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RSPN wins ADB Civil Society Partnership Award



Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) was awarded the ADB Civil Society Partnership Award on May 5, 2017, during the 50th Annual ADB Meeting held in Yokohama, Japan. Dr. Kinley Tenzin, Executive Director of RSPN in his acceptance speech thanked the ADB for the show of solidarity and supporting the project, and paid homage to the benevolent monarchs, "I take this opportunity to pay my humble respect to

His Majesty the Fourth King of Bhutan, Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck for leaving a rich conservation legacy and our King, Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck for leading by example in furthering this rich conservation legacy at this critical time of need." He added, "I share this high caliber of recognition with my colleagues in RSPN, who put their heart and soul working with local

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Buli watershed management plan finalization workshop



A three-day workshop on 'Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) for finalization of Buli watershed management plan' was organized by RSPN in Paro, from April 17 till April 19, 2017. The workshop was attended by project stakeholders who included representatives from Nangkhor Gewog (Gup, Ranger, and Tshogpa), Zhemgang Dzongkhag and Watershed Management Division (WMD) from Department of Forests and Park Services (our technical partner). The objective of the workshop was to finalize LFA matrix which will capture the spectrum of details on proper watershed management planning like purpose, goal, objective,

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RSPN wins ADB Civil Society Partnership Award

communities on livelihood opportunities and promoting conservation in Bhutan.”

RSPN is truly honored to be selected as the recipient of this year’s Civil Society Partnership Award for the implementation of the project supported by ADB JFPR Grant – 9158 Regional: Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. We would like to thank the partners and various stakeholders who were instrumental in the success of the project; ETC Foundation, Department of Renewable Energy, Bhutan Power Corporation, UNDP, Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Craft, Zhemgang Dzongkhag, Rural Development Training Center (Zhemgang), Royal Manas National Park and the Zhemgang village communities.



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Buli watershed management plan finalization workshop



outputs, activities and indicative budget for implementation of the management plan in future. The purpose behind the development of management plan for Buli watershed, which although is in pristine stage (as per the watershed classification guideline) is: to provide strategic direction for ensuring conservation and protection of watersheds, particularly wetlands and

associated biodiversity and to support sustainable local livelihoods linked to conservation and protection of the watershed. The finalized plan will be presented to Technical Assessment Committee (TAC) comprising of Division chiefs from the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) for endorsement.



The project which is supported by GEF/Small Grants Program, UNDP is implemented by RSPN. The Project team on behalf of RSPN extends our appreciation and gratitude to the participants and more importantly Watershed Management Division for the technical assistance rendered during the workshop.



Souvenir Development Training in Haa



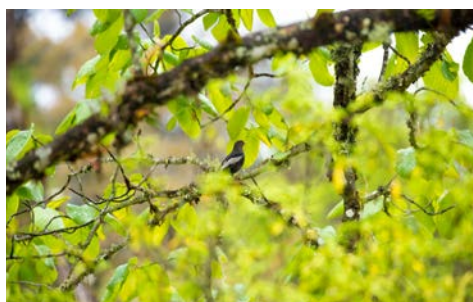
Community-based Sustainable Tourism Project (CBST) team conducted souvenir (edible / consumable) development training in Haa from April 22-26, 2017. This three day training program was technically supported by Prema Co., Japan. The training was provided to build the capacity of the local community to

develop local-made souvenirs. The primary focus on edible/consumable souvenirs is due to the high demand, especially from international tourists craving to take back home such local products and the other reason being, limited varieties of authentic local souvenir products (edible/ consumable) available in Bhutan.

17 local community people from Bjee, Kartsho and Eusu Gewog learnt the basic skills on making buckwheat cookies and consumable souvenirs, out of Artemisia. Moreover, they also learnt about the basic concept on product packaging and labelling, and product sales and marketing.



Birdwatching for RSPN members at Royal Botanical Park



Coinciding with the Global Big Day for the Birds on May 13, 2017, RSPN organized a birdwatching program at Royal Botanical Park, Lampelri. The birding event was aimed at introducing individuals of all ages to the fun aspect of birding while at the same time educating them on the importance of bird conservation. With the

increasing loss of bird species throughout the world, bird conservation should be of great concern to all.

The participants were introduced to the basics of birding and bird study by the three resource persons, Mrs. Rebecca Pradhan, Mr. Tshering Tobgay and Mr.

Phub Dorji. Birders were also encouraged to record their observations on the bird sightings and at the end of the day; it was encouraging to see the participants report the sighting of various types of birds in and around the park. Around 35 RSPN members and supporters took part in the event.





Haa Spring Trail Tour, April 1-2

Haa Spring Trail Tour, 2017, was conducted as the part of Community-based Sustainable Tourism (CBST) projects activity to promote the destination, and to let homestay owners and local guides have a practical experience in catering to the international guest. Nonetheless, it was a good opportunity for CBST team to collect feedback for further improvements.

The maximum limit of the tour booking was ten, but it exceeded the limit by 8 as there was more demand from the clients. 11 Japanese, 2 Canadians, 4 Americans, and 1 Australian volunteering in Bhutan partook in the tour. A national guide and three local guides helped the guests understand the culture of the region and the way of life its inhabitants.

The participants also got to enjoy the local festival “Bali Bangkor”, which is a unique local festival celebrated in Bali Lhakhang only once every three year. The highlight for most of the guests remained the friendly and helpful host families. The guest were also presented with the opportunity of making a buckwheat

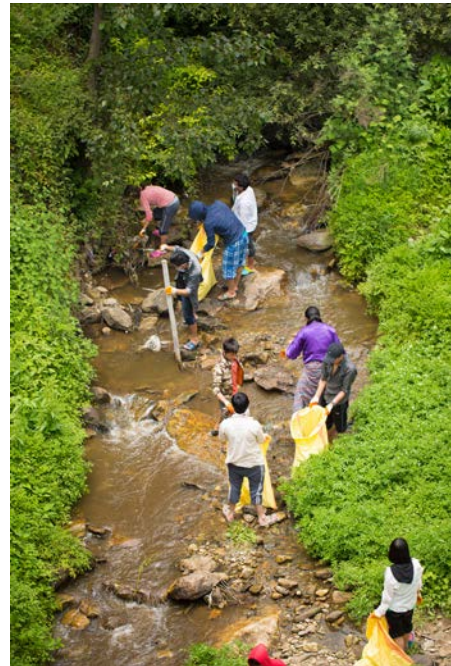




Second cleaning campaign for Chubachu stream

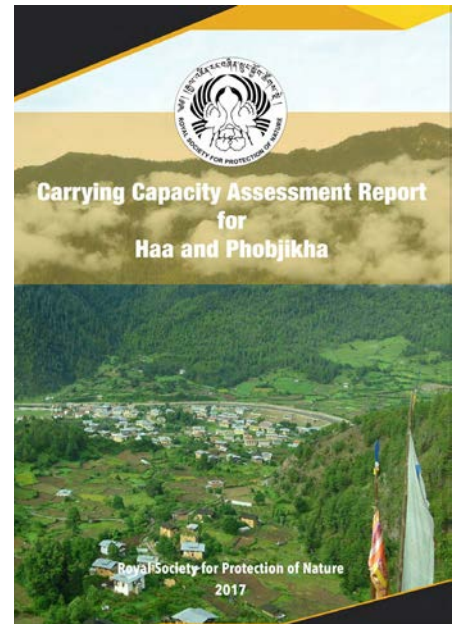
On May 26, 2017, two months after the adoption of Chubachu Stream, around 100 people from organizations like National Institute of Traditional Medicine (NITM), Ministry of Health, Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), Royal Audit Authority and RSPN participated the half-day cleaning of the Chubachu stream stretching from the Royal University of Bhutan building till the Bhutan Telecom boundary wall adjacent to UNDP building. .

Over 700-800 kilograms of waste was collected during the follow-up clean up that lasted for about three hours. It was found that the waste collected consisted mainly of plastic wastes followed by pet bottles, and old clothes. During the campaign, we also came across toilet drainages directly outlet to the stream. Similar cleanings will be conducted in the future.





Carrying Capacity Assessment Report for Haa and Phobjikha



The community-based sustainable tourism project is a part of the conservation and sustainable livelihood program that aims to harness the tourism potential of Haa and Phobjikha. Besides providing opportunities for alternative livelihoods of rural communities, it also contributes to the tourism plan for decentralization and

management of tourism at the destination level. Therefore, the Carrying Capacity Study in the two aforementioned areas was conducted mainly to mitigate the negative effects, whilst maximizing the positive impacts. The study used a Limits of Acceptable Change Approach to identify

the main areas of concern regarding tourism development in the project areas, The report comprises of study on tourism attractions and assets, development opportunities and challenges in the project areas, the underpinning ecological and socio-economic factors, and the policies in place.

Fond Farewell to RSPN-GPP team



RSPN would like to bid farewell to RSPN-GPP team; Mr. Sangay Dorji, Project Manager, Mr. Phurba Dorji, Senior Research Officer and Mr. Depak Acharya, Research Officer who left the organization upon completion of the three and a half year Green Public Procurement in Bhutan project (GPP Bhutan). We appreciate your dedication and the invaluable contribution in making the project a success. We wish you success in your future endeavors.



The Green Public Procurement in Bhutan project (GPP Bhutan), an EU-funded project under the EuropeAid SWITCH-Asia Programme was implemented by a consortium of five non-governmental organizations, namely the International Institute for Sustainable Development (Project Lead, Canada), the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bhutan), the Royal Institute of Management (Bhutan), the Collaborating Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Germany), and the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (Bhutan). The primary objective of the project was to establish a strategic approach to scale-up public demand for environmentally and socially preferable goods, services and infrastructure.



DID YOU KNOW?

2007: IUCN declared the White-bellied Heron's status change from Endangered to Critically Endangered Species.

2008: RSPN initiated the "Clean Bhutan Project" which included awareness and education, infrastructure development and capacity building.

2010: RSPN registered as a Public Benefit Organization under the Civil Society Organizations Act of Bhutan, 2007.

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