

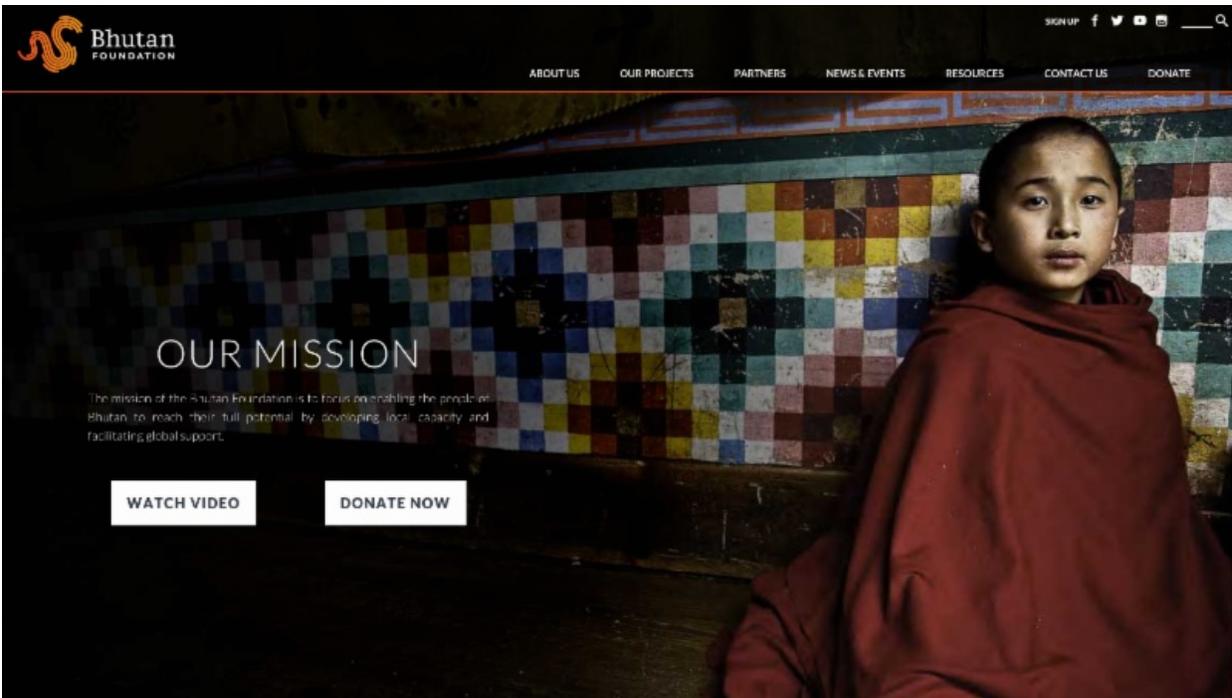


Bhutan
FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

January 2016

We Have a New Website!



The Bhutan Foundation is excited to announce and share with you our new website! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success. As we continue to grow our programs and impact in Bhutan, we hope that this new venture will bring you more exciting and live updates from Bhutan!



Official Collaboration with the Royal

Government of Bhutan

On August 21, 2015, the Bhutan Foundation officially signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Royal Government of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) and on January 21, 2016, finalized five project agreements amounting to about USD 1.4 million to support various projects throughout the country. The MoU with the Royal Government of Bhutan enables the Bhutan Foundation and the GNHC to cooperate in advancing the government's efforts to bring about positive changes in the lives of the Bhutanese people. Additionally, the agreement enables the Foundation's government partners to identify critical areas that are in need of support. The Bhutan Foundation has agreed to provide technical and financial assistance in supporting tiger conservation, understanding climate change, monitoring Bhutan's forest cover, restoring cultural heritage sites, and further improving special education and health care throughout the country. We are proud to continue this partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan in advancing positive growth and development in the country.



Livestock Management Training for Soe Community Members

The yak herders of Soe village, in the foothills of Mt. Jomolhari, face challenges such as human-wildlife conflict, which affect certain aspects of the community's livelihood. While this challenge in the region is inevitable, another emerging concern for the community is gid disease, a type of tapeworm that is carried and spread through local dogs. The tapeworm becomes a cyst (*Coenurus cerebralis*) either in the brain or the spinal cord of the yaks, resulting in a slow and agonizing death. To reduce loss of livestock and enhance support for snow leopard conservation in the region, the Bhutan Foundation has been closely working with the community of Soe village since 2013 to build capacity of community health workers and local community members in livestock management. In 2013, the prevalence of gid disease in Soe village was 34.06%, and in 2015, this was reduced to 7.7%.

[**Read more about this**](#)



A Model for Fire Mitigation at Trashigang Dzong

Since the earthquake in 2009, major restoration work has been taking place at Trashigang Dzong in Eastern Bhutan. With growing concerns of the loss of important cultural heritage sites to fire, and especially with increased risks during restoration, the Bhutan Foundation in partnership with the Prince Claus Fund supported building fire mitigation systems at Trashigang Dzong. Establishing a reliable fire-alarm system is uncommon at almost all important heritage sites in Bhutan, and the Trashigang Dzong Fire Mitigation Project will serve as a model for an effective system of fire prevention, detection, and mitigation for the rest of the country. In partnership with the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Department of Cultural Heritage Sites, the first fire-alarm system at Trashigang Dzong was commissioned on November 30, 2015. Local site officers at Trashigang Dzong will be trained in the operation and maintenance of the fire system to ensure sustainability.

[Read more about this](#)



Authors, Reviewers, and Editors Convene for Bhutan's First Health Journal

The first-ever medical journal in Bhutan, the *Bhutan Health Journal* (BHJ), was published and launched on November 11, 2015, in honor of the 60th birth anniversary of the Fourth Druk Gyalpo His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck. The journal serves as a platform to publish scientific articles for researchers, a learning platform for new health professionals, and a source for helping policymakers make evidence-based decisions. This year, as we prepare for the second edition of the BHJ, the second training for authors, reviewers, and editors was led by the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan on January 4-8 for more than 30 participants.

[Read more about this](#)

In Other News



Bhutan's tigers doing well



Understanding Climate Change in Bhutan

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