



**ANNUAL STATUS REPORT
2016 - 2017**

About Bhutan Ecological Society

Bhutan Ecological Society plays a vital and catalytic role at the intersection of science, entrepreneurship, policy, business and ecological resilience. The society do science and analysis to understand the basic opportunities and challenges associated with ecology and our environment, paying special attention to climate change, energy, food, water, forests and urban landscape. We leverage the power of enterprise, economics and business to reap substantial and sustainable rewards to help foster wellbeing and prosperity while ensuring the integrity of our ecological system. We train, educate and inform to transfer best practices, provide insights and inspire positive transformation. The society view ecology as the bedrock upon which the pillars of wellbeing and prosperity are supported.

Bhutan Ecological Society was officially registered as Civil Society Organization under the Royal Patronage of Her Royal Highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck.

Project Spotlight-I

Climate change adaptation and responses of high altitude schools

The project is an initiative to create better learning environment for the student of high altitude school in responses to their harsh climatic condition. Initially, the project is implemented in Merak Primary School (3500 msl) and will be expanded to other five schools located in the alpine region.



Project implemented site: Merak Primary School (3500 msl)

While ensuring better place for student, the project also enhance sustainable uses of scarce alpine forest resources through modern intervention by introducing electric utensils and appliances. The project was implemented after consultation with the ministry of education, after having found out that the development of schools in the alpine were challenging due to limited resources



Conventional practices of cooking and heating

allocated to the sector. We bridges the gaps.

Lead Consultant for Enabling Energy Efficient Built Environment in Bhutan

The project hugely accounts economic analysis of high performance building in the urban and rural to create sustainable architecture. The project is supported by the Karuna Foundation based in USA.

The project is multiphasic and designed as long-term activity for the society, fact that it takes decades to work with living building and to retrofit upcoming buildings to realize our targeted goals. Initially, the project begun with mapping of resources and information from key stakeholders including government, corporations, private sectors, saw millers, building owners, suppliers and builders. 228 dwellers in the capital Thimphu were interviewed to understand their perception on energy efficiency of building they live. Today, our field staffs are in the field for the period of one month to collect information on state of building and energy efficiency in the sampled rural area site in Paro. The BES is also a lead consultant for innovative financing for biodiversity conservation funded by UNDP.

This collective information will be compiled as baseline information. It will be followed by stakeholder meeting for disThe project will be officially inaugurated and launched in October, 2018.

Independent reviewing for CA|TS site in Bhutan



CAITS reviewing team of BES with the Forester of RMNP

The Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) is an accreditation scheme that encourages tiger conservation areas to meet a set of standards and criteria, created by an

international group of experts and protected area managers that assures effective and long term tiger conservation. CA|TS is a partnership between governments, NGOs and tiger conservation areas to define and implement these conservation standards. Becoming part of CA|TS provides countries, individual tiger conservation areas or networks of areas with the opportunity to demonstrate commitment to, and success in, protecting wild tigers. CA|TS mission is to secure safe havens for wild tigers and to ensure enough spaces for tigers to live and breed to increase populations.

Three national parks in Bhutan, Royal Manas National Park (RMNP), Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (JSWNP) and Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP) are in the process of registering with CA|TS. As a leading NGO for CAITS reviewing site, Bhutan Ecological Society visited those three parks to collect evidences on tiger population, conservation and monitoring methods. The team is currently working on their findings and will be soon forwarded to the national and international verification team for approval as tiger sites in the world.

Project spotlight- II: Our effort towards informing people on conservation

Annual Research Symposium and Environmental Fair



Researchers during symposium: cross-breeding ecological knowledge

Annual Research Symposium and environmental fair is an annual event for Bhutan Ecological Society. It was started in 2013 while BES was in housed at Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment Research with the Department of Forest and

Park Services. Annual research symposium draws participants from different sectors, targeted to cross breed, share and understand ecological research, policy and current environmental status of Bhutan. The proceedings from the symposium can be useful for decision makers in the country.

The society has hosted its fourth annual research symposium in 2017 at hotel Druk, Thimphu. Two days research symposium featured talks by 29 covering presentation and 10 posters from species conservation, sustainable livelihood, waste management, water, climate and agricultural science. The symposium drew crowds from government agencies, private sectors, Non-Government Organization, Civil Society Organization and Schools.



Dasho Paljor J Dorji, the president of BES during environmental Fair in the exhibition booth

During the inaugural ceremony, National Biodiversity Centre launched field books on lady beetle, Dragonflies and Dams flies, Moth, Bees and wasp of Bhutan. The field book was distributed freely among the participants.

Documentary movie on Power of the River: Expedition to the Heart of Water in Bhutan



The Bhutan Ecological Society premiered a movie entitled *Power of the River: Expedition to the Heart of Water in Bhutan* on 30th April in Thimphu. The film, directed and produced by American film director Greg I. Hamilton, features places from the Haa valley to Kanglung and encapsulates the state of the Bhutanese environment through a masterful piece of storytelling. In an entertaining and cinematic style, the film has created awareness to environmental issues throughout Bhutan as well as the rest of the world. It also underlined the detrimental impacts of building dams in previously free-flowing rivers, the potential benefits (or pitfalls) of ecotourism as an industry and set the stage for many important and difficult discussions about ecological conservation.



Panel Discussion (L-R): Sonam Tshering(DGPC), Dr. David, Dr. Greg I Hamilton & Dr. Nawang Norbu

The screening of movies concluded with short panel discussion with the representative from Druk Green Power Corporation, Conservationist and film makers to further strengthen the coordination towards preserving rivers of Bhutan.

BLISS-Bhutan lecture on Innovation, Science and Society

An estimated 50% of Bhutan's population is under the age of 25 as of 2016. A tapering demographic curve with a very low population percent above 25 has significant implications for development and progress. Bhutan is also rapidly developing with rates of per capita incomes witnessing continued growth over the last 2 decades or so. However, despite the steady economic growth that Bhutan has witnessed, Bhutanese youth today are

facing increasing alienation and abuse of substances and crimes are on the rise. Bhutan has also not been able to sufficiently diversify its sources of incomes from a heavy reliance on hydropower. The agriculture sector also still remains at the level of subsistence and not much innovation has occurred within that important sector.

While many innovative and transformative efforts including policy initiatives are implemented to address the many challenges that Bhutan face, the average Bhutanese citizen is not aware of such efforts.

Our aim is to bring such transformative ideas, plans and policies to the public forum. By presenting it in the form of a public lecture, employing the power of imaginative storytelling, we wish to inform, educate, empower and inspire fellow Bhutanese citizens.

We will present 3 lectures in a year, one every 4 months. All talks will be uploaded on a dedicated website for BLISS and also on YouTube. We will engage and outsource the packaging and marketing of all BLISS talks to a multimedia company.

The event will be formally launched in June, 2018.

Project spotlight III: Towards global education on conservation!

BESS hosting School for Field Studies(SFS) in Bhutan- Centre for Himalayan and Development Studies, Bhutan



MoU signed (from Left-Right): Vice President of BES, President of SFS & Secretary of MoAF

The trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was drawn between the Bhutan Ecological Society (BES), Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER) and the School For field Studies (SFS), a non-profit organization Based

in US. The trilateral agreement was missioned to provide field-based environmental and ecological education, hands-on research experience to US undergraduates, Bhutanese students, and also an opportunity for Bhutanese scholars to collaborate with the American counterparts. We conduct two full semester program and one summer program in a year.

With recent MoU signed, the society has successfully hosted summer and spring semester, 2017-2018, offering courses to 40 undergraduates of US. The SFS Centre in Bhutan is located in Paro.



Student of SFS in the field during their Directed Research work

Project spotlight IV: Inspiring and keeping inspired- recognizing and innovative and extraordinary conservationist

Jigme Singye Wangchuck Outstanding Environmental Stewardship Award, JSW-OESA

The Bhutan Ecological Society and the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research awards honours biannually to the individual, group and institution from all disciplines who have dedicated themselves towards ensuring the security and sustainability of Bhutan's pristine environment. The JSW-OESA particularly merits people who have gone beyond the normal call-of-duty in their services towards environmental protection. A committee comprising of government officials and representatives from civil society decides the winner.

Today, Bhutan Ecological Society has recognized seven dedicated conservationist and one government agency since 2010. The fifth JSW-OESA will be conferred in 2018.



HRH highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck with Dasho Paljor J Dorji (Winner 2010)



HRH highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck with Rebecca Pradhan (Winner 2012)



HRH highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck with Sonam Phuntsho (Winner 2012)



HRH highness Ashi Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck with the team Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit (Winner 2014)



His Excellency the Minister of MoAF with Sherub (Winner, special Edition 2015)



His Excellency the Minister of MoAF with Tshering Penjore (Winner, special Edition 2015)



His Excellency the Minister of MoAF with DB Gurung (Winner, special Edition 2015)

OUR TEAM



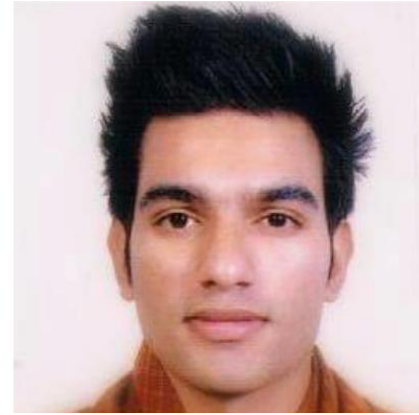
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