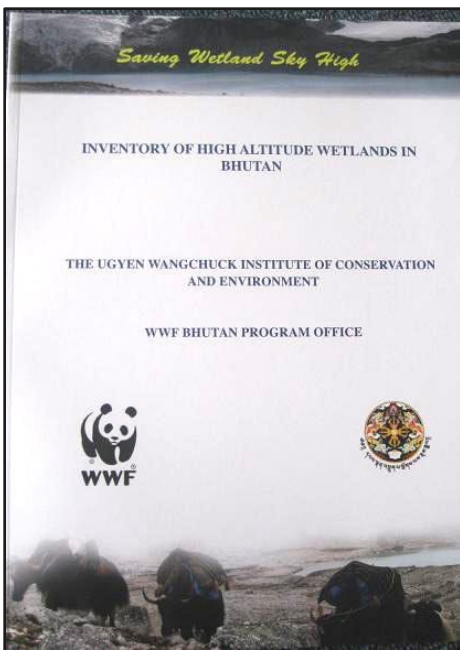




## WWF Bhutan

Spring quarterly  
January- March, 2011

### First inventory on High Altitude Wetland published



As a part of the regional high altitude wetlands (HAW) conservation program in the Himalayas, WWF Bhutan and Ugyen Wangchuk Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) under the Department of Forests and Park Services jointly published a first ever inventory on Bhutan wetlands. This publication will be able to serve two main purposes; firstly- assist in developing baseline information on wetlands and secondly- help in its future research & work.

The primary goal of this project has been to contribute towards "ensuring the conservation of nationally and globally important wetlands in the country along with enhancing national management capacity for sustainable use of wetland biodiversity".

### The Climate Summit for Living Himalayas-Bhutan 2011 launched



Agriculture & Forests Minister with the focal persons from the four member countries

Four countries of the south slope Himalayas, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India will come together in Bhutan on October, 2011 to adopt a regional action plan to address issues on Climate change impacts.

A secretariat has been set up in the capital, Thimphu with support from WWF to look into the pre summit affairs.

On 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 H.E Lyonpo (Dr) Pema Gyamtsho, Minister for Agriculture and Forests officially launched 'The Climate Summit for Living Himalayas – Bhutan 2011' and its website.



## WWF Bhutan

Spring quarterly  
January- March, 2011



Agriculture & Forests Minister with the focal person from the four member countries and stakeholder representatives

Delegates from the four member states earlier attended the 'Country Focal Persons Meeting' in Thimphu. During the meeting, members developed and agreed on a national and a regional framework for a 10 year adaptation road map for climate change.

WWF is one of the key technical partners for the Summit. The Summit is also being supported by MacArthur, ICIMOD, FAO, UNDP and IFAD.

## South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) launched.

Illegal wildlife trade is a form of trans-national organised crime that threatens many iconic species across the world. To counter such threats, eight countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) of South Asia have come together to establish an organised and coordinated body – the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN).

The South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network was formally launched at an inter-governmental meeting hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan, thereby opening a new chapter in regional cooperation in South Asia for strengthening wildlife law enforcement. It was agreed to base the SAWEN Secretariat in Nepal.



Relevant focal persons and experts from the governments of member countries, inter-governmental organisations including the CITES Secretariat and INTERPOL, and non-governmental organisations including WWF and TRAFFIC participated in the two day meeting.



## WWF Bhutan

Spring quarterly  
January- March, 2011

The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan with technical support from TRAFFIC and WWF Bhutan from 29-30<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

### Second annual Nomads' Festival



On 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 Lyonpo Dr Pema Gyamtsho, Minister for Agriculture and Forests and the National Council Chairperson, Namgay Penjore graced the occasion amidst the presence of Members of Parliament, government and non-government officials, tourists, Nagsephel and its adjoining village communities. Also in attendance were about a hundred highlanders from the eight districts of Haa, Paro, Thimphu, Gasa, Wangduephodrang, Bumthang, Trashiyangtse and Trashigang.

The annual nomads' festival is a three day event held in the proposed park headquarters of the Wangchuck Centennial Park. Nasiphel village, where the festival is held annually is located about 22 kms from the nearest Bumthang town, Chamkhar.



The main aim behind hosting such a festival was to spread awareness and education on environmental conservation. Majority of the park residents are dependent on forest resources for their livelihood, for instance a major chunk of their household income comes from cordyceps sale. It was also an opportunity to talk about other pertinent issues of grave concern like waste and forest resources management.



WWF Bhutan

Spring quarterly  
January- March, 2011

## Solar Electric Fencing

Fifty eight households of Singey village (buffer to Phibsoo wildlife Sanctuary) reap the benefit of the newly installed solar fencing. Prior to the fencing, the villagers had their crops exposed to Elephants and wild animals from the nearby forest.

With funding from WWF Bhutan and UNDP a 4.5 km solar fencing has been installed around the village to fend against the wild predators. After few training trails, these enthusiastic villagers have taken upon themselves the management of the fencing; they have two trained technicians from the villages to monitor the fencing; the villagers themselves regularly clean up the space around the fencing area. To top of, the villagers have also set up a small management committee with a chairman to look after the overall operation of the solar fencing.

### How has this fencing changed your life? The villagers speak for themselves.

*"After this fencing was installed, there has been no cases of Elephant encroachment. However, we still have a broken patch of about 1 km due to lack of funds. I fear that with time, as the animals grow smarter, they might enter through that way. We need to immediately think about filling that gap".* **Mr. Laxaman Rai, Chairman of the fencing committee**

*"Two of us from the village have been trained to fix all fencing problems. We are also in-charge of maintaining the control house. So far, we have faced no difficulties that we could not overcome".* **Mr. Munu Rai, Fencing technician**

*"We have had no incidences of attack since last year. We are so pleased that we don't mind committee work, like cleaning the fencing area".* **Mrs Shanti**

*"After this fencing, we have lost no crops to animals. Now we have enough for our self. Elephants and other animals have tried to cross over the fencing, but the shock scared them away, it is quite powerful. Now they don't even come near it".* **Mr. Dhan Bahadur, Village Chipen (local leader)**



4.5 km solar fencing



Mr. Munu Rai, Fencing technician



## WWF Bhutan

Spring quarterly  
January- March, 2011

### Climate Change adaption stakeholder workshop:-

A workshop to build national stakeholder's capacity on 'Issue identification and stakeholder engagement strategy for Climate change Adaptation' was held from 10-11 February, 2011. About twenty participants from WWF (Bhutan & Nepal), government officials from Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Local non-governmental agencies and environment related corporations from the country attended the two day meeting. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Sabita Thapa from Stockholm environment Institute (SEI), Thailand.



As part of the support provided within the framework of Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (*Adaptation Knowledge Platform*) this workshop is the first capacity building activity in the series of activities planned for Adaptation Knowledge Platform's pilot implementation in Bhutan.

During the workshop, the Bhutan's current Climate adaptation and development status was discussed and issues were brought up. To fill these loopholes, governance action matrixes were developed after stakeholder analysis.



Presentations and group work

### REDD Capacity building training

A technical Workshop for Forest Carbon Stock Assessment Methodologies was held from 16-18<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 jointly organized by Forest Resources Development Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and WWF Bhutan. Territorial, division and park staff from the Department of Forest and Park Services participated in the three day workshop. On 17<sup>th</sup> March, the participants carried out a sample study on forest carbon assessment on four pre-selected plots in Dochula (16 kms from the capital, Thimphu).



## WWF Bhutan

Spring quarterly  
January- March, 2011

In December, 2009 Bhutan attended the Climate Change conference in Copenhagen (COP 15) where it declared that it would forever remain a carbon neutral country and serve as a net carbon sink.

In Bhutan, though there is extensive forest coverage of about 72 percent, yet a nationwide forest inventory (NFI) will only be undertaken sometime in 2012. As plans for NFI is already in progress, WWF and the government wanted to gain knowledge on the possibilities of integrating Carbon assessment within the wider goals of forest inventory.

Through this workshop implementers were not only familiarized themselves with the concept of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD- an initiative to assist developing countries to create a financial value of carbon stored in their forests by offering incentives to reduce emissions from forested lands) and the methods involved but they also saw many benefits of combining REDD with their NFI. Bhutan team will soon be field visiting Nepal to learn more about REDD.



Field work

During the two day meeting, experts from WWF Nepal and Arbonaut shared their experiences on Carbon assessment method and tools (LiDAR) currently being taken up



WWF Bhutan

Spring quarterly  
January- March, 2011

## Recent camera trap footages of Tiger



A single Tiger image was caught by camera trap set in Jigme Dorji National Park, Gasa District

Elevation- 2700 meters

Date- 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2011

A comprehensive pictorial poster giving readers insights on Tiger status and its plight within the nation and across its range was published and released nationwide through the national newspaper for public viewing on 30th March, 2011. The poster seeks to address one of the biggest challenges for Tiger conservation in Bhutan i.e. Human wildlife conflict.

This is a great opportunity to expedite influence on policy makers and field implementers for pro-Tiger conservation initiatives by getting the public talking.

## Bhutan join the Earth Hour

This year, WWF Bhutan got the whole nation talking about WWF's Earth Hour and about Climate change in particular. Rather a new concept for Bhutan, WWF mobilized the media fraternity (television, print and radio) in big way to spread Earth hour concept among the public.

*"Yes! I will switch off the lights during the earth hour. We have only one earth and it is the responsibility of everyone to do whatever we can to save the earth,"* **Agriculture Minister Lyonpo (Dr) Pema Gyamtsho** said prior to Earth hour.