



Cycling towards change:-

A group of 16 young boys undertook an expedition from east to west Bhutan covering a distance of almost 570kms, cycling. Though the journey is in itself an arduous with the curving and narrow mountain roads, these young students embarked this 18 days journey to spread word on climate change. Their mission was to disseminate awareness on the global climate change crisis through simple, yet effective dramatic and pictorial representations.



While spreading Climate change awareness, they also distributed tree saplings and halogen bulbs to communities along the way. Best of all, was that their initiative will go a long way at the same time set example to Bhutanese by using eco-friendly mode of transport.

Tiger attacks a man-first ever recorded:-

Forestry officials have confirmed a killing of a 32-year old man in Dorji Gonpa village, Trongsa District on 1st August by a Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera tigris tigris).

The victim was found dead in an area about 10 minutes walk from the Trongsa- Bumthang Highway. The victim suffered from a laceration on his left cheek and a cervical spine fracture. The depth and the size of the wounds the deceased suffered resembled an injury that could have been caused by a Tigers. To justify further, medical practitioner’s report discloses that the body of the deceased was mauled by four punctured wounds in the neck region possibly left behind by four fangs of the Tiger.



The victim



The incidence scene

Though this incidence is a sole case of a reported human slaughter in the area, locals from the village seemed to have encountered Tiger attacking their cattle since early 2010. Also, fear has engulfed the village and neighboring ones as word is around that a female Tigress with her three cubs are still residing in the nearby forests.

The family of the deceased has been duly compensated by the Dept of Forest & Parks. Also since there threat of human wildlife conflicts, the Wildlife conservation division of the dept has conducted an awareness camping on 28 and 29th December to avert the same.



“Regulatory framework for biological corridors in Bhutan” published:-

Biological Corridors first came into the conservation scenario in 1999, when the Royal Government declared 3,640 sq km (12 corridors) stretch of land as protected passage that would link different parks in the country together. The sole purpose of this declaration was to enable connectivity and movement of wildlife between the different protected areas. But of lately and as years passed on, it was observed that the initial corridor delineation required correction taking into consideration the recent human developments and other aspects like Climate change etc.

Therefore, WWF Bhutan through CEPF (Critical ecosystem partnership fund) funding began working with Wildlife Conservation Division (WCD), Ministry of Agriculture & Forests to have a corridor facelift. Experts pointed out that this time around, a more collaborative method and science based approaches would be adopted to obtain a proper functional corridor.

Thus began, an eighteen month project to reassess the former corridor status. A huge change was observed in the corridor structure, when in 2008, three corridors were subsumed in the newest park, Wangchuck Centennial Park. These changes besides other developmental changes had to be incorporated to make the corridors more viable in the present scenario.

Hence, WWF jointly with WCD held several consultative meetings at regional levels attended by concerned stakeholders and field implementers. During these meetings, recommendations were gathered, screened and complied to produce the framework. This framework will go on to become a critical guide for the formulation of management plan for the Biological corridors.

Some of the major policy recommendations highlighted in the framework are:-

- Recognize corridors as units of the PA system
- Operationalize all corridors by January 1st, 2015 by developing a management plan

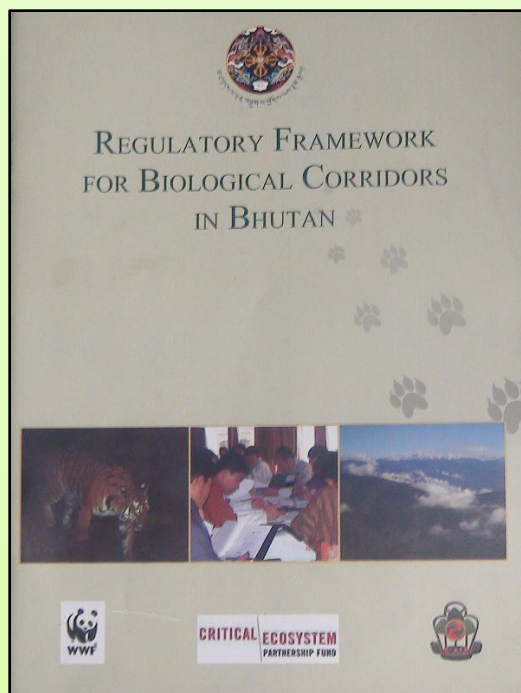


Photo courtesy:- WCD & WWF Bhutan

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