



RSPN Annual Report 2002-2003

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JULY 2002-JUNE 2003

Cover

Choerospondias axillaris

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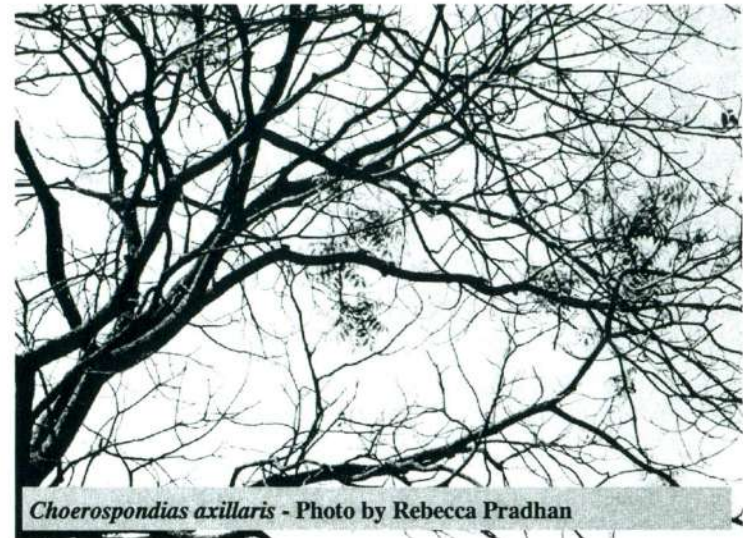
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MESSAGE FROM THE ROYAL PATRON

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 Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck
The Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Bhutan

Executive Summary

Since its inception in 1987, RSPN has gained momentum in its efforts to conserve the rich natural heritage of our country. It has come a long way from monitoring the Black-necked cranes in Phojikha to the present stage where RSPN has embraced bigger challenges in environmental conservation. It is a matter of delight for RSPN to report on the programs implemented in the last fiscal year in collaboration with the Royal Government, donors and other agencies.

The Environment Education program continued to enhance its awareness program on the environment through the expansion of the nature club network and capacity building of Environment educationists. Under the contract of Nature Conservation Division, RSPN developed and tested an environment awareness program for temporary residents on resource management within Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park. Evaluation workshop of catchment areas for teachers was held within the Wang Watershed Management Program (WWMP) and education materials were developed to guide communities.

As part of the Integrated Conservation and Development Program in Phobjikha, the local community was actively involved in conservation. RSPN, in collaboration with the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and the Department of Forest (Ministry of Agriculture, RGoB) is carrying out a research on ecology, trans-boundary conservation, migratory routes and threats to the Black necked cranes. With grants from UNESCO and Mac Arthur Foundation, RSPN was able to promote Ecotourism in Phojikha and prepare the ground to strengthen the Protection and Management of Phojikha Conservation Area.

A research on the White-bellied Heron, which is one of the 50 rarest birds in the world, has been initiated. The study focuses on population, distribution and habitat of these birds.

With the goal of becoming an efficient, effective and financially self-reliant conservation organization, fundraising for endowment fund has been a major challenge for the Society. Nevertheless, we were able to secure assistance from the members, individuals, business communities and government agencies. RSPN looks forward for constant support from all the well-wishers.

I would like to thank the members, individuals, partners, funding agencies and the Royal Government of Bhutan for their continued support and cooperation in our conservation endeavors.

Tashi Delek!

Lam Dorji, Ph.D - Executive Director

Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) is the first and only national non-profit NGO (non-government organization) in Bhutan working in the field of environmental conservation.

Since its establishment in 1987, it has evolved as a complementary partner to the Royal Government in its endeavours to conserve Bhutan's rich natural resource base. Its conservation strategies now include awareness building, environmental education, species conservation and promoting alternatives to solve environmental problems. A Board of Directors regulates RSPN's management. The organization is headed by an Executive Director who reports to the board bi-annually.

The Royal patronage of His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of Bhutan, coupled with a team of dedicated staff make RSPN a transparent, accountable and experienced organization that has gained credible recognition in terms of addressing environmental issues at various levels of the society.

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; in collaboration with concerned agencies and indigenous institutions."

Goals

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

Technical Report

Environment Education Program

The RSPN EE Program aims at enabling the people of Bhutan to enhance their understanding about the environment and provide knowledge and skills to actively participate with local communities in environmental conservation

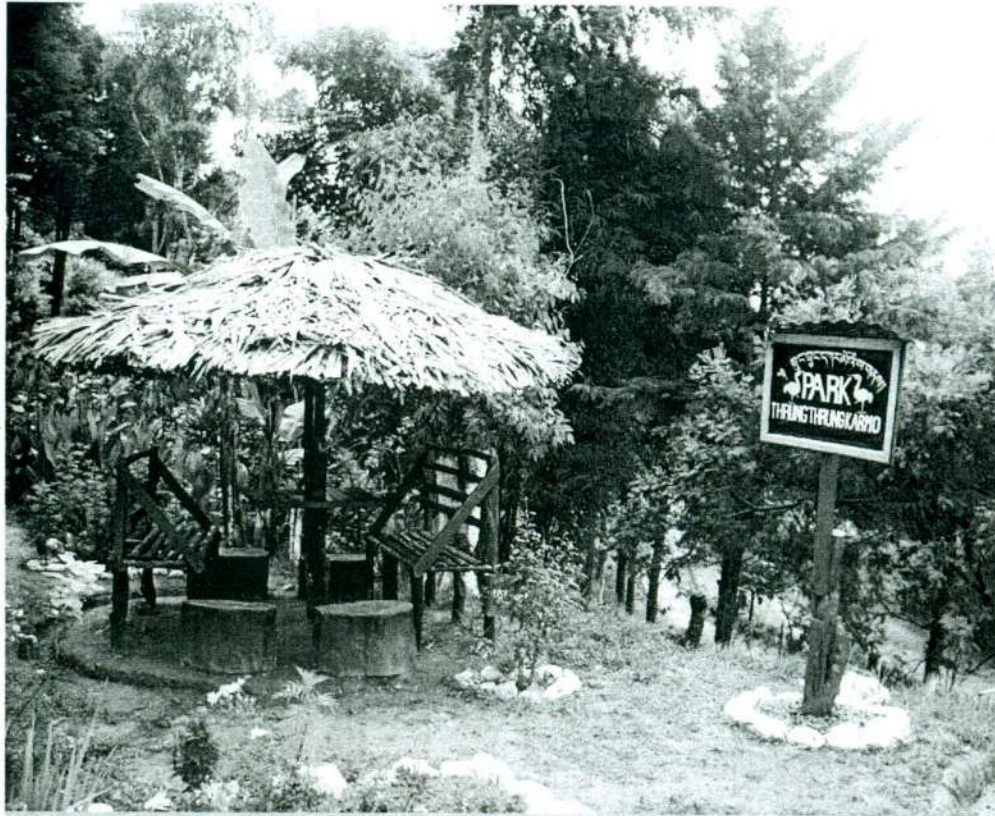


One of the reasons for increasing environmental problems in Bhutan is attributed to the low level of people's understanding of environmental issues. Besides, the traditional non-material values of the vast majority of the Bhutanese are being challenged by a growing demand for material wealth and its associated attractions and comforts. Enabling people to become better informed about these issues has become an increasingly important aspect of environmental education. Such education empowers people to take informed decisions towards solving the problems.

Therefore, the **RSPN Environment Education Program** aims at helping the people of Bhutan enhance their understanding about the environment, providing them with knowledge and skills to actively participate in conservation at the grassroots level.

Activities under the EE Program

- ✦ EE program with school/institution based Nature Clubs
- ✦ Action Research Projects
- ✦ Environmental Camps/Study Tours
- ✦ Trainings/Workshops for environment educationists
- ✦ EE Program for Wang Watershed Management Project
- ✦ EE Programs for National Parks
- ✦ Development of educational materials



1. Nature Clubs

The involvement of today's youth in conservation is critical to the long-term success of Bhutan's *Middle Path* policy of sustainable development. With this rationale in mind, the RSPN Environment Education (EE) Program is specifically targeted towards children and students from schools and institutions in the country. It 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.

School nature clubs were first established in Bhutan in 1989. Over the years the number of clubs have grown under the RSPN EE Program with as many as 80 nature clubs affiliated under the RSPN nature club network.

Environment education is implemented through schools and institution based nature clubs in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Education and various conservation agencies of the Royal Government.

School Greening Approach

Nature clubs initiate activities through a concept called the **School Greening Approach** which focuses not only on changing the attitude and behaviour of the student (**attitude greening**) but also gives an opportunity to translate this knowledge into actions that bring about positive changes to the local environment (**physical greening**).

Attitude Greening helps students to gain knowledge and skills through the following activities:

- Literary: debate, quiz, essay writing, story writing, painting/art, morning speech; video shows; Environmental books/publications; maintenance of environment bulletin board; environmental games
- Observation of World Environment Day
- Field Study: bird watching, study of animals/plants/trees, earth science

Physical Greening: Environment Education would be incomplete if we just stop at enhancing the knowledge and skills of the student. Therefore Physical Greening involves students in organizing environ-

ment awareness campaign among the local community through exhibitions, skits, drama, cultural programs and cleaning campaigns.

Action-oriented projects are also included in this phase where the students get an opportunity to work on a project focusing on one particular environmental issue and actually see the result of their efforts at the end of the one year project period

- **Activities inside the School Campus**

School landscape development: Nature park development, school nature park, flower gardening, Nursery raising, composting, rock gardens, composting, bird feeding tables/nesting boxes, identification & labeling of tree species, pest and weed control

- **Projects**

1. Solid waste Management Project
2. Water pollution projects
3. Fuel-wood project

Each project is divided into **three** phases:

- . Investigation
- . Action Research/Analysis
- . Exhibition of findings to local public and authorities for advocacy purposes

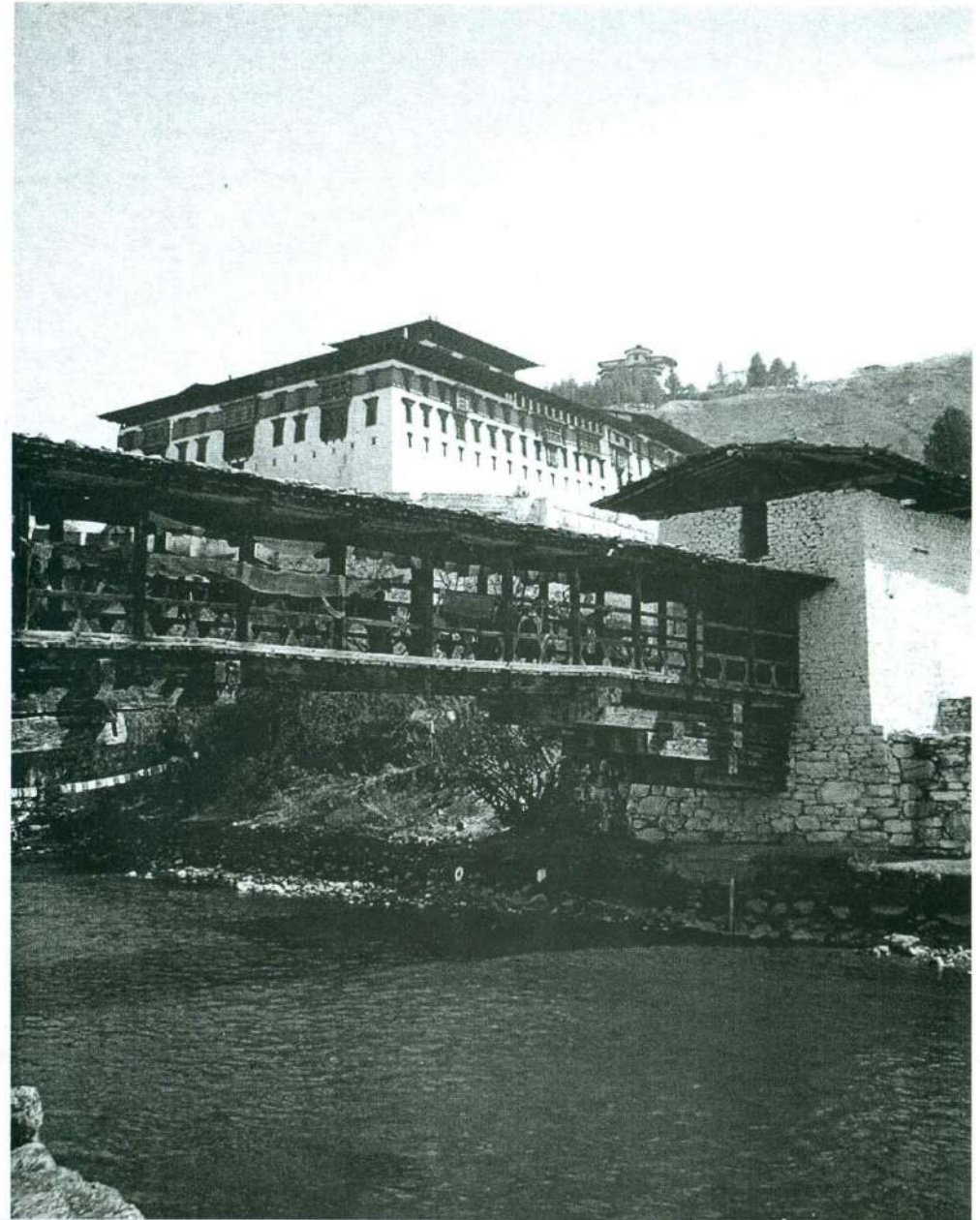
2. Action Research Projects

“**Follow That Stream**”, a Water Pollution and Solid Waste Management Project, was reinitiated in school nature clubs in the year 2000 with funding from UNICEF, considering the high incidences of water borne diseases in Bhutan.

Students are encouraged to investigate on their own and find out where and how water pollution takes place in their local environment. From the observation of human activities, students can infer that toilets over the stream, household drainage and dumping of animal and domestic waste can severely pollute the river.

Under Solid Waste Management, school children study the source of different types of waste – where it comes and where it goes finally. They follow the 3 Rs (Reuse, Recycle and Reduce) in managing their school waste and organize cleaning and awareness campaigns in the local community.

Following the success of this project in the last two years, sixteen schools from fifteen different Dzongkhags implemented the project in 2002.



The schools participating in the project:

1. Jakar High School, Bumthang; 2. Phuentsholing High School, Chhuka; 3. Chhuka High School, Chhuka; 4. Damji Community School, Gasa; 5. Lhuentse Junior High School, Lhuentse; 6. Mongar High School, Mongar; 7. Lango Junior High School, Paro; 8. Nangkhor High School, Pema Gatsel; 9. Khuru Junior High School, Punakha; 10. Samdrupjongkhar High School, Samdrupjongkhar; 11. Samtse High School, Samtse; 12. Sarpang High School, Sarpang; 13. Changangkha Junior High School, Thimphu; 14. Trashigang Junior High School, Trashigang; 15. Trongsa High School, Trongsa; 16. Bajo High School, Wangduephodrang



Since there were many schools initiating this project for the first time, the environmental education officer visited all the 16 Schools and held workshops to orient the nature club coordinators about the project. The children were expected to test the quality of their drinking water from the source and from the drinking point. They were also involved in finding out the reasons for pollution of their drinking water and find solutions to tackle the issue.

Schools tested their water samples at public health laboratory in hospitals under direct supervision of the local health authorities. On completion of the surveys, students analyzed the information and compiled the findings in the form of a public exhibition. Besides students and parents, local authorities were invited for the exhibition. The findings were also communicated to relevant authorities for further actions. In some case wherever possible students acted themselves.

Environment Education personnel from RSPN evaluated the project exhibitions held by all the participating schools.

The criteria for evaluation:

- Quality and authenticity of informa-

tion generated

- Quality of interpretation
- Presentation and sequencing of exhibition
- Action initiatives taken by students
- Appropriateness of recommendations and solutions
- Quality of students' explanation

Changangkha Junior High School (Thimphu), Lango Junior High School (Paro) and Phuentsholing High School (Chhuka) were identified as the three best schools in implementing the project

However, irrespective of the evaluation results, all students of the participating schools are winners in the long run, because the focus is actually on the education and experience the students will gain from these projects.

As of June 2003, 32 schools covering all 20 Dzongkhags (districts) have carried/ are carrying out tests on water quality using biological indicators, surveyed human impact on the stream/river and solid waste management system, carried the message through to the local communities.

'Follow that Stream' is funded by UNICEF and National Environment Commission.

3. Environmental Camps

Environmental Camp at Phobjikha and Goenshari: A week-long environmental camping trip to Phobjikha (Wangdue) and Goenshari (Punakha) was awarded to the nature club students of Changangkha Junior High School (Thimphu) in January 2003 for their exceptional performance in the Follow that Stream Project. For most of the students, this was the first time going to a remote area and were very excited to actually see the magnificent cranes. At Phobjikha, they had an opportunity to learn about the harmonious coexistence of the people and the cranes and why the Integrated Conservation & Development Program had to be initiated in the valley. On the way to Goenshari, a visit was organized to the Tserim in-situ Orchid Sanctuary at Rimchu, which boasts approximately 40 species of orchids. At Goenshari, the children were able to do some Birdwatching and also learn about the vegetation in the region.

Children's Feedback:

"Although I grew up in Thimphu, I never got opportunity to go to Phobjikha and

Goensharey. It was really great to see cranes and the beautiful valley of Phobjikha. I am very grateful to RSPN for organizing this wonderful trip for us".

- Sangay Lhamo

"It was really nice to see the cranes and its habitat. I heard about it but never saw it before. It is a big and beautiful bird. People of Phobjikha consider the crane as a special bird".

-Yeshey Dorji

"I got this trip because we worked very hard as members of the Cypress Nature Club. Besides the hard work we also learnt many things about the environment. I would like to suggest my friends to join as nature club member so that we can join RSPN to take care of our environment and enjoy such type of trip".

-Rajani Gurung

Summer Environmental Camp at Bumthang:

The EE programme for the final year trainees could not be organized due to the time constraints. However, the fund was re-appropriated for organizing a summer environmental camp for the students of Jakar High School and Wangdi Choling Lower Secondary School. The camp was given to these schools considering their



past performance and recognizing the fact that they were never given such opportunity in the past. Altogether, 70 students and four teachers participated. As a result of the programme they came up with the local environmental action plan to address the emerging environmental problems in Bumthang.

Study Tour for Nature Club Teachers :

A study tour was organized for school nature club coordinators to New Delhi, India in Dec. 2002. Funded by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (Japan), eight school nature club coordinators from Zilukha JHS (Thimphu), Woochu JHS (Paro), Mongar HS (Mongar), Drukgyel HS (Paro), Goenshari CS (Punakha), Phuentsholing HS (Chhukha), Gaselo JHS and Ugyen Dorji HS (Ha) were selected for the tour based on their nature clubs' commitment and achievements in the past year.

The objective of the study tour was to familiarize nature club teachers to conservation programme in India so that they could come back with fresh ideas and knowledge, motivating them to further improve their nature club activities



The following is an extract from the tour report by the teachers:

We traveled to Delhi and back by train. The experience was great fun, as many of us had not traveled beyond Bhutan, especially by train. The landscape, environmental problems and sheer number of people all along the journey made us feel proud of being a Bhutanese as most of the issues there are comparatively low in our country. During the tour, we visited schools, environmental organizations, educational institutions, zoos and museums.

The tour was educative and enriching. It was tiring, having to utilize a short period of time to visit as many places as possible, but it was definitely an enjoyable and productive educational tour. As the popular Chinese proverb claims, 'things learnt through experiencing are retained longer,' we feel that we will be able to carry back some of the ideas from this educational excursion and translate them into actions with our students and colleagues.



4. Environment Education Training/ Workshops

Training Workshop on Water Quality Monitoring: The Annual Nature Club Teachers Workshop was organized at Kamji (Chhuka Dzongkhag) in Jan 2003. This year's workshop was specifically aimed at training the teachers in Water Quality Monitoring(WQM) using the new WQM kits imported from India. A Program officer from the National Environment Commission also briefed the participants about Water Sector Monitoring and other water related issues.

The participants were taken on field trips to practically use the kits in monitoring the water quality from Kamji (Tap water), Doti and Pasakha streams (Phuentsholing). In addition to Water Pollution studies, the following sessions were also held:

- ◆ Geology of the Himalayas and Rocks and minerals of Bhutan by Yoshinobu Sasaki, RSPN JICA Volunteer.
- ◆ Bird watching tips by Tshewang Norbu, Amateur Birdwatcher & RSPN Volunteer

The concluding days of the workshop was dedicated to sharing teachers' experiences and ideas on nature club activities and also helping them plan out activities for the year.

Funded by the National Environment Commission, 35 schools from all twenty Dzongkhags (districts) will now be using the new water quality monitoring kits in carrying out water pollution surveys.

WWMP EE Program Evaluation Workshop : A workshop was organized for nature club teachers from eight schools participating in the EE Program under the Wang Watershed Management Project (WWMP). Held at Kamji, Chhuka Dzongkhag, in Feb 2003, the objective was to evaluate the performance of the schools in Phase 1 (Investigating their local water catchments and identifying issues) of the program. It was also an opportunity to exchange experiences and help the teachers to prepare for Phase 2, which involves selecting an issue and taking action with the local community's assistance to resolve it. This workshop was funded by the Wang Watershed Management Project, Ministry of Agriculture, RGoB



5. Environment Education Program for the Wang Watershed Management Project

The WWMP Environment Education Program was contracted to RSPN from the last fiscal year. Under the program, RSPN has been working with eight schools in the Wang region in investigating issues and helping in conservation of the Wang Watershed. The schools under the program are:

1. Gedu Middle Secondary School, Chhukha
2. Chapcha Middle Secondary School, Chhukha
3. Ugyen Dorji High School, Ha
4. Damthang Lower Secondary School, Ha
5. Drukgyel Higher Secondary School, Paro
6. Shaba Middle Secondary School, Paro
7. Dechenchholing Lower Secondary School, Thimphu
8. Khasadrapchhu Lower Secondary School, Thimphu

Training Workshop: 14 teachers from eight pilot schools of WWMP participated in a weeklong training workshop held at Kamji from 20-26 Feb 2003. The workshop focused on reviewing the progress of the school projects and accordingly tried to address the problems and constraints faced during implementation.

Study of local Catchment Areas: Each school was asked to identify a stream in their locality and conduct a study on the quantity, quality and health of the catchments. Their investigation reports are as follows:

1. Drukgyel Higher Secondary School, Paro: The stream is badly polluted with garbage disposed by local residents and the Joint Training Camp. Construction of proper garbage pits and toilets and educating the people are the solutions suggested by the communities.
2. Shaba Middle Secondary School, Paro: There is insufficient water sup-

ply as the water source has to be shared by the whole community and the school. Planting of trees, installation of *Sachu Bumter* (religious objects to enhance water supply) and geological study of rocks are some of the suggestion the communities gave.

3. Damthang Lower Secondary School, Ha: Deforestation caused by army and poor management of waste are the main issues identified. Plantation, digging of pits and construction of proper toilets are the solutions suggested.
4. Ugyen Dorji Higher Secondary School, Ha: Soil erosion and water pollution are the main local environmental problems affecting the watershed. Plantation and awareness programs are the solution suggested
5. Dechenchholing Lower Secondary School: Deforestation in the upstream by the body guard camp, construction of toilets over the stream and disposing waste in the stream are the main issues. Construction of proper toilets, development of facility for waste management and education program would help combat the problem.
6. Khasadrapchhu Lower Secondary School: Mass deforestation in the Catchment area. Plantation program is



suggested.

7. Chapcha MSS: Deforestation and water scarcity emerged as the main problems. One of the solutions is plantation
8. Gedu MSS: Soil erosion and fecal pollution emerged as the main problems. Plantation and awareness programs suggested.

Development of Education Materials

- ◆ **Investigating Watershed Issues:** Worksheets were developed on various issues (Land and People, Wildlife, Biological Indicators, Water Quality Tests) and distributed to schools
- ◆ **Water pollution Indicator Charts** have been reproduced in-house and distributed to schools
- ◆ **Charts on the Common water birds in Bhutan** have been developed in house and distributed to schools
- ◆ **Pictorial map of the Wang Watershed Region** depicting the river system, landscape and vegetation cover has been designed and printed for distribution to schools and WWMP extension workers.

6. Environment Education Manual for Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (JSWNP)

Under the contract of Nature Conservation Division (DoF, MoA, RGoB), RSPN developed and tested an environment awareness program for temporary residents within Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park with an objective to reduce resource use pressure by the residents of PWD/DOR workers and Monks residing within the park boundary. In addition, an environment education manual was also developed and printed in English and Dzongkha to help the park staff in conducting environment education programs with local communities.

7. Religion and Environment Strategy

Recognizing the strong connections between Buddhist teachings and environmental beliefs, Ms. Yenyen Felicia Chan, a volunteer for RSPN, developed a Religion and Environment Program focused on bringing the connections between Buddhist teachings and environmental philosophy and practices for greater awareness among the Bhutanese.

This strategy report for RSPN's Religion and Environment Program is derived from initial interviews with various Buddhist scholars, government and community leaders, RSPN staff, and research that was carried out between September and December 2002.

The report outlines the following:

- ◆ Introduction to Bhutan's History and Environment
- ◆ Connections between Buddhism and Environmental Ethics in Bhutan
- ◆ RSPN's Religion and Environment Program

◆ Program Budget Needs

Ms. Yenyen Felicia Chan is an Environment Education Instructor at the Yosemite National Institute, CA, USA.

8. Affiliation to South Asian Youth Environment Network (SAYEN)

RSPN has been nominated as Bhutan's national focal point for SAYEN. It will work towards strengthening the existing nature club network in the country and focus on involving the Bhutanese youth in the process of sustainable development.



9. World Environment Day 2003

Since 2001, in collaboration with nature clubs of different schools, World Environment Day is celebrated at different places with an aim to create environmental awareness among the communities. In 2002, World Environment Day was celebrated at Lango Lower Secondary School, Paro where six schools presented their findings

on various environmental problems.

“Water-Two billion people are dying for it” -

World Environment Day 2003 was officially observed in Thimphu and Bumthang with funding from the National Environment Commission, RGoB. With “Water.....” being the theme for this year, it was an ideal opportunity for school

children involved in water pollution projects to share their finding with the public and local authorities.

Thimphu: In the inaugural speech, Hon’ble Minister for Agriculture, Lyonpo Kinzang Dorji stressed on the importance of conserving water and commended the various agencies and schools in Bhutan for their efforts. Children from 3 school nature clubs in Thimphu viz. Changangkha Lower Sec. School, Khasadrapchhu Middle Sec. School and Dechenchholing Lower Sec. School presented their findings through talks and exhibitions on the water pollution surveys in their respective localities to the gathering of Honorable Ministers, UNDP Resident Representative and other dignitaries, government officials and representatives from various international agencies. Prizes were awarded by the Chief Guest to Nima Higher Secondary School and Wochu Lower Secondary School in recognition of their exceptional efforts in keeping their local streams clean (Schools in Thimphu and Paro had adopted streams in their locality in 2001). The event was organized by the National Environment Commission.

Bumthang: Graced by the Dasho Dzongdag as Chief Guest, the celebration at Bumthang involved the children of Jakar Higher Sec. School, Wangdichholing Lower Sec. School, officials from various government agencies and the local public.

With such a large representation from the local area, it was a good occasion for the school children to present their observations on environment issues in the region. These included:

1. Waste management problem in Bumthang town area.
2. Garbage/littering problem at the Kurje area due to a large number of people visiting the area during the month long religious festival
3. Water pollution of the Lamegonpa stream and its effect on the quality of drinking water

In order to combat these issues, Jakar and Wangdichholing schools will be initiating cleaning campaigns and tree plantation at the Kurje area. Programs will also be started for creating awareness about water issues among the communities of Bumthang.



10. Video Productions

1. Empowering Children to look after their Environment (UNICEF)
2. World Environment Day 2001 (covering stream cleaning campaign by schools in Thimphu. (National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan)

11. Nature club sponsors

Each nature club has an annual budget of Nu. 4000 to implement various conservation activities in their locality. Keeping in mind the increasing number of nature clubs in Bhutan, an appeal was made in the RSPN Newsletter (Issue XV, Dec 2002) for sponsorship from individuals to support these clubs.

As of June 2003, two individuals have become nature club sponsors:

- Mr. William Tacon, UK – Cypress Nature Club, Changangkha Lower Secondary School, Thimphu (see picture)
- Ms. Sara L. Simmonds, USA: Nature Club, Lango Lower Secondary School, Paro

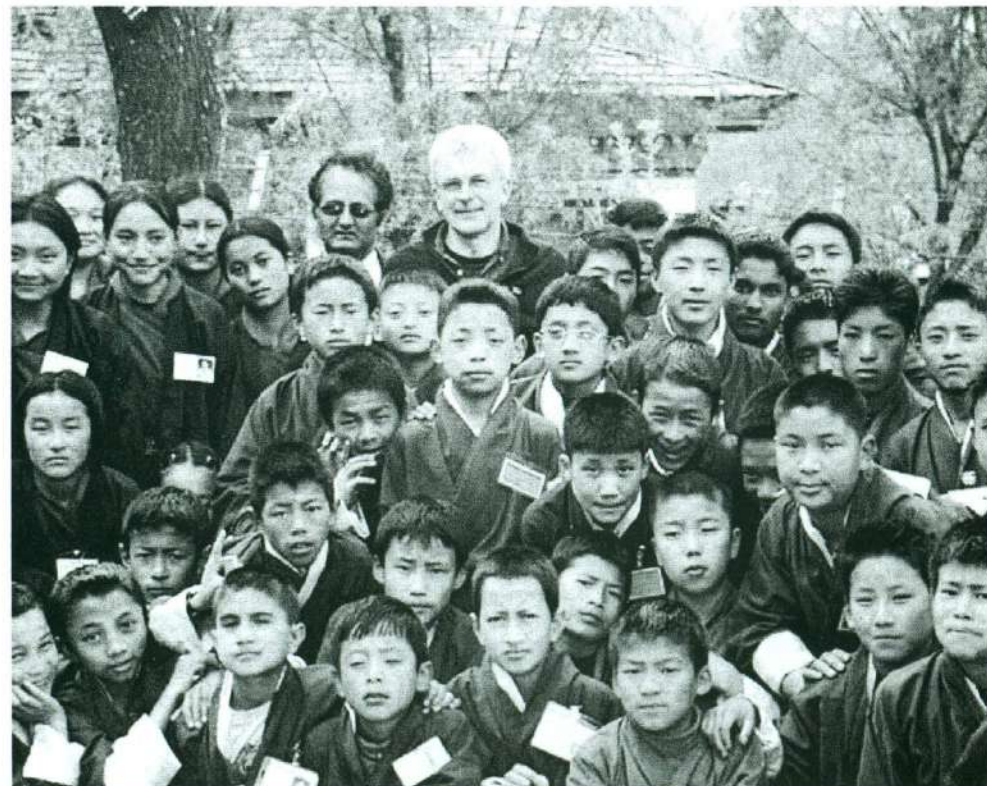
Environment Education in Bhutan – Some Success Stories

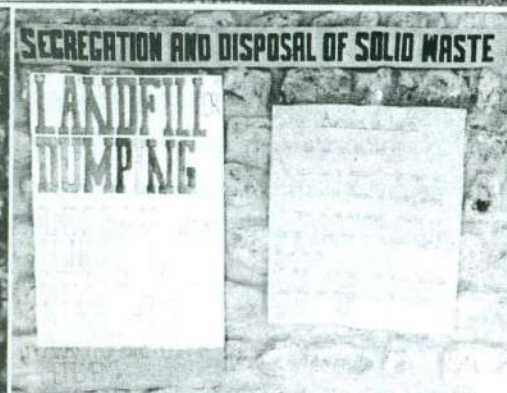
Due to children's actions there have been physical evidences of improvement in the environment. For example, in Dechenchholing (Thimphu), the students of Dechenchholing Junior HS held numerous awareness campaigns with the local community. As a result, many toilets near the stream have been demolished.

Lango Lower Secondary School formed a stream watch committee with representatives from school, business and community decision makers to tackle the problem of water pollution. The committee visited and surveyed the 6-kilometer stretch of stream passing through the area. Villagers were requested to relocate their toilets, animal sheds and waste pits near the stream explaining to them the hazards of polluted water. A survey of the same

stretch after a couple of weeks revealed that the people had demolished all the toilets, animal sheds and waste pits and had relocated them far away from the stream. Furthermore the local people have now started taking responsibility in cleaning the wastes in and around their private land. Some have even started planting trees near the stream.

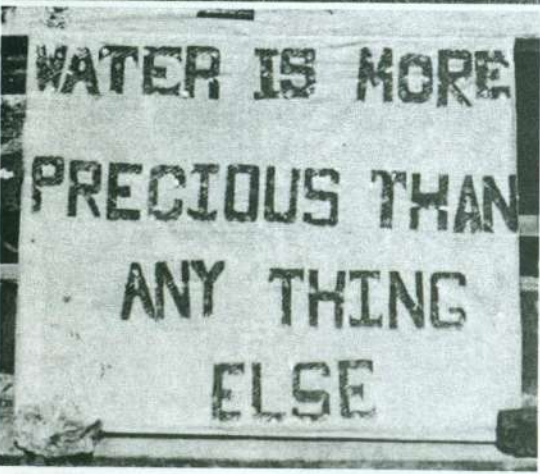
This is very encouraging especially in the viewpoint that school children were involved in changing the attitude of their local community.





Environment Education Program : Project Donors

- ✧ UNICEF
- ✧ WWF
- ✧ WWMP (RGoB-EU)
- ✧ JICA/JOCV
- ✧ KNCF—Japan



Integrated Conservation & Development Program (ICDP), Phobjikha

The RSPN Integrated Conservation and Development Program aims at making Phobjikha into an area of economically prospering human population living forever in perfect harmony with the Black necked Cranes

In 1999, RSPN initiated the Integrated Conservation and Development Program (ICDP) in Phobjikha, Wangdue Dzongkhag, the largest wintering habitat of Black necked Cranes in Bhutan.

The program 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.

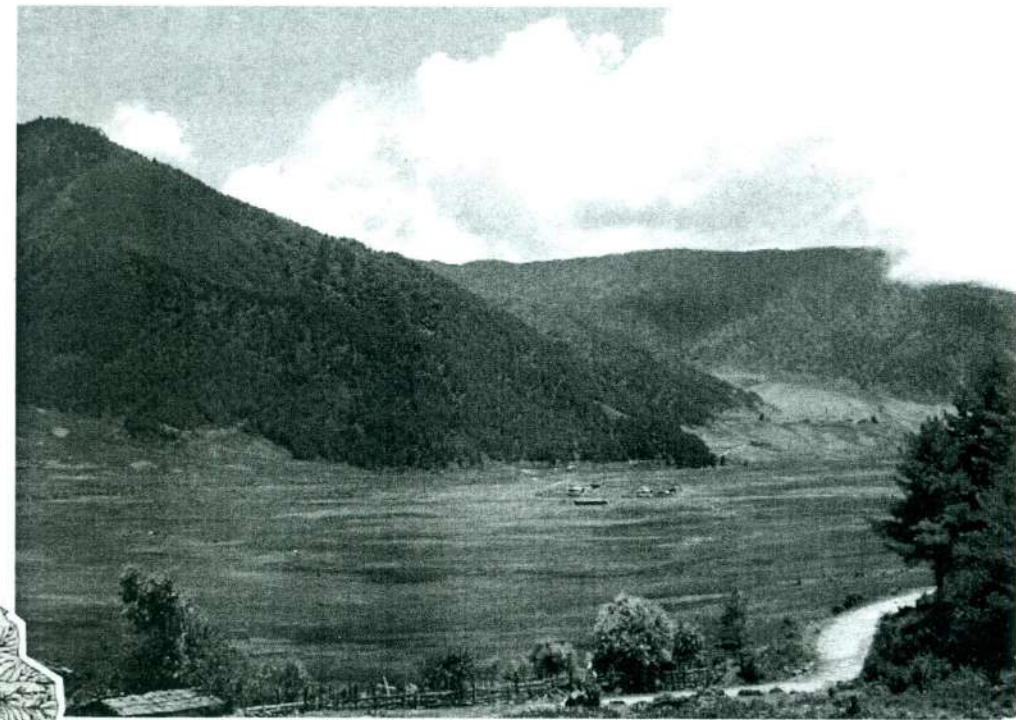
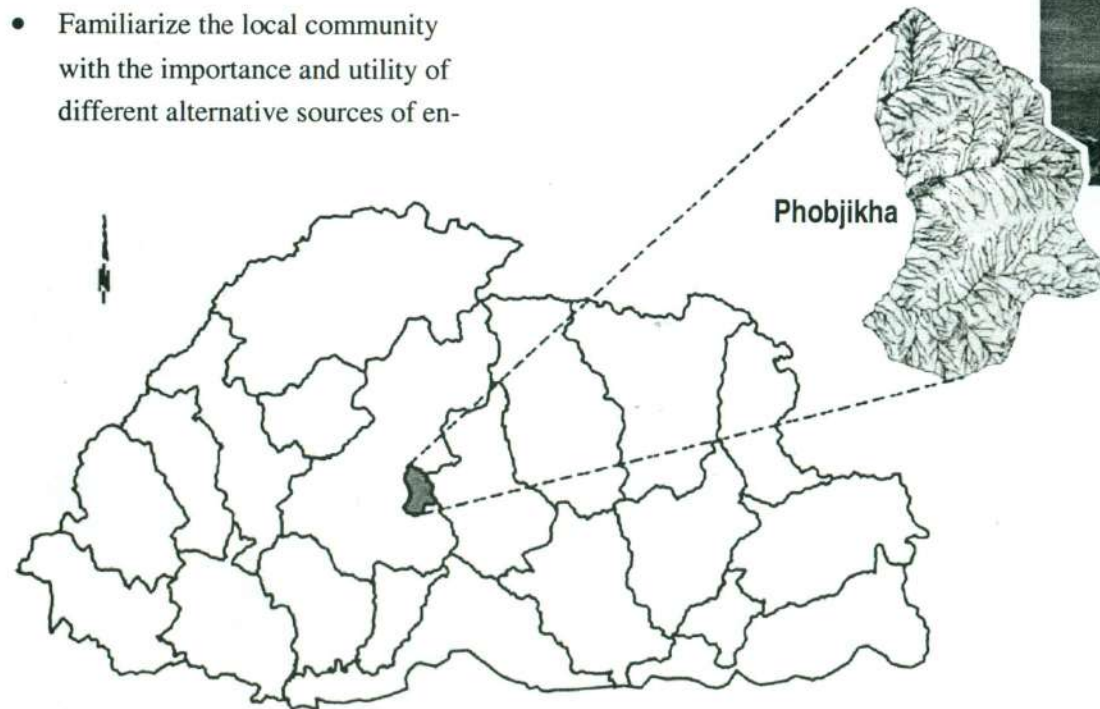


Goals of ICDP Phobjikha

- Promote positive attitudes especially on part of the local community and on general toward the conservation of rare and endangered Black necked Cranes.
- Empower the local people in the decision making process and enhance their skills and knowledge in conservation and sustainable development.
- Familiarize the local community with the importance and utility of different alternative sources of en-

ergy and technology for mitigating negative environmental impacts.

- Provide alternative economic opportunities to the local people in order to:
 - promote the economic well-being of the community
 - promote positive attitudes towards the conservation of the cranes
 - prevent depletion of natural



resources that can lead to degradation of the wetland habitat.

- Develop Phobjikha into a model Eco-tourism destination
- Build and strengthen the capacity of the local community and project personnel for sustainable development and efficient management and conservation of natural resources.
- Study/Research on the Phobjikha

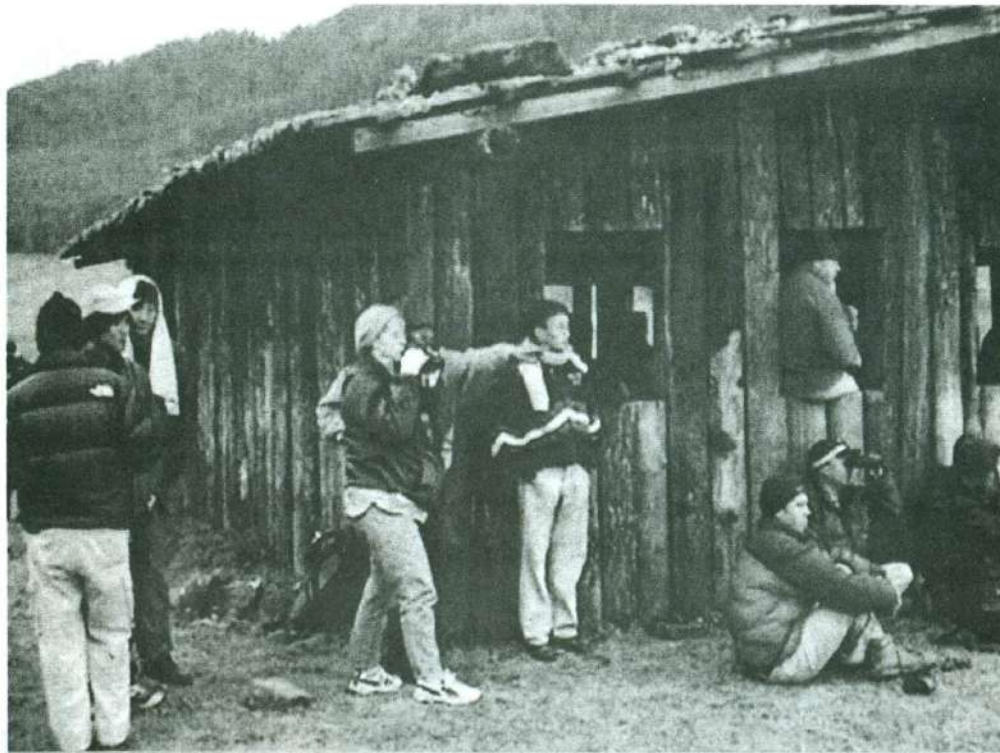
Wetland System and associated flora and fauna species

- Develop and incorporate effective Research, Monitoring and Evaluation components into the project in terms of crane conservation, their habitat, agricultural and social practices and community well being.

ICDP Activity Update...

Ecotourism

As part of UNESCO's Project Framework on "Developing Cultural and Eco-tourism in the Mountainous Region of Central Asia and the Himalayas", RSPN has received a grant of US \$ 40,000 over a period of one year (2003) to initiate Eco-tourism for Conservation and Development of Phobjikha Valley in Wangdue District.



The primary focus of this pilot project is on achieving conservation and development objectives through :

- developing community based eco-tourism enterprises,
- building capacities of local communities,
- enhancing greater participation and coordination,
- developing essential eco-tourism services and products and
- promotion of equal benefit sharing amongst all stakeholders

A series of activities will be carried out in FY 2003-2004 towards developing Community-based Ecotourism (CBE) in Phobjikha Valley. This would not only help in improving the livelihoods of the Phobjikha Community but would also support conservation of the endangered Black Necked Crane and cultural heritage of the region.

The project has adopted the Royal Government's Policy of Decentralization as an integral aspect and the policy of "High Value Low Impact" as its guiding principle.

Visit of UNESCO Ecotourism Consultant:

For the purpose of providing technical assistance to RSPN, refining the 2003 work plan, and introducing the project and inviting coordination among the stakeholders, an eco-tourism consultant from UNESCO visited Bhutan in April. During her visit, several meetings were set up with stakeholders from government and private organizations to inform and discuss the RSPN Eco-tourism Project in Phobjikha as a new partner project for UNESCO. A field trip to the Project site was also organized where the consultant had an opportunity to meet the Phobjikha Conservation Area Program (PCAP) Committee and briefed them on the project and discuss ways to make it more community-oriented.

Study Tour for PCAP Committee:

A study tour has been planned for the PCAP committee in July to a Community based Ecotourism (CBE) project in Sikkim, India. The objective of the tour is to increase the understanding of the participants on the concept of CBE through first hand observation and interaction with the community implementing the CBE in Sikkim.

Ecotourism Package for Phobjikha:

The success of the Ecotourism project in Phobjikha is directly dependant on the Ecotourism Package it offers to tourists and visitors. Towards this end the following programs have been planned:

- Repair and maintenance of three existing nature trails
- An intensive socio-economic survey of Phobjikha especially focusing on the origin, myths and legends of Phobjikha and the cultural and religious practices of the people.
- Installation of communication facilities at the Crane Information Center
- Training of interested people from the local community as tourist guides cooks and lodge managers.
- Workshop with stakeholders including travel agents, naturalists and the Department of Tourism to develop a sound Ecotourism package for Phobjikha
- Marketing and promotion of Phobjikha as an Ecotourism Destination through a Phobjikha Ecotourism website, info pamphlets, souvenir items.

The prototype Ecotourism package will be in place by Nov. 2003 and will be tested with guests and visitors at the 6th Annual Black necked Crane Festival on 12th Nov. 2003



2. Annual Black necked Crane Festival

Year 2002 marked the fifth year of the Annual Black Necked Crane Festival in Phobjikha valley. The Festival is organized every year on 12th Nov. at Phobjikha by the local community and RSPN with the dual

objective of enhancing the local economy as well as raising awareness on the black-necked cranes for conservation of their habitat in Bhutan.

"We are happy to be here in Bhutan to be a part in the birth anniversary celebrations of His Majesty the King and to celebrate with you the arrival of the cranes and the harmony of the

people and the cranes here in Phobjikha valley".... "it is very wonderful to look out and see the beautiful faces of young people, the wetland, the temple, the farms, the forest, this ecosystem... this community of nature and people living together here in Phobjikha valley and we really congratulate you, the local people, and we hope this beautiful scene will be retained for generations to come, and that the Crane Festival can continue and the Black necked Crane population will continue to increase."

- Extract from the inaugural speech of the Chief Guest, Dr. George Archibald, Chairman of the International Crane Foundation
The cultural program included the black necked crane dance, and traditional songs and dances by school students and the people of the local community.

This year an information kiosk on the black-necked cranes in Bhutan and the ICDP in Phobjikha was set up from which the photo gallery on the black-necked cranes proved to be very popular among the local community. The pictures were a reproduction from photographs donated by Mr. Shaotung Wu, a professional photographer from Taiwan and Ms. Eleanor Briggs from the International Crane Foundation, USA. An added feature in the 2002 crane festival was a program on waste manage-

ment by a team from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment (ATREE, India) who organized short role plays on waste management with Phobjikha Primary School students during the cultural program. Furthermore an exhibition stall also displayed recycled products made from waste plastic, cloth, tape reels, cans etc.

Since the festival's inception, Volunteer Artists Studio Thimphu (VAST) has always played a major role in the festival. 2002 saw no exception. About 25 VAST students volunteered to help in organizing the festival. An art exhibition cum competition was held. Dasho Ugyen Tshechup sponsored the prizes for the art competition.

Traditional song and dance performances, people laughing and shouting at the archery game and the stalls and the call of the cranes in the background truly set the atmosphere for a delightful festival day to honor the winged winter visitors from Tibet.

This year's festival was sponsored by Bhutan Heritage Travels and the International Crane Foundation.



3. Strengthening the Protection and Management of Phobjikha Conservation Area

RSPN has received a grant of US \$ 180,000 from John D. and Catherine T. Mac Arthur foundation, USA, for a three-year project to strengthen the Protection and Management of Phobjikha Conservation Area. This project, which is incorporated under the Integrated Conservation & Development Program in Phobjikha, will help develop guidelines and experience in local level conservation management.

The activities under the project are as follows:

Conservation Status for Phobjikha:

Phobjikha as a conservation area has been vulnerable primarily because there hasn't been a formal declaration to that effect.

RSPN has started solicitation with the Royal Government for such a decree. Meetings have been held with the Prime Minister and several senior officials of the Royal Government. Though an official

declaration for Phobjikha could not be achieved by the end of June, the Royal Government has been very positive towards declaring Phobjikha as an official conservation area in the very near future.

Local Involvement in Conservation

Programs:

The PCAP Committee has been closely working with RSPN in implementing ICDP activities in the valley. The committee has played a major role in mobilizing people from the local community in many conservation programs including making of nature trails, organizing the Black necked Crane festival, Construction of the Crane Information Center, etc.

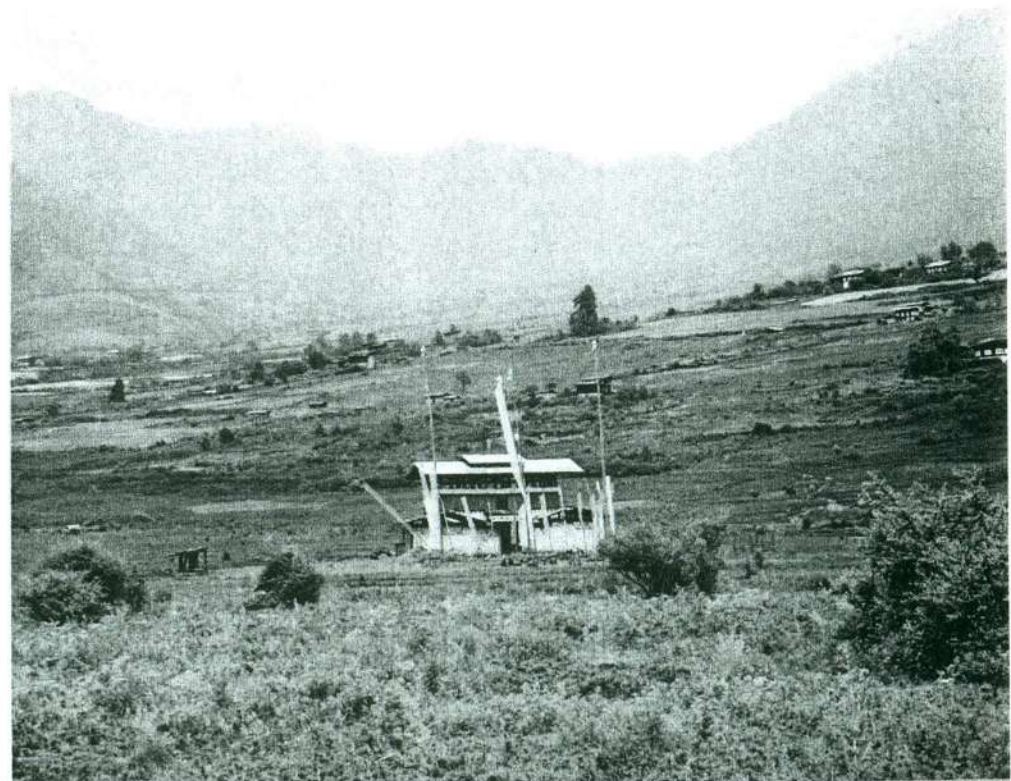
With the initiation of this project, 5 PCAP meetings have been held so far. Past activities have been reviewed and plan of action for activities to be implemented have been made. An outcome from one of the meetings was the decision to make a small artificial crane to relieve the pressure of the main roosting area. *Please refer to the section on Black necked crane winter report 2002-2003 for details.*

Capacity building and conservation education:

One of the most important components of the project, it will be centered basically on the stakeholders who will be taught the means to live together with nature by the employment of sustainable ways of harnessing nature. Workshops, demonstrations, seminars and other modules will be developed to involve the local school and

villagers in the project.

RSPN is presently working with the staff of the Primary School and the three non-formal education centers at Phobjikha in assessing the education curriculum. The RSPN Environment Education Unit will develop education materials that complements the existing curriculum in teaching conservation education to the local community.



Biodiversity inventory:

A biodiversity survey will be carried out to obtain adequate information on flora and fauna. A vegetation survey has been partially done and additional survey will be needed to complete this survey and obtain a representative data. A biodiversity consultant has been identified to conduct the study in the next fiscal year. The consultant will be assisted by the RSPN ecologist in carrying out the inventory.

Participatory Research and Monitoring:

Research on wetland ecology, carrying capacity of the valley and feeding require-

ments of the cranes will be conducted. Further study will also be undertaken on the threats, Trans boundary conservation, habitat identification and migratory routes of the black-necked cranes. Participatory monitoring will be done to ensure timely implementation of project activities and to identify gaps and make necessary corrective actions.

Two resources persons have been identified for the study on Wetland Ecology and Transboundary Conservation of the cranes. Both the studies will be initiated in the 2003-2004 winter, during the season of the cranes.



4. Black necked Crane Report: Winter 2002-2003

This report is a compilation from reports by Phurba (RSPN Crane Caretaker, Bomdeling), Staff of Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary and the Crane Study Team comprising Jim Rogers (International Crane Foundation) and Dago Tshering (RSPN Field Officer) in the winter of 2002-2003.

Khotokha, Wangdue Dzongkhag:

Khotokha exhibits, even more clearly than Phobjikha, the typical broad, steep-sided U profile of a glacially cut valley. A small river crosses the valley from northeast to southwest, fed by numerous small streams. Below the edge of the Blue Pine forest is a long gradual slope, which supports a diverse wetland mosaic, one which includes a lot of the dwarf bamboos familiar from Phobjikha, and an area with dying pines and sizeable moss/bamboo hummocks. More than Phobjikha, almost all the residents leave for warmer parts of Wangduephodrang in the winter.

Right after we reached the valley, we set up on a low ridge above the village to look for the cranes—and found them right away. Two pairs were feeding in the

*winter wheat fields adjacent to the village houses. A third pair was tucked away on a small hillside wet pasture low on the west slope of the northeast side valley. A fourth pair was feeding in the grass out to the southwest, beyond the area of cultivation. **These four adult pairs were the only cranes we saw at Khotokha.** (Report By Jim Rogers, ICF)*

A second count in January also confirmed the count of 8 cranes in Khotokha.

Phobjikha, Wangdue Dzongkhag:

Over the last ten years, there has been a slight increase in the population of the cranes every year in Phobjikha. This has increased the density of cranes staying at the main roosting area (approximately 375 sq. m.) at night. Since the water logged in the area were becoming more shallow with the invasion of reeds, quite a large number of cranes were actually roosting on dry land on the periphery of the roosting area. Therefore they were in constant danger from predators (*last year one crane was killed by a wildcat*).

To relieve pressure on the main roosting area, an artificial pond (approximately 100 sq. m.) was made in February 2003, by

diverting some water from the nearby stream. Removal of reeds and mud debris from the main roosting area was also done. In order to minimize disturbance to the cranes, the work was carried out only during the day time after all the cranes had left the roosting area for their day time feeding grounds. The area was closely monitored and after nearly two weeks, 30 cranes were spotted roosting at the artificial pond.

269 cranes were counted in Phobjikha during the 2002-2003 winter, 7 more crane than last winter.

Bumthang: At Gyetsa, a pair of adult cranes were spotted feeding in the wetland below (south of) the village of Uruk. There are now two sets of power lines stretching across the valley. The new lines are a cause for concern-- especially the second set. When those lines leave the valley floor and go up to the monastery, they rise unusually high above the wetland below. RSPN will be soliciting with the Power Authorities for installation of some kind of visibility-increasing device on the wires so that the cranes do not get entangled on the lines. 2 more cranes were spotted at the Chumey valley enroute to

Thangbi. At Thangbi, a pair of cranes were roosting at a small dwarf bamboo wetland surrounded by Blue Pine forest and 3 more spotted upstream.

In Bumthang there was a total count of 9 cranes.

Bomdeling, Tashiyangtse: For the last couple of years, the crane roost in Bomdeling has been under threat by the Kulong chhu (river). This year a Roost Improvement Program was done, which included the following activities:

Clearing of shrubs, bushes and drift logs from the main roosting area so as to decrease the threat of crane predators.
Construction of artificial trenches to channel away the river and create a roosting ground for the cranes.
Fencing with *Erythraea* sp. and bamboo mats around the prime roosting area to avoid disturbance to the cranes by people walking through the roost.

With a grant from RSPN, these activities were coordinated by the RSPN Crane Caretaker and the REM (Research, Evaluation and Monitoring) Unit of Bomdeling

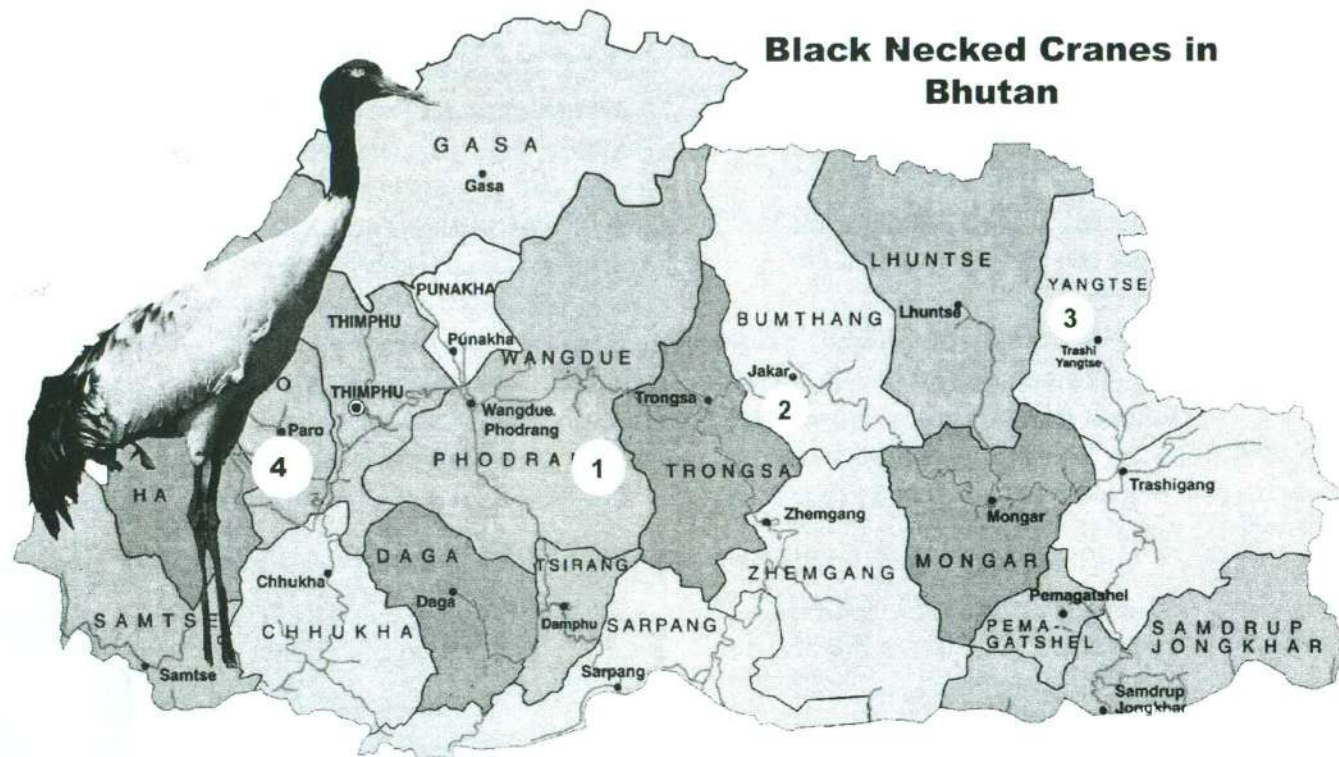
Wildlife Sanctuary with assistance from the local community and the students of Tashiyangtse Middle Secondary School. The Dzongkhag Administration of Tashiyangtse has also been very supportive towards the conservation of the cranes. As evidence, stone quarry blasting for construction work at Bomdeling town has been banned for the time that the cranes are present in the valley.

The final crane count at Bomdeling for the

2002-2003 winter was 155 (13 less than last year) as reported by the RSPN Crane Caretaker and the Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary.

Paro: Though there are stories of large flocks of cranes visiting Paro valley about thirty years back, no cranes had been spotted here in the last ten years. This year, to the surprise of everyone, a pair of black-necked cranes was spotted about a kilometer from Paro town towards Drukgyel Dzong.





Crane Winter Count in Bhutan: 1997-2002

Winter of:	Phobjikha (1)	Bomdeling (2)	Khotokha (1)	Bumthang (3)	Paro (4)	Total
1998-99	240+	146	7	18	—	411+
1999-2000	244	155	6	10	—	415
2000-01	248	151	4	6	—	409
2001-02	262	169	4	7	—	442
2002-03	269	155	8	9	2	443

5. Alternative Energy

Pilot Solar Energy Project (PSEP):

Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) electrification being the cheapest, quickest and most efficient way of providing non-polluting renewable energy, the PSEP aims at improving the living conditions of the people by introducing SPV lighting system in the valley.

Objective:

- Make the Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Home Lightning System easily available and affordable to the people.
- To build the capacity of the local people by identifying and developing a local network of personnel trained in maintaining solar home light system for the rural households availing the credit

Plan of action:

- Setting up of revolving fund to finance the low interest credit scheme and subsidize the cost of various solar photovoltaic systems. A fund of US \$ 100,000 has been raised by the Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF, USA).

This amount will be made available as low interest loans to the local villagers for setting up SPV light system ranging from a simple solar lantern to a complete home light system with up to five light system and a radio hook-up. The fund will also help in subsidizing the actual cost of the solar systems.

- The capacity of local communities will also be developed to rectify problems, repair, maintain and ensure that the systems functions throughout their intended life time.

198 households in Phobjikha have registered for the PSEP, which will start from September 2003.



Women in Energy and Water Management

RSPN and the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal have entered into a two year research project entitled **“Women in Energy and Water Management.”** The main objective is to promote integration of women in decision making, implementation and management of household energy and water initiatives that are environmentally safe and sound. RSPN will be developing case studies, guidelines and training manuals, conducting trainings and

implementing pilot projects. It will also propose guidelines for policies that will enhance the mainstreaming of gender concerns and environmental sustainability in energy and water management at the community level.

RSPN has identified three sites for the project:

- Phobjikha valley under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag
- Yomto, Gyensa, Talung and Jamtey villages under Bji geog in Ha
- Lingmutterchud watershed area, under Punakha Dzongkhag.

A National Steering Committee has been formed to provide an advisory role in planning, implementation and monitoring of the project. The committee comprises nine members from various departments and agencies viz. National Women Association of Bhutan, Integrated Water Resource Management Project (Ministry of Agriculture), Department of Energy, PPD (Ministry of Home Affairs), and female representatives from Ha and Wangdue Dzongkhags.

In September 2002, RSPN presented a draft document on the case study of three project sites at a regional consultation workshop organized by the ICIMOD at Kathmandu, Nepal. National Steering Committee members also attended the workshop.

In March 2003, field visits were conducted to the designated project sites at Phobjikha, Limukha and Ha to meet the local communities in the project sites, find out their problems and develop activities to help improve their lifestyle through various project activities. The first step taken was to form women groups at each project site to help in implementing project activities.

The need assessment conducted on all the three projects sites show problems of drinking water, toilet problem, collection of fuel wood, etc. Beside their everyday cooking schedule, women spend most of their time in fetching drinking water and fuel wood. To address these issues, a consultant from the Center for Rural Technology (CRT, Nepal) was invited for the project and after a weeklong visit and consultation, the first activity planned was an Exhibition cum Demonstration of Alternative Technologies under Training of Trainers, which will be organized in July (FY2003-2004).





ICDP, Phobjikha -
Project Donors

- ❖ Japan Environment Corporation (JEC-JFGE)
- ❖ Colin & Ann Phipps, International Crane Foundation
- ❖ GEF/SGP - UNDP
- ❖ MacArthur Foundation
- ❖ UNESCO
- ❖ ICIMOD/UNEP
- ❖ SPIEC, Japan
- ❖ JICA/JOCV

White bellied Heron Research

The White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis* Hume, *A. imperialis*) is one of the 50 rarest bird species in the world today. It has been recorded in a few countries like Nepal, India, Bangladesh, North Myanmar and Bhutan. Its population in the world is still unknown, and there is no detailed information on the life history of the bird.

In Bhutan, only 3 of these birds has been recorded in Ada (Wangdue District) and Amromu (Punakha District) in Bhutan. No study has been undertaken on the bird in the country. The only documentation of this bird was an amateur video taken by Ms. Rebecca Pradhan, the RSPN ornithologist in Lake Ada, Wangdue There is no adequate information or publication on the

status and distribution of the bird in Bhutan.

RSPN initiated a project on the study of the white-bellied herons in Bhutan from March-April 2003 with a grant of US\$ 7000 from Felburn Foundation (Florida, USA). Tshewang Norbu, an amateur bird-watcher and an active RSPN volunteer has been recruited for the study. The aim of the two-year project study is to conduct a preliminary research study on the population, distribution, and habitat of the White-bellied herons in Bhutan.

Study Report as of June 2003: The first part of the study included compilation of existing information (from books / research Papers, Indigenous knowledge on the bird, Internet) on the white-bellied herons. The preliminary field study was conducted along the Pho chhu and Mo chhu in Punakha and three herons were recorded in this region. Unfortunately, one dead heron was spotted floating in the river and because of the swift current, the body could not be retrieved to determine the cause of

death. However, about a week later, we received a report from a Forest Guard at Kamechu (Wangduephodrang) that a heron nest had been spotted in the area. This was exciting news because, according to our records, this was only the second time in the history of Heron study that a nest has been recorded in the world. The first was in Myanmar. The nest had been built on a Chirpine tree at an altitude of 980 m along one of the tributaries of the Punatsangchhu. A single egg hatched on 29th April 2003. The RSPN researcher will be closely monitoring this heron family and recording crucial information for conservation of the white bellied herons in Bhutan.

Confirmed count of white bellied herons in Bhutan as of June 2003: **5 (4 adults, 1 juvenile)**

The study is being conducted with approval and assistance of the Nature Conservation Division (Department of Forest, Ministry of Agriculture).



Fundraising and Membership Program

"Becoming an efficient,
effective and financially
self reliant
conservation organization"

The RSPN Endowment Fund

With the goal of becoming an *efficient, effective and financially self reliant conservation organization*, RSPN initiated the Endowment Fund with a target of US\$ 1 million to be achieved by the end of 2003. The Endowment Fund will finance operational costs through annual investment income.

In support of this goal, the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BT FEC) agreed to match contributions to the Endowment Fund on a dollar-to-dollar basis upto a maximum of US\$ 450,000. Therefore, RSPN needs to raise US\$ 550,000 to reach its target. Successful realization of the Endowment Fund will strengthen RSPN's capacity as a complementary partner to the Royal Government in conserving the environment of Bhutan.



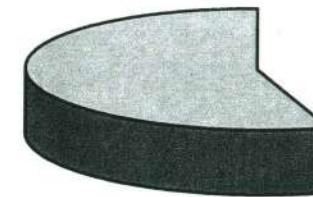
Statement of Endowment Fund as of 30 June 2003 (In US Dollars):

Source of Contribution	Year 1: Dec. 2001		Year 2: Dec. 2002		Year 3: June 2003	
	Target	Raised	Target	Raised	Target	Raised
Mr. Gary Hirschorn		25000				
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)		50000				
RSPN Internal Reserve		25000		15794.76		
Gold Quest International				2500.00		3278.00
Fundraising Trip to USA and Canada				38658.00		
Tourist Group from Harvard University				6656.26		
Membership/Guardian Subscription Fees				7601.20		600.00
William Tacon (RSPN Guardian)	100,000		175000	3000.00	275000	100.00
Consultancy Work for other organizations/agencies				3730.00		
Donations from individuals (members, guardians, honorary members) directly to the Endowment fund				3650.00		220.00
Tourism Development Fund						3000.00
International Crane Foundation						1500.00
Japan Bhutan Friendship Association						1489.00
		100000		81590.22		10187.00
Balance funds to be raised:				93409.78		264813.00

RSPN Endowment Fund : US\$ 1 million



RSPN Fundraising Target: US\$ 550,000



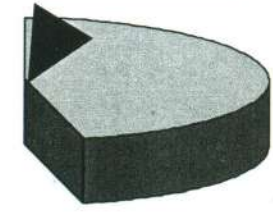
BT FEC's Matching Grant: US\$ 450,000



Funds raised so far: US\$ 191777.22



BT FEC contributes US\$ 100,000 to match the amount raised in 2001



Balance funds to be raised so far: US\$ 358222.78

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Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Pierce USA
Mr. & Mrs. George Pillsbury USA
Mr. and Mrs. Tad and Hannah
Pinkerton USA
Ms. Marsha Pinkstaff USA
Mr. & Mrs. Iakovos Platis USA
Dr. Francoise Pommaret Bhutan
Mrs. Charles Potter USA
Ms Nirvana Pradhan Bhutan
Ms. Prashanti Pradhan Bhutan

Q - R

Ms. Catherine Raley USA
Mr. Boyd Ratchye USA
Mr. Nirpa Raj Bhutan
Ms. Joan Redman USA
Ms. Penny Richards Australia
Dr. Arie Rijke USA
Ms. DeeDee Ridders USA
Mr. Duptho Rinzin Bhutan
Mr. Gilbert H. Robinson USA
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Rock USA
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Rogers USA
Mr. James Rupert USA
Mr. Willaim B Russel USA
Ms. Kathleen Ryan USA
Ms. Regina Ryan USA
Mr. Raptan Bhutan

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT :)

*The list of contributors is also available at
www.rspn-bhutan.org*

RSPN 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 our members informed about the environment, the Membership Program ensures citizens participation in conservation.

RSPN Members comprise school nature club members, students and individuals from Bhutan and Overseas.

Membership Categories

Students (including Nature Club students)

- Subscription Fee: Nu. 10/year or Nu.40/5 years

Individuals

- Subscription Fee(Bhutanese and SAARC): Nu. 200/year or Nu.800/5 years
- Subscription Fee (Foreign): US\$ 50/year or US\$200/5 years

RSPN Guardians

- Subscription Fee: US\$500 & above/year

Benefits

- Quarterly RSPN Newsletter
- 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 2001-2002

† Students: 3000

† Individuals

Bhutanese/Expats./SAARC: 80

Foreign: 257 (Includes one year honorary members)

† Guardians: 8

- Daniel Pierce, USA
- John and Marcia Harter, USA
- Judith Brown, USA
- Marian Phelps Pawlick, USA
- Paul King and Gail Murray, UK
- Sabine Liebherr, Switzerland
- Vicki Sant, USA
- William Tacon, UK

Membership contribution in FY 2002-2003: US\$ 6197.40

(This amount is utilized in printing newsletters/annual report, postal charges and for a members excursion trip to the Annual Black necked Crane Festival. The remainder is directed to the RSPN Endowment Fund.)



RSPN Office :

Staff recruitment and HRD

Volunteers

- Mr. Yoshinobu Sasaki, a senior JICA / JOCV volunteer from Hokkaido Education University, Japan, joined RSPN in May 2001. During his two year tenure with RSPN, he played a significant role in RSPN's conservation efforts, especially in the Environment Education Program. Some of his achievements:
 1. Solicitation of Waste Disposal Trucks from Sapporo City Corporation, Japan for Thimphu City Corporation
 2. Participation as a resource person in the Environment Education Workshop for RSPN Nature Club teachers
 3. Solicitation for an expert veterinary doctor (Dr. Yamaguchi) from Japan to assist the Thimphu City Corporation and RSPCA in the dog sterilization campaign at Thimphu, Phuentsholing
 4. Solicitation for a wetland expert for Phobjikha ICDP Project
 5. Assistance in EE project development and solicitation for funds

- Ms. Keiko Momose will be joining RSPN as the next Senior JICA/JOCV Volunteer from July 2003. Like Mr. Sasaki, she will continue working with the Environment Education Program, especially in developing a Solid Waste Management program for urban areas in Bhutan.
- Ms. Yenyen Felicia Chan, an Environment Education Instructor at the Yosemite National Institute, USA, volunteered for three months (Sept-Dec 2002) to develop a Religion and Environment Education Program for RSPN

New Staff Recruitment

With the initiation of three new projects in FY2002-2003, the following personnel were recruited:

- Mr. Chencho, Project Officer, ICDP Phobjikha (MacArthur Foundation)
- Ms. Manju Giri, Project Officer, Women in Energy and Water Management (ICIMOD)
- Mr. Tshewang Norbu, Researcher, White bellied Heron Study (Felburn Foundation)

HRD

- Executive Director completes PhD: The RSPN Executive Director, Mr. Lam Dorji, successfully completed his PhD. on Natural Resource Management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.
- RSPN Ecologist goes to Harvard: The RSPN Ecologist, Ms. Rebecca Pradhan, was invited by Harvard University, USA, to undergo a year long course on Ecological Statistics starting from September 2002.

The RSPN Team

Patron

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

Board Members

President	Dasho Sangay Thinley, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB)
Member	Aum Yangki T. Wangchuk, Director, General, Dept. of Aid & Debt Management, Ministry of Finance, RGoB
Member	Mr. Ugyen Dorji, Secretary to HRH the Crown Prince of Bhutan
Member	Mr. Tobgay S. Namgyal, Director, Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BT FEC)
Member	Mr. Tshewang Tandin, Joint Director, Department of Education, Min. of Health & Education, RGoB
Member	Mr. Tandin Dorji, Communications Officer, National Environment Commission, RGoB
Member	Mr. Mingbo Dukpa, Managing Director, Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation
Member	Mr. Ugyen Rinzin, Senior Partner, Yangphel Adventure Tours
Member Secretary	Mr. Lam Dorji, Executive Director, RSPN

Environment Education Unit

Mr. Mincha Wangdi, Coordinator
Ms. Rebecca Pradhan, Ecologist
Mr. Ugyen Lhendup, Environment Education Officer
Mr. Yoshinobu Sasaki, JICA Volunteer
Ms. Yenyen F. Chan, Volunteer

Conservation & Development Unit

Mr. Jigme Tobgay, Coordinator
Mr. Dago Tshering, Field Officer, Phobjikha
Mr. Chencho, Ecotourism Officer
Ms. Manju Giri, Project Officer, Women in Environment

Fundraising & Communication Unit

Ms. Tshering Lham, Fundrais. Coordinator
Mr. Miraj Pradhan, Comm. Officer
Ms. Karma Delma, Librarian
Mr. Tshewang Norbu, WB Heron Research

Administration & Finance Unit

Mr. Tashi Penjor, Coordinator
Mr. Sonam Jamtsho, Finance Assistant
Ms. Damche Delma, Admin. Assistant
Mr. Chenning Dorji, Driver

The Wind Beneath Our Wings...



- ❖ **Office Rent and Annual Audit:** Royal Government of Bhutan
- ❖ **Institutional Support:** Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation
- ❖ **Environment Education Program:** UNICEF, WWF, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, National Environment Commission (RGoB), Wang Watershed Management Program (MoA, RGoB), JICA/JOCV, Individual sponsors
- ❖ **ICDP Phobjikha:** MacArthur Foundation, UNESCO, Japan Environment Corporation, Colin and Ann Phipps, International Crane Foundation, Bhutan Heritage Travels, Felburn Foundation
- ❖ **Women in Energy & Water Management Project:** ICIMOD/UNEP
- ❖ **White bellied Heron Study Project:** Felburn Foundation
- ❖ **Endowment Fund:**
 - ◆ Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation
 - ◆ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
 - ◆ Gold Quest International
 - ◆ International Crane Foundation
 - ◆ Individual Donors
 - ◆ RSPN Guardians/Members/Honorary Members
- ❖ **Conservation Partners:** Department of Forest, National Parks, Royal Institute of Management, National Environment Commission, Voluntary Artists Studio Thimphu, Department of Education, Thimphu City Corporation, Schools and Institutions, Department of Civil Aviation, Department of Tourism, Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators, Royal Society for Protection and Care to Animals, Wangdue Dzongkhag Administration, Thimphu Local Volunteers

Financial Report

Financial Advisor
Timothy J. ...

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ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY
(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 JULY 1, 2002 TO JUNE 30, 2003.

1. The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) has audited the attached Financial Statement (viz. Receipt and Payment Statement and Statement Affairs) in respect of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) for the year ended 30th June 2003, which comprise of the RSPN, Headquarters and under noted projects.


Sl.No.	Name of Project	Funding Agency
1	Renewal Energy in the Nature Study Center Area	WWF
2	Environment Education in Bhutan	WWF
3	Institutional Support	BTFC
4	Capacity Building Workshop	GEF
5	NC School Support	UNICEF
6	Advocacy & Social Mobilization	PPA-UNICEF
7	Wang Watershed Management Project	EU & RGoB
8	JSWNP Environment Awareness Program	RGoB
9	Thrumshingla Rhododendron National Park	ABTO
10	World Environment Day	NECS
11	Environment Education in Bhutan	KNCF
12	Water Quality Monitoring Project	NECS
13	Recycled Computers & Accessories	SPJD
14	Eco-tourism for Conservation and Development of Phobjikha Valley	UNESCO
15	Women in Water and Energy Management	ICIMOD
16	Strengthen Protection & Management of Phobjikha Conservation Area	MAC-FDN
17	Black Necked Crane Count & Monitoring	ICF
18	Study of White Bellied Herons	FELBURN-FDN

2. The audit was conducted pursuant to the provisions in the RSPN's Administrative & Financial Guidelines and in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and General Auditing Rules and Regulations (GARR) of Bhutan.
3. The audit was primarily focussed to express an opinion on the Receipt and 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. Based on the 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 reflect the results of the RSPN's financial operation for the year ended June 30, 2002 and state of its affair as on that date.
5. The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) reports 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 In its opinion, proper books of accounts have been maintained by the management so far it appears from the examination of the books of account maintained by the RSPN and returns received from the projects.
 - 6.2 The accounts have been compiled on the basis of funds actually received by the RSPN during the period.
 - 6.3 In its opinion the management has instituted adequate internal control system.
 - 6.4 The previous year's figures have been rearranged /regrouped where ever necessary to make them comparable with current year's figures


(Om Prakash)
Works Auditor

Concurred by:


(B.B. Chhetri)
Asstt. Auditor General



Receipts and Payments Statement for the Fiscal Year (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003)

RECEIPT

PAYMENT

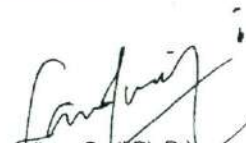
Particulars	Schedule	Year ended 30th June 2002		Year ended 30th June 2001		Particulars	Schedule	Year ended 30th June 2002		Year ended 30th June 2001	
		(Nu.)	(US\$)	(Nu.)	(US\$)			(Nu.)	(US\$)	(Nu.)	(US\$)
		1. Opening Balance								Black necked Crane Festival (BHT & ICF)	IV
a) Cash in hand	—	13,192.65	—	—	—	Renewable energy in the nature study center area (WWF)	IV	68,015.40	--	256,278.23	--
b) Cash at Bank	—	3,888,986.28	56,561.55	—	—	Environment education in Bhutan (WWF)	IV	501,430.25	--	658,348.00	--
2. Reserve Fund	—	36,596.00	4,336.86	381,476.96	37,145.37	Institutional support (BT FEC)	IV	2,233,956.32	--	2,225,355.41	--
3. Endowment Fund	—	149,530.00	142,265.00	708,464.46	128,172.55	Capacity building workshop (GEF)	IV	--	--	757,102.00	--
4. Project Fund	I	7,333,589.75	139,468.53	6,924,142.53	4,500.39	NC School support (UNICEF)	IV	--	--	21,000.00	--
5. Gratuity Fund	—	110,376.00	—	364,467.36	—	Advocacy & Social mobilization (PPA-UNICEF)	IV	320,134.00	2.05	278,833.00	--
6. Membership Fund	—	—	—	26,400.00	—	Wang Watershed Mgmt. Project (EU & RGoB)	IV	566,284.50	--	465,509.00	--
7. Other Receipts	II	970,609.00	35,754.41	2,161,162.89	2,461.00	JSWNP environment awareness program (RGoB)	IV	228,126.00	--	71,874.00	--
8. Misc. Receipts	III	22,281.25	—	64,986.00	—	Himalayan Orchid conference (RGoB/ participants)	IV	--	--	301,039.00	--
						Thrumshingla Rhododendron national park (ABTO)	IV	74,962.00	--	579,582.00	--
9. Advances		474,974.07	15,717.76	--	—	World Environment Day (NECS)	IV	66,000.00	--	40,464.00	--
						Environment education in Bhutan (KNCF)	IV	399,099.00	4219.41	--	--
						Water Quality monitoring project (NECS)	IV	470,782.00	--	--	--
						Recycled computers and accessories (SPJD)	IV	1,473,575.56	--	--	--
						Ecotourism for conservation & development of Phobjikha valley (UNESCO)	IV	101,703.00	3659.00	--	--
						Women in Water & Energy Management (ICIMOD)	IV	221,537.40	--	--	--


**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE
THIMPHU**

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS AS ON JUNE 30, 2003


SOURCES OF FUND	As on June 30, 2003		As on June 30, 2002	
	(In Nu.)	(In US \$)	(In Nu.)	(In US \$)
Opening Cash and Bank Balances	3,902,178.93	56,561.55		
Advance	474,974.07	15,717.76		
Reserve Fund	36,596.00	4,336.86	381,476.96	37,145.37
Endowment Fund	149,530.00	145,265.00	708,464.46	128,172.55
Project Fund	99,661.10	98,302.30	1,221,757.89	4,500.39
Gratuity Fund	110,376.00	-	364,467.36	-
Membership Fees		-	26,400.00	2,461.00
Other Receipts	461,864.00	28,462.33	1,669,604.89	-
Miscellaneous Receipts	13,040.81	-	4,960.44	-
TOTAL FUND	5,248,220.91	348,645.80	4,377,152.00	172,279.31
APPLICATION OF FUND				
Closing Cash and Bank Balances	4,342,308.92	232,928.04	3,902,177.93	56,561.55
Investment with BTFEC	-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00
Advance	905,911.99	15,717.76	474,974.07	15,717.76
TOTAL	5,248,220.91	348,645.80	4,377,152.00	172,279.31
NET CURRENT ASSETS	5,248,220.91	348,645.80	4,377,152.00	172,279.31


Chairman
Management Board


(Lam Dorji, Ph.D.)
Executive Director


(Tashi Penjor)
Finance/Admin Coordinator




(Om Prakash)
Works Auditor





Royal Society for Protection of Nature
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