



**Royal Society for Protection of Nature
Annual Report 2000-2001**

Royal Society for Protection of Nature



**Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness
The Crown Prince of Bhutan**



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RSPN Archive

Cover

Viburnum nervosum (Dz: Ola sima)

A deciduous shrub found in the districts of Ha, Thimphu, Punakha, Trongsa and Mongar between altitudes 2743-3962 m.

Flowering time: March-April

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RSPN Annual Report (July 2000-June 2001)

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STATEMENT BY THE ROYAL PATRON

“The kingdom of Bhutan is blessed with an exceptional and largely intact natural environment. I have joined RSPN in its mission to raise awareness of the challenge that faces us now. We must all accept our individual responsibility to conserve the rich diversity of Bhutan’s plant and animal species, for the benefit of both the natural world and our children’s future.”

His Royal Highness DASHO JIGME KHE SAR NAMGYAL WANGCHUCK
the Crown Prince of Bhutan, Royal Patron of RSPN



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The period July 2000 – June 2001 was yet another challenging but promising year for RSPN in its institutional and program development. In its continued efforts to become an efficient, effective and financially self-reliant conservation organization, significant activities were initiated in the past year. RSPN entered into the second phase of Institutional Development Support from the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC). This phase also marks the launching of self-sustainability mechanisms for RSPN. A committee was appointed by the board to recommend ways of enhancing the board's dynamism.

The 'RSPN Endowment Fund' program received major impetus with the commitment of the BT FEC Management Board to match contributions up to USD 450,000 on a dollar to dollar basis. As of June 2001, RSPN raised USD 50,000 for its endowment fund. The past year also saw the successful conclusion of capacity building and recurrent costs project supported by BT FEC.

While continuing with Conservation Education programs in the schools and institutions, RSPN also actively participated in the preparation of Environmental Education Strategy for Bhutan. With ten new nature clubs established during the year, a total of 77 nature clubs constitute the nature club network. Another significant activity under the EE program was the rejuvenation of 'Follow that Stream' - a water pollution and waste management project for schools.

The Integrated Conservation and Development Program in Phobjikha in its second year of implementation saw a steady progress. Pilot alternative energy programs in the form of solar and PICO (Peltric set) were initiated this year in Gangtey Monastery, Gogona monastery and the Crane Observation Center. The Crane Observation and Education Center was also completed with the joint efforts of donors and individuals. The Center will enable RSPN to achieve its educational and awareness program objectives as well as enhance the concept of Ecotourism in Phobjikha valley.

The RSPN Membership Program saw another successful year. RSPN guardians and members have always contributed immensely towards promoting conservation through financial contributions and personal involvement. This fiscal year the RSPN membership strength increased to 3115 members with 2900 student members, 140 Individual members and 5 guardians.

I would like to conclude by thanking all organizations, agencies and individuals for their support and encouragement in our conservation endeavours.

Tashi Delek!

Lam Dorji,
Executive Director



INTRODUCTION

Royal Society for the Protection of Nature is the first and only national NGO (non-government, non-profit organization) in Bhutan till date that exclusively concerns itself with the environment and its conservation.

Established in 1987, it is presently registered under the Companies Act of Bhutan till a more appropriate NGO Act is passed by the Royal Government of Bhutan.

RSPN's conservation programs include Environment Education Program, Integrated Conservation and Development Program and Advocacy programs.

Mission Statement

"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."



Guiding principles

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

Goals

- ✦ To become a catalyst in promoting positive attitude and self-sustaining citizens' action to conserve Bhutan's rich environmental heritage.
- ✦ To become an efficient, effective and finally self-reliant conservation organization.
- ✦ To become a major source for information on Bhutan's environment.

TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

TECHNICAL REPORT

of all societies...
...of Education...

...youth in environment...
...long term success...
...sustainable development...

...students at all stages in the...
...learning, clarification and...
...collective thinking...
...meaningful...
...contributing to overall...

...primarily on the...
...through soft...
...the country...
...related with...



ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Achieving sustainable development is the fundamental challenge facing all societies in this new century. At the Earth Summit, Rio, environment education was recognized as the key agent for delivering sustainable development. Education equips every individual with knowledge and skills empowering them to participate meaningfully in conservation and development processes.

The involvement of today's youth in environmental conservation is critical to the long term success of Bhutan's '*middle path*' policy of sustainable development

Environment Education involves students at all stages in the process of increased understanding, clarification and judgement of values, critical and reflective thinking, experiential and cooperative learning, meaningful empowerment and ownership contributing to overall improvement of the quality of life

The RSPN EE Program, focusing primarily on the formal education sector, is implemented through school and institution based nature clubs in the country. Till date, seventy seven nature clubs are affiliated under the RSPN Nature Club Network.



Nature Clubs

Nature clubs were initiated with an aim to encourage students to increase awareness and understanding of their local environment and to enable them to contribute to its conservation by sharing their knowledge and skills with their friends in school, among family members and the local community, ultimately influencing the whole society.

RSPN Support to Nature Clubs

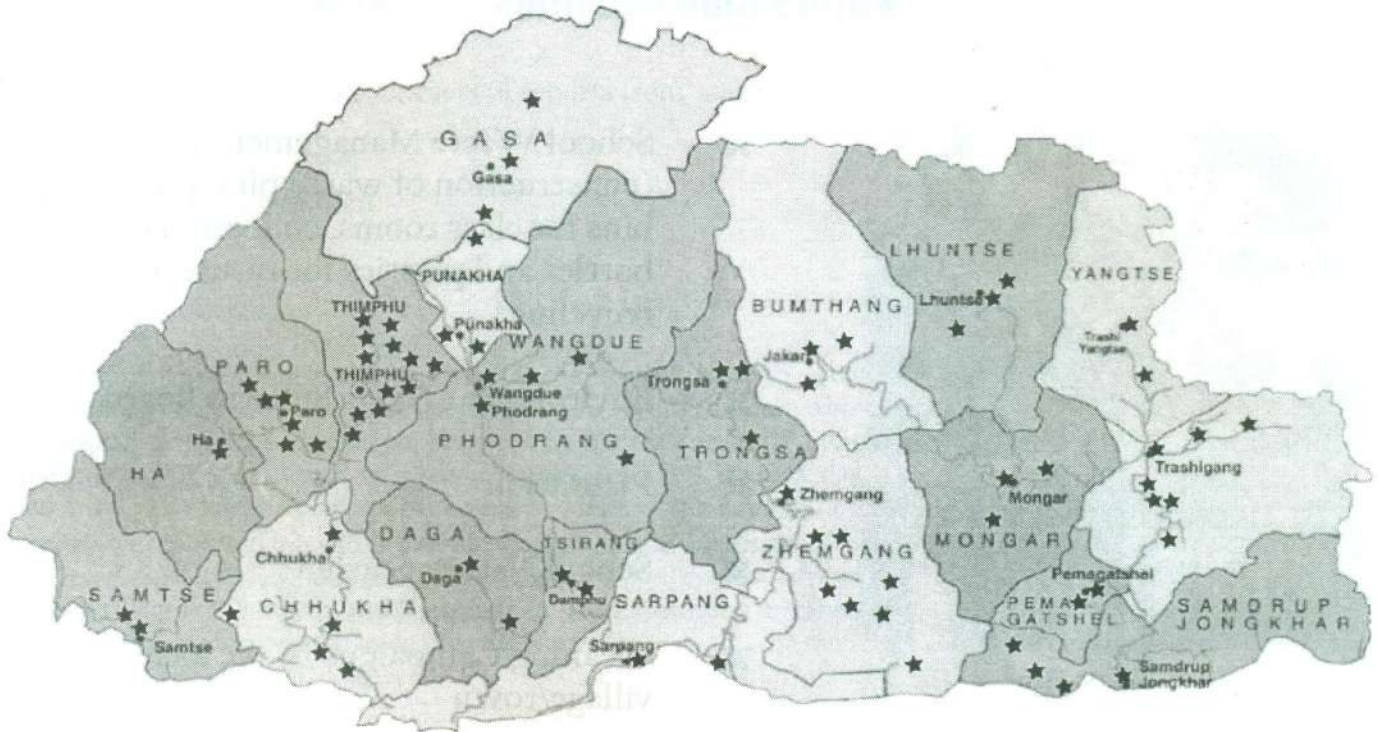
- ✧ Nature club Handbook
- ✧ Financial Support
- ✧ Support visit by RSPN Staff
- ✧ Publications
 - RSPN Newsletter
 - Birds of Bhutan
 - Journals
- ✧ Best Nature Club Award
- ✧ Annual training workshop for Nature Club Teachers
- ✧ Environment camp for at least two Nature clubs in the National Parks
- ✧ Nature Club Action grant awarded to one nature club every year for environment projects in the locality



Top left: Students participating in an EE game
Top right: NC sign board, Khoma Primary School, Lhuntse
Bottom left: NC member of
Bottom right: Children of Phobjikha Primary School
at the Crane Observation & Education Center, Phobjikha.



RSPN Nature Clubs in the Country



BUMTHANG

1. Jakar High School
2. Chume High School
3. Ura Jr. High School

CHUKHA

4. Chhukha High School.
5. Gedu High School
6. Royal Technical Institute
7. Phuntsholing High School

DAGANA

8. Daga High School
9. Drujeygang Jr. High School.

GASA

10. Gasa Jr. High School.
11. Damji Community School
12. Laya Community School

HAA

13. Ugyen Dorji High School

LHUNTSE

14. Khoma Primary School
15. Tangmachu High School
16. Lhuntse Jr. High School

MONGAR

17. Mongar High School
18. Gyalposhing High School
19. Ngatshang Community School

PARO

20. Drukgyel High School
21. Paro Junior High School
22. NIE, Paro
23. Shaba High School
24. Lango Jr. High School
25. Woochu Jr. High School

PEMAGATSHEL

26. Nangkhor High School
27. Pemagatshel Junior High School

PUNAKHA

28. Punakha High School
29. Goenshari Primary School
30. Khuru Junior High School

SAMDRUP JONGKHAR

31. Nganglam High School
32. Nganglam Junior High School
33. Samdrup Jongkhar High School
34. Norbugang Primary School

SAMTSE

35. Samtse High School
36. NIE

SARPANG

37. Gelephu High School
38. Sarpang High School

THIMPHU

39. Khasadrapchu Junior High School
40. Changangkha Junior High School
41. Yangchenphu High School
42. Zilukha Junior High School
43. Motithang High School
44. Choden Junior High School
45. Dechencholing Junior High School
46. Jigme Namgyel Junior High School
47. Rinchen Kuenphel Primary School
48. Changzamtog Jr. High School
49. Genekha Pry. School
50. Lungtenzampa High School

TRASHIGANG

51. Khaling High school
52. Trashigang Junior High School
53. Wamrong High School
54. Rangjung High School
55. Radhi Junior High School
56. Sherubtse college
57. Kanglung Jr. High School

TRASHIYANGTSE

58. Tshenkarla Junior High School
59. Trashiyangtse High School

TRONGSA

60. Trongsa High School
61. Langthel Junior High School
62. Tshangkha Jr. High School

WANGDUEPHODRANG

63. Bajo High School
64. Wangdue Junior High School
65. Gaselo Junior High School
66. Phobjikha Primary School
67. Nobding Jr. High School

ZHEMGANG

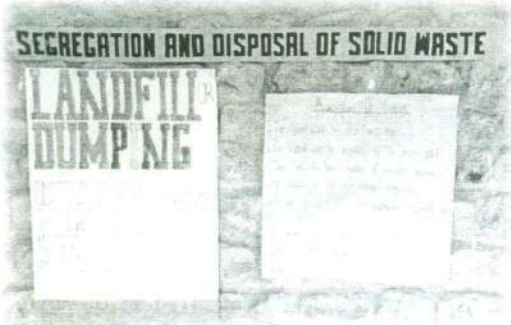
68. Zhemgang High School
69. Yebilaptsa Jr. High School
70. Tingtibi Primary School
71. Gomphu Primary School
72. Pantang Primary School
73. Goshing Primary School
74. Panbang Jr. High School
75. Dongdongbi Community School

TSIRANG

76. Damphu High Sxhool
77. Damphu Primary School



Nature Club Activities



- ✧ School Waste Management Program (construction of waste pits, providing bins for class rooms, collection of bottles and plastics for re-use and recycling).
- ✧ Environment News Bulletin Board
- ✧ Plantation
- ✧ School Nature Garden
- ✧ Cleaning Campaigns in the local village/town
- ✧ Quiz and debate on environment themes
- ✧ Talk on environment issue/ conservation by NC members during school morning assembly
- ✧ Observance of world environment events – World Environment Day, International Bird watching day, World Earth Day etc.
- ✧ Skits/dramas during local festivals on environmental themes – e.g. Water pollution and its impact on human and the environment and how it affects the quality of life.
- ✧ Short treks to local monasteries and biodiversity sites.
- ✧ Annual Nature Club Exhibition to exhibit their activities and spread awareness among the local community on environment issues.



Nature Club Reports

Included in this section are extracts of reports from some nature clubs:

✧ Tsenden Nature Club Gaselo Junior High School Wangdue

1. Orchid Garden:

On April 15th the members made a trip to the nearby forest to collect deadwood and manure for the development of an orchid garden within the school campus. In the evening we prepared for the plantation by digging and putting up dead wood as a stand for the orchids. The next day we went to Laulumba to collect the orchids. Some of the common orchid species we collected were *Coelogyne* sp, *Calanthe* sp and *Liparis* sp.. We had collected more of these orchid species when we had made a trip to the nearby villages of Shingkey and Shariphanka. The nature club members are divided into seven groups to look after the garden.



NC Members displaying their orchid collection

2. Fundraising Activities:

In addition to our regular conservation activities, we decided to do some fundraising activities to make our club sustainable in the future.

Collection of Chirpine Cones:

The members made two trips to Nahi to collect the cones. We invited the Dzongkhag ranger to teach us the basics in collecting the cones from trees. On the same day, we left for Nahi to collect the cones. The members were divided in groups and each group went to a different place to collect the cones. Even the scouts joined us. Hence we were able quite a sizeable amount of seeds. We then sold the cones collected to the Dzongkhag Ranger.

Wet Canteen:

We also decided to run wet canteen during functions in the school. We bought flour, oil, onions, potatoes, spices, grams, chillies etc, from which we made puri, alu dam, chana and chilly chop and sold it to the students as well as the public. Our investment for this venture was Nu. 475 and we made sales of Nu. 1175 in total with a profit of Nu. 700.

(As reported by the Nature Club Coordinator, Gaselo Junior High School)

✧ Goenshari Primary School Punakha

Environment Exhibition:

Goenshari Primary School organized an environment exhibition with Punakha High School, Khuruthang JHS and Kabesa Primary School for 3 days (13th-15th Dec 2000). Funded by Jigme Dorji National Park, the aim of the program was to initiate cooperative conservation activities among the schools within the Park.

Students from the 4 schools gave speeches and exhibited posters, models and information on birds, wildlife, plants, water pollution and sustainable land use. A quiz competition was also held for the students. In the evening, a documentary show on environment issues was screened for the general public. On the final day, a bird watching session was held with resource person from Nature Conservation Division.

The program was attended by approximately four hundred visitors.

(As reported by the Nature Club Coordinator, Goenshari Primary School)



✧ Lee's Nature Club
Radhi Junior High School
Trashigang

1. Cleaning campaign:

With the combined strength of the school Scout, Health and Nature club, we did an extensive cleaning campaign in the market area. The local people also joined in and students talked to the local people on the importance of proper waste disposal. The non-biodegradable litter like plastic and bottles were separated from the rubbish. The school water source was also cleaned under the supervision of the club coordinator and BHU staff.



2. Silver Oak Plantation:

The club has also identified saplings of the silver oak tree which have started giving seed from this year. Weeding has been done and the sapling are properly fenced to keep animals away. After discussion with the Forestry Extension staff, it has been decided that the saplings will have to be transplanted in the nursery beds by early summer next year.

(As reported by the Nature Club Coordinator, Radhi Junior High School)

✧ Drukgyel High School
Paro

During the last two years club members have regularly participated in several literary and art contests on the environment at local, national and international levels. It maybe reported here that one of our students art was awarded the best in the special category in the JQA contest organized by Japan. His art was displayed in the UN building in New York for a month. The club feels that through such contests a wider awareness is being created on the issues facing conservation and environment.

(As reported by the Nature Club Coordinator, Drukgyel High School)

✧ Green Youth Nature Club,
Tingtibi Primary School.
Zhemgang

The Life Skill Club and the Green Youth Nature Club jointly organized an annual exhibition.

The highlight of the exhibition were model & chart displays on:

- ◆ Landscapes
- ◆ Wood based industry-advantages and disadvantages in the living environment
- ◆ Model ecofriendly village
- ◆ Animals, fruits, vegetable models made from waste paper
- ◆ Forest products
- ◆ Model of the physical map of Bhutan showing rivers and different landscapes

(As reported by the Nature Club Coordinator, Tingtibi Primary School)



✧ Environment Club,
Gelephu High School
Sarpang

The environment club compiled art work and environment messages of the last three years and made it into a book form. We then approached UNICEF and RSPN for possible funding to print it and make it more widely available to schools all over the country. The objective of this was to share our messages with everyone and therefore work cooperatively in conserving our rich environment.

We are happy to state that the funding has been approved by UNICEF and with the help in layout and design from RSPN, the book is at present at a printing house in Thimphu to be released next year.

✧ Thimphu Schools Adopt Streams

Ten schools in Thimphu adopted a stream in their locality on World Environment Day 2001. The program was officially started by Her Majesty the Queen, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, after a prize distribution ceremony organized by the National Environment Commission.

Groups of students flocked streams/drains near their schools, picking up trash and litter and even helping to dismantle toilets which had been constructed near streams.

A positive thing about the program was that it wasn't just a 'once a year' activity to be done again on the next World Environment Day. Each school has adopted the stream they cleaned and will be making it sure that it stays that way. Signboards have been erected near the streams with the name of the school and an appeal to everyone to help keep it clean.

z

Schools involved:

- ◆ Changangkha JHS
- ◆ Changzamtog JHS
- ◆ Rinchen Kuenphen Primary School
- ◆ Choden JHS
- ◆ Dechenchhloing JHS
- ◆ Jigme Namgyal JHS
- ◆ Zilukha JHS
- ◆ Lungtenzampa HS
- ◆ Motithang HS
- ◆ Yangchenphug High School

This program was funded by WWF Bhutan Program



Top: Her Majesty the Queen, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, plants a tree sapling at Chubachhu during the program.



Left: Signboard by Rinchen Kuenphen Primary School appealing to people to help keep the stream clean.

Bottom: Children of Changzamtog Junior High School cleaning the drains in the workshop area at Changzamtog.





Annual EE Programs

✧ Follow that Stream

Follow that Stream, a project on water pollution and solid waste management, which was originally started in 1992, was reintroduced in nine schools this year.

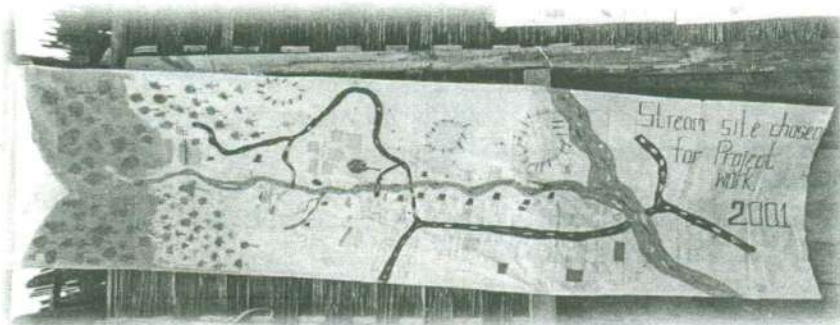
This project aims at guiding school children through a series of activities and investigations that will provide the motivation within them to do something positive and practical to change their negative impact on the environment

This one year project for schools is divided into three parts: Part One tackles the familiar teaching ground of developing awareness, knowledge and understanding of some of the environmental issues surrounding water including water pollution and its effect on the health and hygiene of living things (including humans). This part can be described more simply as learning about water.

Part two takes the students into the environment to carry out field work as part of an investigation to find out and record what happens to a stream during its course from the source, through human settlements and finally into a river or sea. It also covers the health aspect of This part can simply be described as learning in or from the environment.



Part three encourages students to understand: why it is important to know about the earth and the environment; how values and attitudes can develop through physical experience of confronting environmental issues; and how important it is to do something about the problem confronted. Caring is not just a passive enjoyment or awareness of nature. This part maybe called learning for the environment.





Since the project mobilizes just a group of students (nature club), an exhibition is held in the end for the benefit of the whole school as well as for the local community. Poster, charts and models on the project are displayed and recommendations (solutions) are also made to improve/tackle the problems on water pollution and waste management.

The first nine schools to participate in this project were:

1. Bajo HS
2. Changangkha JHS
3. Gelephu High School
4. Nganglam HS
5. Paro JHS
6. Phuentsholing High School
7. Ugyen Dorji HS
8. Yangchenphug HS
9. Khuruthang JHS
10. Zilukha JHS



The project was introduced as an interschool competition which was judged by RSPN. Phuentsholing High School came First, followed very closely by Gelephu High School, with a difference of just one point. Changangkha Junior High School was placed third.

Regardless of which school secured the highest exhibition points, it was very encouraging to note the commitment of the students involved in the project.



Funded by UNICEF as part of the Year 2000 Project Plan of Action for Advocacy and Social Mobilization, this project will be introduced in ten different schools every year.



❖ Youth Environment Programs at Phobjikha

Phuentsholing High School:

Forty-one students and two teachers of Phuentsholing High School were taken for a week long environment retreat (5th-9th March 2001) for winning the 'Follow that Stream' Project Competition.

According to a student participant, it was an entertaining as well as an informative week with environment games, bird watching, visit to religious centers and learning about the ICDP and the harmonious coexistence of the people and the cranes.



PHS students at Kamechu, Wangdue during the camp

Scouts Environment Education Program:

Phobjikha hosted yet another group of students a week later. An environment education program was organized for thirty scouts of Khuruthang JHS, Bajo HS and Trongsa HS from 16th-18th March 2001 in cooperation with the Youth Guidance and Counselling Division. The scouts were briefed on basic environment concepts through games and lectures. They also visited the crane hide from where they observed the birds in their daytime feeding area. Additional activities during the program included physical education, familiarization with the ICDP and visit to religious and cultural sites.



Scouts at the Crane Hide in Phobjikha

A one-day environment education program was also dedicated to the Class V and VI students of Phobjikha Primary School after which the school nature club was officially affiliated to the RSPN nature club network.

❖ Annual Environmental Education Workshop for Nature Club Coordinator

The aim of this workshop is to enhance teachers knowledge in environmental issues, natural environment, environment education and provide necessary skills in promoting EE. The workshop also provides an opportunity for nature club coordinators to share their ideas and views on conservation as well as the constraints they face while carrying out activities. The nature club action plan for the following year is also drafted during this time.

This year the workshop was also held at Kamechu, Wangdue from 19th to 23rd February 2001. 24 nature club coordinators from the following schools:

The sessions were held through lectures, audio-visual presentations, discussions, simulation games and group activities. In order to make the workshop more interesting and activity oriented, a number of field trips were organized.



Teachers working out their annual nature club action plan at the workshop



✧ Environment Education Programs in Institutions

Environment education programs are held every year in Teaching institutes and forestry institutes in the country to give the trainees an environmental edge before they join service. This year programs were held in the following institutes:

- ◆ Bhutan Forestry Institute, Thimphu
8th-10th June 2001



- ◆ National Institute of Education, Paro
15th-16th June 2001



Project Donors

- ✦ UNICEF
- ✦ WWF Bhutan Program

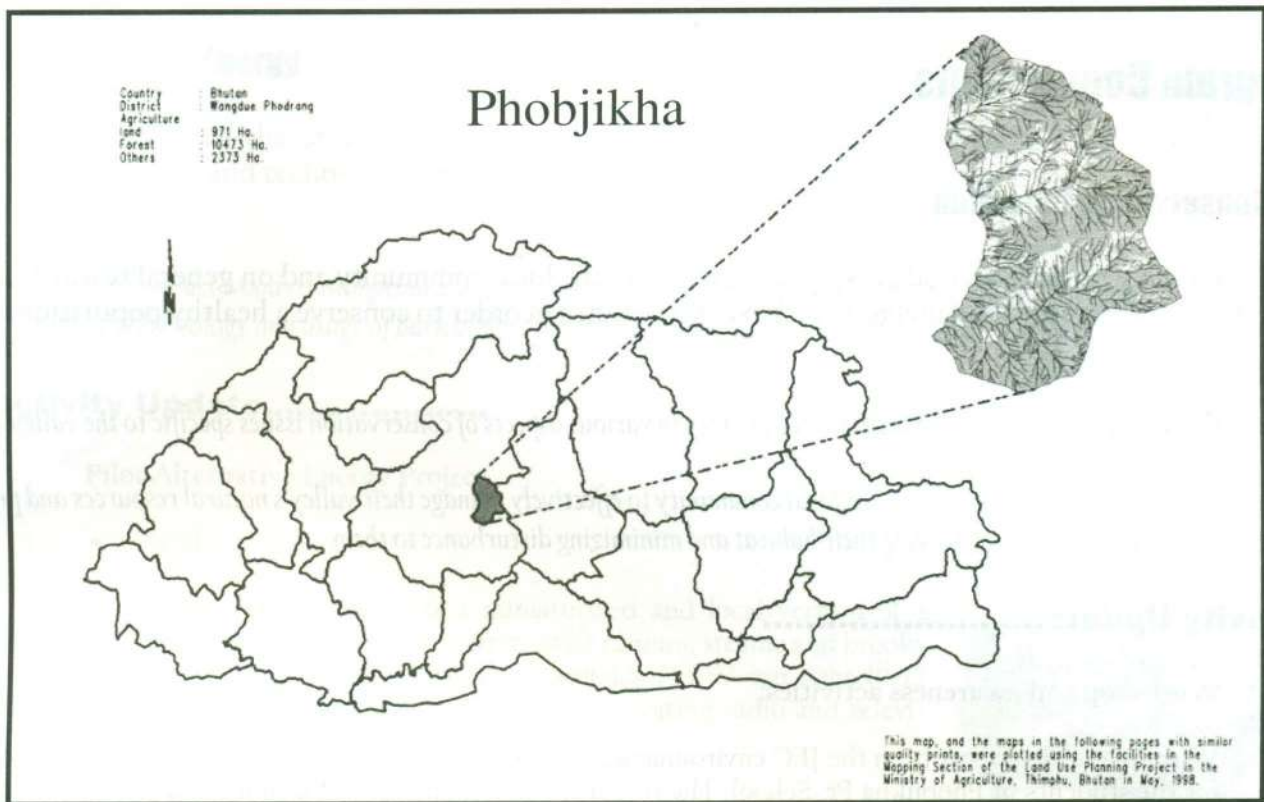


INTEGRATED CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 1999 RSPN initiated the Integrated Conservation and Development Program (ICDP) in Phobjikha (Wangdue), the biggest wintering site for the black necked cranes in Bhutan.

Funded by GEF Small Grants Program, SPIEC, WWF and Japan Environment Corporation, the project focuses on biodiversity conservation as well as the economic enhancement of the local community. It has been initiated as a model from which lessons can be learnt for replication in other environmentally sensitive areas.

Bhutan being one of the ten global hotspots for biodiversity conservation, ICDP Phobjikha is expected to have global environmental benefits through habitat conservation of the cranes and sustainable use of biological and renewable resources which mitigate climate change.



Goals of ICDP

- ✧ Promote positive attitudes especially on part of the local community, towards the conservation of rare and endangered Black necked crane and their habitat in order to conserve a healthy population of it.
- ✧ Empower local people in decision making process and enhance their skill and status in conservation and sustainable development.
- ✧ Familiarize the local community with the importance and utility of the different alternative source of energy and technology for mitigating negative environmental impacts.
- ✧ Provide alternative economic opportunities to the local community in order to promote the economic well being of the community, to promote positive attitude towards the conservation of the Black Necked Cranes and to prevent depletion natural resources that can lead to degradation of wetland habitat.
- ✧ Develop Phobjikha into Model Eco-tourism destination.
- ✧ Build and strengthen the capacity of local communities and project personnel through human resource development for sustainable development, management and conservation of the natural resources.
- ✧ Preservation of Phobjikha wetland ecosystem and associated species dependent on it.
- ✧ Develop and Incorporate effective research, monitoring and evaluation components into the project and measure progress in terms of conservation of the black necked cranes, their habitat, agricultural practices and community well being.



Program Components

✧ Conservation Education

Goal 1: Promote positive attitudes especially on part of the local community and on general towards the conservation of rare and endangered Black Necked Cranes in order to conserve a healthy population of it.

Objective 1: Educating and involving the local community in various aspects of conservation issues specific to the valley.

Objective 2: Developing the capacity of the local community to effectively manage their valley's natural resources and preserve Black necked cranes by preserving their habitat and minimizing disturbance to them.

Activity Update.....

Workshop and awareness activities:

With financial support from the JEC environmental education and awareness workshop was conducted for the students of Phobjikha Pr. School. The resource personal from the EE unit of RSPN was hired to conduct the workshop. During the workshop the students were made aware of the global and local environmental conditions in Particular. As a follow up activity the Phobjikha Pr. School set up a nature club and was registered under the RSPN nature club network.

In addition, the members of the PCAP committee were also trained in management of solid waste and identification of environmental problems within their own locality

✧ Community Development and organization

Goal 2: Empower local people in decision making process and enhance their skill and status in conservation and sustainable development.

Objective: To develop mechanism towards collective decision-making and to enhance development without under mining the importance of Phobjikha as a conservation area.

Activity Update.....

- ◆ The Phobjikha Conservation Area Program (PCAP) Committee has been actively participating in the implementation of project activities. In the past year, meetings have been held regularly with the PCAP Committee for matters relating to conservation issues and developmental needs.

These meetings have been very helpful in securing community participation thereby helping to implement the activities smoothly. The meetings have been significant as it allows a two-way communication between project management and implementation levels. It has been successful to resolve many issues concerning the implementation of the project.



PCAP Committee meeting in session



✧ Alternative Energy

Goal: Familiarize the local community with the importance and utility of the different alternative source of energy and technology for mitigating negative environmental impact.

Objective: -

Reduce stress on fuel wood consumption and explore potential for promoting alternative source of energy, such as usage of solar energy technology and usage of back boilers for cooking, heating and lightning.

Activity Update.....

Pilot Alternative Energy Project

◆ PICO

The peltric set (or PICO) is a miniaturized and local version of a pelton turbine. It utilizes water from swift running streams and brooks to generate electricity for lighting households (1 kW can light 10-12 rural households), charging batteries and operating radio and television sets.

In Phobjikha, artificial reservoirs have been constructed to drop the water from a height and increase its flowing speed.

Peltric turbine sets have been installed at Gangtey monastery including the Shedra and the retreat, RSPN Crane Observation and Education Center and the Gogona Monastery

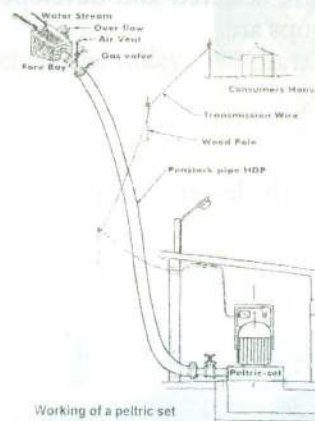
⇒ Gangtey Monasteries:
5 KW

Beneficiaries: Gangtey monastery, Shedra and the Retreat.

⇒ Gogona Monastery:
1.5 KW.

Beneficiaries: Gogona Monastery, and neighboring five households.

⇒ Crane Observation and Education Center:
1 KW



Left: Working model of a PICO set
Right top: PICO reservoir at Gangtey Goempa
Middle: Switching/control station
Bottom: PICO lights inauguration at the RSPN Crane Center, Phobjikha

PICO is funded by WWF Bhutan Program

◆ Solar Lighting

Solar power has been identified as another source of alternative energy for Phobjikha. Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) is a technology that directly converts the radiation from the Sun into electricity. It is based on a physical process that requires no moving parts or turbines. Generating about 120 watts of electricity from a 10 sq. feet area of SPV Panel on a sunny day. It can be used for lighting as well as running or operating electro-mechanical equipment.

Funded by Japan Environment Corporation (JFGE), Solar panels have been installed for electricity generation in the Crane Observation and Education Centre. This program will facilitate loans to individual



✧ Ecotourism

Goal: Develop Phobjikha into a model Eco-tourism destination

Objectives:-

1. Development of nature trails and identification of new trekking routes
2. Development of accommodations
3. Development of operational facilities for Crane observation and education center
4. Construction of Photographic hide (Photo blind)
5. Development of natural and cultural tour programs
6. Preservation of local cultural and heritage sites
7. Annual Black Necked Crane Festival

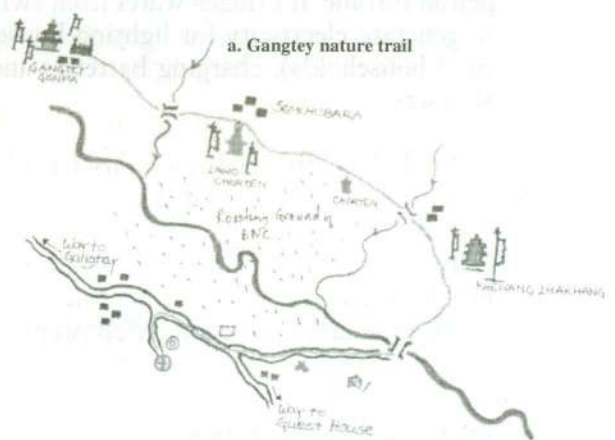
Activity Update.....

◆ Nature trails

There were seven sample nature trails existing in Phobjikha, out of these three trails, which the PCAP Committee found to be suitable for trekkers of all age groups were selected. These trails provide a healthy green walk for nature lovers, a glimpse of the rare Black Necked Cranes during autumn and winter and also indirectly benefit the local community and the school going children

The Three trails that were selected and developed for trekkers of all age groups are:

- a. The Gangtey Nature trail,
- b. Tshelala trail, and
- c. Kilkhorthang trail.



Information pamphlets with description and maps for these trails have also been printed.

◆ Crane Observation cum Education Center



The construction of the Crane Observation cum Education Center was completed this year. Funded jointly by GEF/Small Grants Program, UNDP, Society for Promotion of Intercultural Education for Children (SPIEC), Japan Environment Cooperation (JEC), and Colin and Ann Phipps, members of International Crane Foundation (ICF), it stands on the western edge of the Phobjikha valley overlooking the crane roosting area.

The Center was officially inaugurated on 7th June 2001 by Ms. Misako Shinoda (Konno), the UNDP Global Goodwill Ambassador.

It will be the base for crane viewing and interpretation, delivering an early morning viewing experience for visitors and acting as the starting point of guided excursion to the bird's blind for the more intrepid. This center is also designed to function as base for field research and nature club activities and home of RSPN staff in Phobjikha.



◆ Training of local guides

Two local people (Class x drop outs) were identified to undergo tourist guide training. The RSPN ecologist/botanist trained the guides on avifauna and the general biodiversity of the valley. One of them also underwent the Guide Training Course provided by the Department of Tourism, Royal Government of Bhutan. Under the Ecotourism component, more people from the local community will be trained in this field in the future.

◆ Nature and Cultural Tour Programs

- a. An interpretative educational tour program for the cranes in the valley has been developed by Dr. George Archibald, Director of the International Crane Foundation
- b. A cultural survey of the valley has been carried out and the survey results have been compiled which include customs, traditions and religious belief of the local people; information on local monasteries and chhortens;
- c. Prototype Tour Program

1. Visit to the Crane Observation and Education Centre

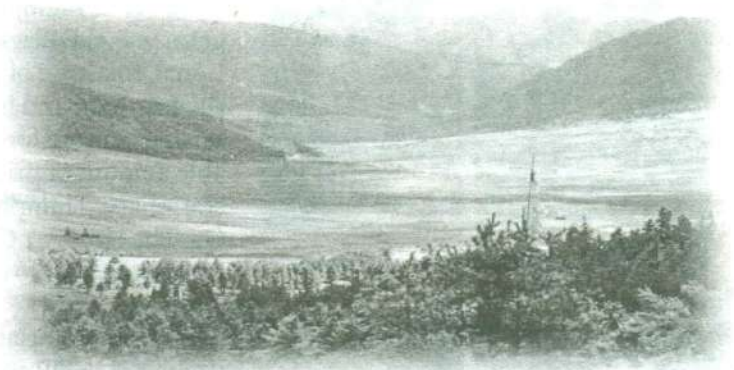
- ◆ Slide show and talk on natural and cultural environment of the valley
- ◆ Talk on the Cranes, their migratory pattern, habitat, population
- ◆ Talk on ICDP
- ◆ Briefing on Dos and Don'ts while in the valley
- ◆ Briefing on existing community lodges and other facilities available in the valley
- ◆ Information on RSPN Photographic hide
- ◆ Availability of observation facilities such as binoculars and telescopes to observe the bird in winter
- ◆ Video show on various natural and cultural aspects of the valley



Information panels at the Crane Observation & Education Center

2. Early morning Crane observation and counting/ Crane study using nature trails:

- ◆ RSPN guide to conduct the tour. Briefing by the guide on the landscape, history of the Chhorten on view, cranes, their roosting habit, feeding habit and their territorial and behavior in general. Identification of cranes, their gender, age (adult/juvenile) will also be briefed on.
- ◆ Visit to the monastery that is located along the trail that is used for crane counting. Visitors will also be briefed on the history of the monastery



Phobjikha valley showing the Black necked crane roosting grounds

3. Trekking & Day Hikes

- ◆ Phobjikha -Gogona -Khotokha;
- ◆ Phobjikha -Tshelela (Bird Watching) -Gogona -Phobjikha;
- ◆ Local Nature trails;



◆ 3rd Annual Black Necked Festival 12th Nov. 2000

The Annual Black Necked Crane Festival is held every year on 12th November in Phobjikha valley, Wangdue. The festival was initiated by the local community and RSPN, to spread awareness about the cranes as well as create an avenue for raising funds for the economic enhancement of the Phobjikha community.

The year 2000 marked the third anniversary of the festival which was inaugurated by the Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Shun-ichi Murata. The festival actually starts informally in the early morning hours with a visit to the crane roost for monitoring and counting of the cranes. The ritual was carried out this year too, but there was some apprehension on the decrease of the number of cranes as compared to the festival count last year. But within a few weeks the count was more or less consistent with the past.

Later in the morning the Chief Guest in his inaugural address stated that an event such as the crane festival demonstrates that conservation is not really an obstacle to development but rather can add to the economic and social well being. He emphasized that to protect the global environment and meet people's needs, human activities throughout the world must shift towards sustainable patterns of development and life styles. He concluded by reaffirming UNDP's commitment to continue its partnership with the Royal Government, civil society and the people of Bhutan to promote environmental conservation as sustainable use of biological diversity while ensuring improved and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.



In addition to the regular cultural programs by the local community and students of Phobjikha primary school, the highlight of the cultural program was the Black necked crane dance by student volunteers of the National Institute of Education, Paro. Game stalls with environmental themes, food and handicraft stalls were also set up as part of the fundraising venture for the local community. For the game stalls, a considerable amount of prizes were donated by Jimmy brothers, Dealers in office stationary, Thimphu. With donations from UNICEF and individuals, an On-The Spot Art Competition on cranes was organized by the Voluntary Artist Studio of Thimphu.



Quite a substantial amount was raised from the festival with donations from the UNDP and guests from the International Crane Foundation and visitors. The proceeds will go towards the PCAP Committee Fund for sustaining the festival in future.

This years festival was partly funded by Japan Environment Corporation.

*Top right: Black necked crane dance by NIE, Paro; Bottom right: Black necked cranes at Phobjikha
Top Left: A monk tries his hand at a games stall; Bottom left: Local entrepreneurs at the festival*



✧ Capacity Building / HRD Development Program

Goal 6: Build and strengthen the capacity of local communities and project personnel through human resource development for sustainable development, management and conservation of the natural resources.

Objective 1: Enable self-sustainability of PCAP committee in the long run.

Objective 2: Develop RSPN's Capacity to ensure that the quality of services keep in pace with the expanded coverage, and continue to address the community needs and conservation concerns.

✧ Wetland Restoration Program

Goal: Preservation of Phobjikha wetland ecosystem and associated species.

Objective: - Preserve the wetland eco-system of Phobjikha valley in general and the habitat of the black-necked crane in particular.

At present the most concerned issue in the valley is the location of the Primary school in the wetland. With increasing number of students annually and the pressure to have the present primary school upgraded and expanded, there is a concern that this wetland may be drained to accommodate the necessary requirements for the future. This may result in the habitat of the rare and endangered Black Necked Cranes and the associated wetland flora and fauna being threatened and lost. Moreover, it has been noticed that during the winter cranes usually feed in this area. Thus, it is necessary to restore and conserve this wetland by reallocating the school from the present wetland to a more suitable area having not only good environment for learning but also suitable for further expansion without posing any threat on the wetland or the cranes. By doing this about 5 Acre of the wetland and the associated species would be restored and saved.

✧ Environmental Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Goal 4. Develop and Incorporate effective research, monitoring and evaluation components into the project and measure progress in terms of conservation of the black necked cranes, their habitat, agricultural practices and community well being.

Objective: - Identify and Initiate research on key gaps in existing baseline information.

Activity Update.....

◆ Tibet Crane Banding Expedition July-August 2000

The Tibet-2000 Black Necked Crane Expedition brought together three countries: - Bhutan, China and U.S.A. The objective of this tripartite cooperative research program in July-August 2000 was to band black necked crane chicks in Tibet and therefore find out whether the same cranes migrate to Bhutan in the winter. A total of eighteen (18) chicks were banded. The banding research in July will promote our understanding of the Black-necked crane. The expedition was funded by the International Crane Foundation.



Black necked cranes in Shensa. Tibet (China)



The following is a report by Sherub (Nature Conservation Division, RgoB) and Jigme Tobgay (RSPN):

Banding the Birds

After a four day drive from Lhasa, the expedition crew reached Shensha, the first breeding site in central Tibet. The drive was prolonged to acclimatize the research team members to the extreme weather conditions in Tibet.

It was amazing that black-necked crane chicks could fledge so quickly and become air borne within a couple of months' time. In July, the chicks were flightless simply covered with down feathers and budding primary and secondary flight feathers. They could only wade and swim in wetland and walk and run on land.

The chicks were caught mostly on land. A boat was also used to guide chicks out of deep water. The banding team had to wade in waste deep marshy water to catch some of the chicks, and others were caught on dry land with the team members literally running after them. A total of 20 chicks were caught but 2 chicks at Loubu were too small to be banded. Colorful plastic bands of different combinations were used.

A chick was first banded at Shensha. It was only a brood pair found near Shensha town. 8 babies were banded at Loubu, 4 at Muju and 5 chicks at Touba.



A banded BNC chick



Expedition Team banding a chick

Follow up study in Bhutan (November — December 2000)

The following winter, a research team comprising James Rogers of the International Crane Foundation and Dago Tshering of RSPN carried out an Assessment of the Conditions faced by the Black Necked Cranes Wintering in Bhutan. During this trip to the BNC wintering grounds in the country, they kept a sharp lookout for the cranes banded in the summer.

But unfortunately, none of the cranes banded in Tibet showed up in Bhutan.

◆ Assessment of the Conditions faced by Black Necked Cranes wintering in Bhutan

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, a research team comprising James Rogers of the International Crane Foundation and Dago Tshering of RSPN embarked on a research trip to all the wintering grounds in Bhutan assessing the conditions faced by the black necked cranes.

The following is an extract from the report by James Rogers:

Existing and potential threats to cranes

Most of the threats that now face the black necked cranes in Bhutan are posed by existing and potential disturbance of their roost. There are areas all over the country which appear to offer ample and varied feeding opportunities for cranes— yet the cranes do not use these areas. They winter only in specific areas because these locales offer roosting habitat—places which meet the cranes highly specialized expectations. Therefore the roosts are the places that obviously need special care. This is not to say that major changes in cropping patterns, variety choice, fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide usage, rural electrification etc. do not pose potential problems. For example, the amount of stress the Bomdeling flock faces will certainly be increased by the loss of its traditional feeding ground to the development of the Chhorten Kora valley.



BNC roosting ground at Bomdeling, Trashiyangtse



- **Roost Protection at Phobjikha**

On a day to day basis, tourism is the most important threat to the roost. Most of the tourists who visit Phobjikha are, of course not a problem — but a small percentage are. They'll stand outside the hide in the sunset, talking loudly— or stalk down toward the roost to get a better view. Away from the roost, such behaviour is probably, at worst, annoying to the cranes— but if it happens frequently enough close to the roost, it could cause them to try to find a less disturbed place to roost.



- **Chhorten Kora, Trashiyangtse**

Conditions for cranes were assessed in the Chhorten Kora valley south and southeast of the Trashiyangtse valley. The massive disturbance caused by the development of the new town continues unabated, and only a single pair of cranes was present. The parts of the valley most used by the cranes previously, are now ringed around and crossed by power lines. Above the valley, a new school is being built. The large scale work of building the road to the school site is currently underway. Blasting is also being done, but after 5:00 pm, apparently to comply with agreements to lessen disturbance to the cranes. IN short, the valley is bustling with people, buildings and electricity.



- **Roosting Area in Bomdeling, Trashiyangtse**

During our visit, the black necked cranes at Bomdeling were roosting in a small river channel formed by a gravel bar which lay off the eastern side of the roost's sands. About 80 meters long, it was as narrow as 1.2 meters wide in places and it averaged about 15 cm in depth. Only a part of the 69 cranes present during that time were able to roost there; the others roosted on the bar, in shallow water outside the bar, or on the nearby sandy areas.



- **Crane observations in Bumthang**

Due to less number of cranes coming to the valleys in Bumthang, a definite roosting ground had not been located. Therefore, our objective during our crane observations in Bumthang was to try and locate their roosting grounds.

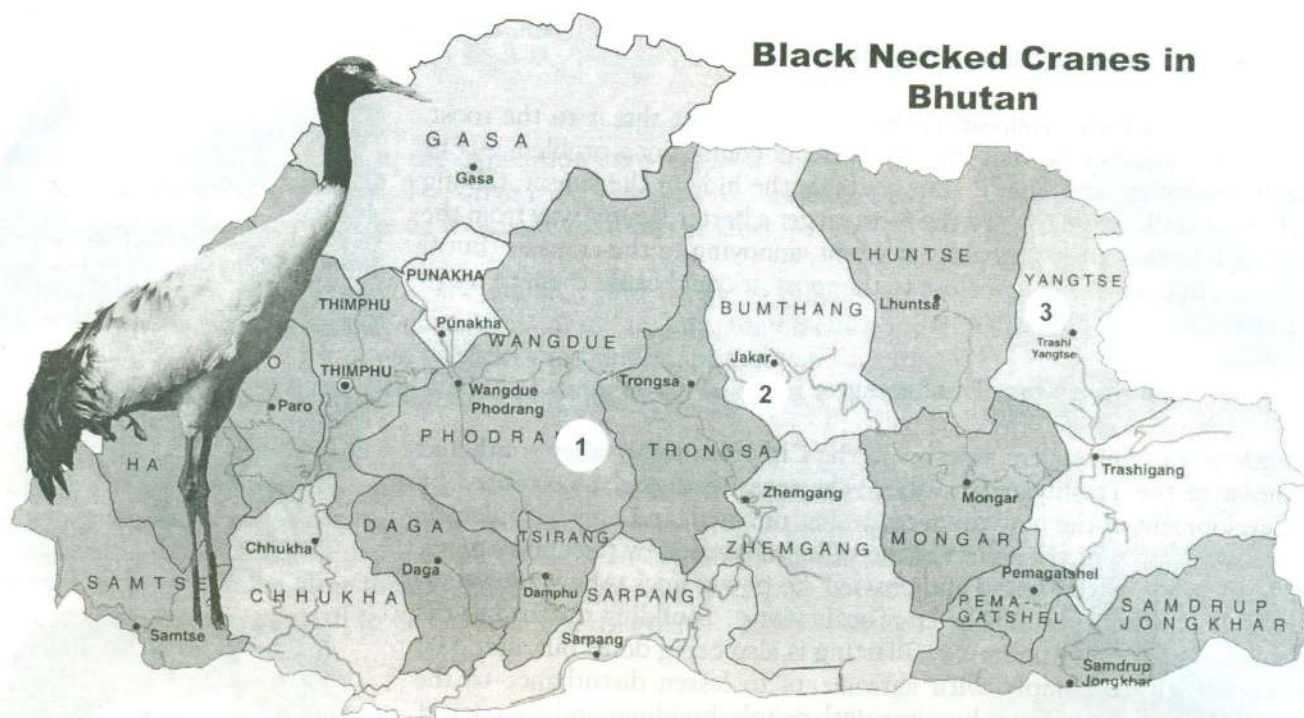


Gyetsa Valley: Early on the afternoon of 30th Nov, we scouted the Gyetsa valley, paying special attention to the places we'd seen cranes the previous year. We found two adult cranes next to the road and below the sawmill, and another pair of adults in the pasture in front of Uruk. When we returned to the top of the sawmill at 4:00 pm, no cranes were present, but when drove back to Uruk, we found four. Like the cranes at Bomdeling, these four seemed more contentious than the cranes at Phobjikha. One pair repeatedly tried to threaten the other pair to go away. We stayed until dark, hoping to figure out their roosting ground, but we did not succeed. In the fading light we were only able to see them moving towards the east slope of the valley, southeast of Uruk.



Thangbi Valley: On Dec. 1, we scouted the Thangbi valley for cranes. Though the local Forest Ranger reported that there was a pair present, we were unable to spot them.





1: Phobjikha, Khotokha

2: Gyetsa, Thangbi

3: Bomdeling

Black Necked Crane Winter Count in Bhutan : 1991-2001

Year \ Place	Phobjikha	Bomdeling	Khotokha	Bumthang	Total
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+
1999-2000	244	155	6	10	415
2000-2001	248	151	4	6	409

Project Donors

- ♣ GEF Small Grants Program (UNDP)
- ♣ Japan Environment Corporation
- ♣ WWF Bhutan Program
- ♣ Colin and Anne Phipps, USA
- ♣ Society for Promoting Intercultural Education for Children (Japan)
- ♣ International Crane Foundation, USA



RSPN ENDOWMENT FUND

Traditionally, an institution's recurrent costs have received the least support from donors, because all external assistance is earmarked for field programs and capacity building.

Although RSPN has to date enjoyed extraordinary support in this respect, financial dependence on traditional sources is neither viable nor sustainable.

Therefore, in the last fiscal (1999-2000), a fundraising strategy was developed for an RSPN Endowment fund with the target of US\$ 1 million.

The successful realization of this endowment will enable RSPN to meet administrative costs for 14 full-time working staff and its small office through generation of annual investment income from the Endowment Fund. This will ensure RSPN's financial security and help perpetuate its crucial role in promoting civic participation in Bhutan's environmental management.



RSPN Endowment Fund

✧ Why US\$ 1 million?

- ◆ Institutional support from BTFEC ends by June 2003
- ◆ Need for sustainable alternative
- ◆ Financial analysis (Year 2004-2008)

ACCOUNT HEAD	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	GRAND TOTAL
Staff Salaries/Benefits	1,978,770.00	2,018,030.00	2,057,290.00	2,096,550.00	2,135,810.00	10,286,450.00
Printing & Stationeries	110,000.00	121,000.00	133,100.00	146,410.00	161,051.00	671,561.00
Maintenance of Office	110,000.00	121,000.00	133,100.00	146,410.00	161,051.00	671,561.00
Travel/Training	550,000.00	605,000.00	665,500.00	732,050.00	805,255.00	3,357,805.00
Maintenance of Vehicles	220,000.00	242,000.00	266,200.00	292,820.00	322,102.00	1,343,122.00
Telephone/Fax/Internet	250,000.00	275,000.00	302,500.00	332,750.00	366,025.00	1,526,275.00
Communications	220,000.00	242,000.00	266,200.00	292,820.00	322,102.00	1,343,122.00
Workshop	150,000.00	165,000.00	181,500.00	199,650.00	219,615.00	915,765.00
TOTAL (IN Nu.)	3,588,770.00	3,789,030.00	4,005,390.00	4,239,460.00	4,493,011.00	20,115,661.00
TOTAL (IN US \$)	74,766.04	78,938.13	83,445.63	88,322.08	93,604.40	419,076.27

◆ Investment, Returns and Supplements

Reinvest 5 % / Annual Investment and supplement required					
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Annual Capital	1000000.00	1004000.00	1008016.00	1012048.06	1016096.26
Annual Interest	80000.00	80320.00	80641.28	80963.85	81287.70
Average Budget (after 5% ded.)	76000.00	76304.00	76609.22	76915.65	77223.32
Budget requirement	95118.39	104630.22	115093.25	126602.57	139262.83
Supplement Required	19118.39	28326.22	38484.03	49686.92	62039.51
Supplement fund to be met through Operational/Management Cost charges (15 %) Assumed: Constant interest rate of 8%					



Fund Management

Investment Options

- ♦ In local banks— Bhutan National Bank
- ♦ Tie up with Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation

Annual Fund Allocation

- ♦ RSPN Board of Directors

Fundraising Update FY 2000-2001

Activity / Fund Source	Time Period	Remarks
Installation of Spare Currency Collection Unit at Paro Airport	September 2000	
<u>Consultancy Service</u> Biodiversity Survey for Thrumshingla National Park, Phase III for WWF Bhutan Program	September 2000	RSPN Ecologist/Botanist
<u>Consultancy Service</u> Avifauna/nature training for tourist guides of Bhutan Tourism Corporation Limited	February 2001	RSPN Ecologist/Botanist
Visit with tourist group to Phobjikha . Presentation on Phobjikha and ICDP	March 2001	C&D Coordinator; Fundraising Coordinator
Visit with tourist group to Bumthang. Presentation on RSPN and its conservation efforts	April 2001	Fundraising Coordinator
<u>Consultancy Service</u> Resource Permanente Plot layout for Multiple Used Zone and Plant Identification Phase I & II	May 2001	RSPN Ecologist/Botanist
RSPN Guided Tour for Harvard University Professors	June 2001	RSPN Ecologist/Botanist
Strategy Development for RSPN Nature Shop	June 2001	Fundraising Coordinator with assistance from Mr. Roderigo Gallegos, UNDP Intern from Kennedy Harvard School
10% Commission from Bhutan Heritage Travels	June 2001	Guests from International Crane Foundation
RSPN Guardians / Foreign and National Members	July 2000-June 2001	
Solicitation through proposals to various potential donors	July 2000-June 2001	Fundraising Coordinator

Endowment Fund status as of June end 2001: US\$ 50,000

Local currency conversion rate- US\$ 1 = Nu. 46.72 (June 2001)



Spare Currency Collection Unit

One of the activities under the fundraising program was the installation of a Spare Collection Unit at Paro International Airport. With the permission from Division of Civil Aviation, the collection box has been installed in the departure lounge of the airport. Information pamphlets and brochures on RSPN and its conservation programs have also been provided.

Nature Shop

Given that Bhutan is well known for its pristine environment and that every year more tourists are willing to pay the high cost of traveling to the country to admire and enjoy its natural beauty, RSPN believes that there is a potential market for products that contribute to protect and preserve this unspoiled nature. Therefore with this rationale, a strategy for an RSPN Nature Shop has been developed.

Furthermore, the shop could also contribute to enhance the environmental consciousness the Royal Government of Bhutan and RSPN are trying to endorse.

In this way the Nature Shop could serve various purposes:

1. Raise funds for RSPN endowment within the national market.
2. Encourage the sustainable development of the country, enabling rural communities to have an alternative source of income by selling products such as handicrafts and souvenirs that would help reduce the pressure exerted on the environment.
3. Promote environmental education and consciousness by serving as showroom where youth could display and sell their work, which is linked to the environment. For example, an exposition of photography or paintings of Bhutan's wildlife or of greeting cards with children's drawings of Bhutan's natural life.
4. Prevent environmental degradation by selling environmentally friendly products.

An extract from the Nature Shop Development Strategy designed with assistance from Mr. Roderigo Gallegos, UNDP Intern.

BT FEC Support to the RSPN Endowment fund



In a positive step towards building the Endowment Fund, the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BT FEC) has agreed to match upto a total of US\$ 450,000 on a dollar to dollar basis.

This means that RSPN's fundraising target for its Endowment fund is now US\$ 550,00.

Mr. Tobgay Sonam (Director, BT FEC) and Mr. Lam Dorji (Executive Director, RSPN) during the official signing of the agreement



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The RSPN Membership Program plays an integral role in the Society's conservation efforts.

Be it in the form of volunteer activities, campaigns, nature hikes or simply keeping its members informed about the environment, it ensures citizens participation in conservation.

RSPN members comprise school nature clubs, school and research students, individuals (national and foreign) and Guardians and Honorary Members.



Membership Categories

	Category	Membership Fee
1.	Student (including nature club students)	Nu. 10 / year or Nu. 40 / 5 years
2.	Individual (Bhutanese and SAARC)	Nu. 200 / year or Nu. 800 / 5 years
3.	Foreign	US\$ 50 / year or US\$ 200 / years
4.	RSPN Guardian	US\$ 500 & above / year

Membership Benefits

- ✧ Quarterly RSPN Newsletter
- ✧ Use of RSPN Library
- ✧ Camping gear for hire
- ✧ Nature videos for hire
- ✧ Treks / day hikes
- ✧ An opportunity to be a part of RSPN's conservation efforts in Bhutan

Membership Enrolment FY 2000 — 2001

Total: 3115

- ✧ Students : 2900
- ✧ Individuals : 140
- ✧ Foreign: 70
- ✧ Guardians: 5
 - ◆ Ms. Sabine Liebherr, Germany
 - ◆ Ms. Judith Brown, USA
 - ◆ Ms. Vicki Sant, USA
 - ◆ Mr. William Tacon, USA
 - ◆ Mr. Paul King and Ms. Gail Murray, UK



RSPN OFFICE

HRD for RSPN Personnel

- ◆ Mincha Wangdi (Environment Education Unit) left for the United Kingdom to pursue a one-year Masters Degree Course in Environment & Development Education at South Bank University, London, UK.

In the first quarter of 2001, 5 RSPN staff members undertook short HRD programs in their respective fields:

- ◆ Jigme Tobgay (Conservation & Development Unit) and Tshering Lham (Fundraising Unit): Study tour to Nepal visiting ICDP Projects (Annapurna Conservation Area Program), Ecotourism areas and nature shops. They also attended a seminar on the Chauraahee River Conservation Project.
- ◆ Miraj Pradhan (Communications Unit): Month long course in graphic designing (DTP and Web Designing) at Arena Multimedia, New Delhi.
- ◆ Karma Delma (Librarian): Training in Library Management for one month in Bangkok
- ◆ Ugyen Lhendup (Environment Education Unit): Environment Education Study tour to Thailand

All HRD program were funded by Bhutan trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BT FEC).

New Finance & Administration Coordinator

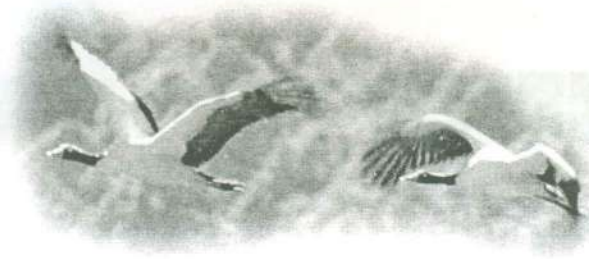
The Finance and Administration Coordinator, Karma Loday, resigned from service in February 2001. Karma Loday joined RSPN in 1994 and was part of the team which helped RSPN survive one of the roughest phases in its history. He has gone back to his village in Yongkhutoet, Lhuntse to initiate a Community Development Program.

He has been succeeded by Tashi Penjor as the new Finance and Admin. Coordinator.

RSPN Volunteer

Mr. Yoshinobu Sasaki, a JICA / JOCV volunteer from Hokkaido Education University, Japan, joined RSPN in May 2001.

Mr. Sasaki will be assisting the Environment Education Program for the next one year in developing an urban solid waste disposal waste management plan for Thimphu.



"Wind Beneath Our Wings"

Donors

- \$ Royal Government of Bhutan
- \$ Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation
 - \$ GEF Small Grants Program
 - \$ WWF Bhutan Program
- \$ Japan Environment Corporation
 - \$ UNICEF
- \$ Colin and Ann Phipps, Florida, USA
- \$ International Crane Foundation
- \$ Society for Promoting Intercultural Education for Children
- \$ RSPN Guardians and Members

Conservation Partners

Royal Institute of Management; Department of Forest; Nature Conservation Division; National Parks; National Environment Commission; Division of Civil Aviation; Dzongkhag Administration, Wangdue; CAPSS, Education Division; Department of Tourism; Bhutan Heritage Travels; Thimphu City Corporation; Voluntary Artist Studio Thimphu; RSPN Members; Nature Club Students; Support Groups; Local Volunteers

We would also like to acknowledge individuals, national and international, for their support and belief in our conservation endeavours.



The ReSPiAns

Patron

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince of Bhutan
Dasho Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck

Board Members

Dasho Sangay Thinley	President (Secretary, MoA)
Aum Dago Bida	Vice-President (Proprietor, Etho Metho Tours & Travels)
Mr. Chador Wangdi	Member (Non Formal Education Unit, MoHE)
Mr. Kinley Dorji	Member (Managing Director, Kuensel Corporation)
Mr. Namgyal Lhendup	Member (Planning Commission)
Mr. Tshering Yonten	Member (Managing Director, Department of Tourism. MoC)
Mr. Tandin Dorji	Member (National Environment Commission)
Mr. Tashi Tshering	Member (National Environment Commission)
Mr. Phuntsho	Member (PPD, National Commission for Cultural Affairs)
Mr. Lam Dorji	Member Secretary

Staff Members

Mr. Lam Dorji Executive Director

1. Environment Education Unit

Mr. Mincha Wangdi	Coordinator
Ms. Rebecca Pradhan	Ecologist
Mr. Ugyen Lhendup	EE Officer

2. Conservation & Development Unit

Mr. Jigme Tobgay	Coordinator
Mr. Dago Tshering	Field Officer, Phobjikha

3. Fundraising & Publicity Unit

Ms. Tshering Lham	Coordinator
Mr. Miraj Pradhan	Communications Officer

4. Administration & Finance Unit

Mr. Tashi Penjor	Coordinator
Ms. Karma Delma	Librarian / Admin Asst.
Mr. Sonam Jamtsho	Finance Asst. (Temp)
Ms. Damche Dema	Admin. Assistant
Mr. Chening Dorji	Driver

Volunteers

Mr. Yoshinobu Sasaki
Mr. Roderigo

FINANCIAL REPORT



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ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY

TASHI CHHODZONG : THIMPHU
 BHUTAN

TELE : 22388
 22112
 22111
 FAX : 23491

(A Clean Public Service-Nation's pride)

AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY "THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE" THIMPHU FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY 2000 TO 30TH JUNE 2001.


1. The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) of Bhutan has audited the attached Balance Sheet and Statement of Receipt & Payment in respect of under noted Projects implemented by the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN) for the year ending 30th June 2001.

S/No.	Project Name	Funding Agency
(i)	Renewal Energy in the Nature Study Centre Area (PICO)	WWF
(ii)	Development of BNC Centre	Japan Environment Center (JFGE)
(iii)	Environment Education in Bhutan	WWF
(iv)	HRD & Recurrent Costs	Bhutan Trust Fund (BT FEC)
(v)	Institutional Support	Bhutan Trust Fund (BT FEC)
(vi)	Integrated Conservation Development Program (ICDP)	Global Environment Facilities/Small Grant Program, UNDP
(vii)	Nature Club (NC) Schools Support	UNICEF
(viii)	Capacity Building Program for GEF/SGP Stakeholders	UNDP
(ix)	Advocacy & Social mobilization-PPA	UNICEF



2. The audit was conducted pursuant to the provisions embodied in the RSPN's Administrative & Financial Guidelines and in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and General Auditing Rules and Regulations (GARR) of Bhutan.
3. The audit primarily focussed to express an opinion on the Receipt & Payment Statement of the Project. Accordingly, it included such tests of accounting records, internal control and such other auditing procedures as were considered necessary for the purpose of audit.
4. According to Audit Team's examination of accounts and records made available and information and explanations given, the RAA reports that in its opinion, the above mentioned Financial Statements may be relied on to fairly present the results of the RSPN's financial operation for the year ended 30th June 2001 and the funds position for the year ended on that date.
5. The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) certifies that in its opinion the Project disbursement were made in conformity with the Project agreement and in accordance with RSPN's Administrative & Financial Guidelines 1997.
6. The Royal Audit Authority further reports that:
 - 6.1 Proper books of accounts have been kept by the management so far as it appears from the examination of the books to facilitate control over the use of project funds.
 - 6.2 The accounts have been compiled on the basis of funds actually received by the RSPN.
 - 6.3 Adequate internal system has been instituted by the management.

Concurred by:


(Khandu)
Chief Auditor
Division Chief (D6)


(Khampa Tshering)
Sr. Auditor






Audited Receipt and Expenditure Statement for the Fiscal Year ended at 30th June 2001

Particulars	Year Ended 30th June 2001		Year Ended 30th June 2000		Particulars	Year Ended 30th June 2001		Year Ended 30th June 2000	
	(Nu.)	(US\$)	(Nu.)	(US\$)		(Nu.)	(US\$)	(Nu.)	(US\$)
INCOME									
Reserve	295,983.86	36,526.36	1,477,787.34	5,344.41	Black Necked Crane Festival	33,685.00	—	131,143.00	—
Endowment Fund	489,755.54	39,442.55	—	—	Renewal Energy in the Nature Study Center Area (PICO)	507,196.69	—	—	—
Project Fund	10,683,364.41	3,166.75	8,422,165.16	20,000	Development of BNC Observation Center (JFGE)	640,100.26	3,166.75	—	—
Gratuity Fund	301,304.00	—	203,244.00	—	Environment Education In Bhutan (WWF)	424,998.00	—	—	—
Membership Fees	—	—	33,995.00	2,181.78	HRD and Recurrent Costs Development (BTFFEC)	2,040,341.26	15,182.76	1,891,694.35	—
Others	1,677,533.94	15,224.23	637,577.54	11,413.07	Institutional Support (BTFFEC)	2,993,916.36	—	2,054,429.78	—
					Integrated Conservation Development Program (ICDP)	2,089,810.81	—	795,016.29	—
					NC School Support (UNICEF)	61,170.00	—	—	—
					Phobjikha NC School Support (SPIEC)	546.40	—	—	—
					Advocacy & Social Mobilization (PPA-UNICEF)	—	—	—	—
					Women in Environment	—	—	67,325.00	—
					Phobjikha Center Construction (SPIEC)	—	—	—	—
					Colin Phipps (ICF) contribution for Center	—	—	—	—
					Gratuity Expenses	—	—	—	—
					Conservation Education (WWF)	—	—	501,289.00	—
					Conservation Education (UNICEF)	—	—	397,953.88	—
					Conservation Education (KNCF)	—	—	138,689.00	—



				Royal Manas National Park Program				12,484.00	
				Plantation & Tools Procurement (SPIEC)				12,383.00	
				Inauguration of Cherry Tree Plantation				44,000.00	
				Phobjikha School Nature Club Support				19,987.00	
				Water Pollution Project (UNICEF)				45,454.00	
				Donation (Discovery Initiatives)				6,000.00	
				BNC Tour Expenses				45,552.50	
				Other Expenses		100,104.49	187.66	151,398.19	
				TOTAL:		9,636,939.47	18,537.17	6,314,798.99	
				Balance for the Year		3,811,002.28	74,822.72	4,459,970.05	38,939.26
				Deficit / Surplus brought forward from the previous year		—	—	—	—
				TOTAL EXPENDITURE:		13,447,941.75	94,359.89	10,774,769.04	38,939.26
TOTAL INCOME:									

Prepared by :-

 (Tashi Penjor)
 Admin/ Finance Coordinator



Reviewed by :-

 (Lari Dorji)
 Executive Director

Verified by :-

 (Khampa Tshering)
 Senior Auditor RAA





NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

1. Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Accounting Convention

These accounts have been prepared on cash basis and applied consistently.

2. Membership Fees

The accumulated Membership Fees of Nu. 46,009.00 and US \$ 6,742.20 over the years has been transferred to Endowment Fund and Communication fund at the end of the Fiscal year 2000-2001 ended at June 30, 2001 as indicated below:

Particulars	Amount (In Nu.)	Amount (In US \$)
1. Endowment Fund	-	4,281.20
2. Communication Fund	46,009.00	2,461.00
TOTAL :	46,009.00	6,742.20

3. Endowment Fund

The Endowment fund is being established with the objective of sustaining the organization's financial resource through various fundraising schemes such as individual/member contributions, consultancy services and grant





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