	185.00
Sale of vehicle	-	3,500.00	-	3,500.00	-	-
Contingency	68,479.08	57.81	14,522.00	37.91	53,957.08	19.90
BNB saving	-	-	500,000.00	-	500,000.00	-
Equipment maintenance fund	25,750.00	-	-	-	25,750.00	-
Suspense	-	-	25,229.01	-	25,229.01	-
Advances	-	-	157,502.07	-	157,502.07	-
Bank	-	-	2,329,336.35	154.90	2,329,336.35	154.90
Cash	-	-	11,233.20	50.00	11,233.20	50.00
TOTAL	9,302,958.79	12,142.91	9,302,958.79	12,142.91	-	-



RSPN Nature Clubs in the Kingdom



- 1. Green Club, Baidhang HS, Wangdi 2. Cyprus NC, Chhangnigtha JHS 3D. Daga NC, Daga HS 4. Rangzhih, Darill CS, Gasa 5. SEBC, Damphu P.V. School, Tserang
- 6. DNC, Dorogdongi CS, Ziyang 7. Drukyeyang JHS, Dapana 8. Cheri Chen, Drukgyel HS 9. Gelephu JHS 10. EVS Club, Gonshehi P.S, Punakha 11. Gomphu P.S,
- Ziyang 12. Yula Tshokdey/Goshing P.S, Ziyang 13. Dzepel Rangzhih, Gyepozhong HS, Mongar 14. Jekar HS, Bumthang 15. Pema Mebro, Khaseatrapdhu JHS
- 16. Khurudhang JHS, Punakha 17. Mongar HS 18. Mochang HS, Thimphu 19. Euprel Melek, Hoem, Nangkor JHS, Penagatshel 20. Science & Environment
- Club, Nganglam HS, S/J 21. Kestrel Nyanglam, Nganglam JHS 22. Society for Protection of Nature, National Institute of Education, Samtse 23. Norbrugang P.Vy Sch,
- Nganglam 24. Golden Langur, Parbang P.S, Ziyang 25. Parbang Primary School, Ziyang 26. Red Panda, Paro JHS 27. Penagatshel JHS 28. Rangzhih, Phuentsholing
- HS 29. Gang Zig Punakha HS 30. Lee's NC, Radhi JHS, Tiyang 31. Rangjung JHS, Tiyang 32. Royal Technical Institute, Khatabandi 33. Green Teen, Samdrupjongkhar
- JHS 34. Env. Club, Samtse JHS 35. Orchid, Sarpaang JHS 36. Friends of Earth, Straba HS, Paro 37. Singye Karm, Sherubtse college, Kanglung 38. Ecotans, Tangnadrhu
- JHS, Lhuentse 39. Green Youth, Tingdoli P.S, Ziyang 40. Env. Friendly, Tashiyangtse HS 41. Ngajong Deltren, Tashiyangtse HS 42. Tsenkhar Tsenbu, Tsenkhartra
- JHS, Tashiyangtse 43. Ugyen Dorji HS, Haa 44. Mother Earth, Yamrong JHS, Tiyang 45. Wangpa HS 46. Hornbill, Yedoleptsa JHS, Ziyang 47. Babylon
- Garden, Zhiukha Jr. Hg. Sdn, Thimphu 48. Chhuka HS 49. Truong Thruongk, amo, Zhenygang HS