



# Staying Connected to Bhutan

BHUTAN FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT  
2013



*Impact* is what results from generous hearts, forward-thinking minds, and dedicated souls working together. Thank you for your impact in Bhutan through the Bhutan Foundation.



# Our Mission

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The Bhutan Foundation serves the people of Bhutan in living and sharing the principle of Gross National Happiness. We cherish the values of the Bhutanese intention: measuring “happiness” as the highest attribute of all decision-making. We contribute to strategies of conservation of the environment, equitable and sustainable development, good governance, and preservation of culture in Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation serves as an American not-for-profit organization that is wholly focused on the benefit of the country and people of Bhutan, bridging understanding between our two countries and beyond.

# Staying Connected to Bhutan



# Our Impact 2013



This past June, I was pleased to donate to Bhutan's Ministry of Education the books and materials used in the Special Education Program, a collaboration between the Early Childhood Care and Development and Special Education Division and the Bhutan Foundation. It was an official presentation with several stakeholders in attendance, but its significance goes far beyond the event itself.

What the event symbolizes for Bhutan is that children with special learning needs who might previously have fallen behind in a typical classroom now have teachers who are prepared to identify their learning differences and teach them in ways that address those differences. It means that all of our children can receive a quality education. It is this type of impact that results from the work supported by the Bhutan Foundation and that is the focus of *Staying Connected to Bhutan: Bhutan Foundation Annual Report 2013*.

As a country, Bhutan has always thought carefully about our past, our future, and our current priorities. Our country's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness is just one example. It reflects the importance we place on providing opportunities for national and personal development, for conserving our unique environment and wildlife, for ensuring good governance, and for preserving our treasured culture.

However, in today's rapidly changing Bhutan, even our most progressive policies have limitations and challenges. Bhutan is an ancient land but a young democracy and is experiencing rapid development and modernization. In some cases, we must channel government funding to some critical areas, leaving other areas still in need. In

other cases, we have pinpointed problems but require additional expertise to solve them. In addition, our needs are changing: our cities are growing, our youth need a healthy place in our society, climate change is affecting our environment and wildlife, health care demands are increasing, farmers struggle to keep their livestock healthy, our young people need further education and opportunities, our cultural heritage sites need repair, and more.

Fortunately, the Bhutan Foundation understands the current limitations and challenges our young democracy and our people face. The Bhutan Foundation is able to direct your generous contributions to initiatives that make an impact in areas that are consistent with Bhutanese priorities, like in the case of the Special Education Program.

Dear supporters, the impact you make through the Bhutan Foundation is very real. In the following pages, you will see the challenges that are met with care and support like yours. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you.

Handwritten signature of Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Bhutan  
Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck  
Co-Chair



Dear Friends of Bhutan,

It must be hard to imagine how a contribution to the Bhutan Foundation can really make a difference in Bhutan. How can you know, from so far away, that your support is going to affect real people in a meaningful way, to protect actual wildlife while involving local communities, or to restore cultural heritage sites for future generations? As you read the Bhutan Foundation Annual Report 2013, we hope that you will see the depth and breadth of impact that we are able to achieve together.

We think there are several reasons we are able to have such impact in Bhutan. They begin with **Bhutanese priorities**. The country's focus on development, good governance, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation means Bhutanese government and civil society organizations are eager to work with us to address the problems of their developing country.

But it doesn't stop there. Other factors also make the Bhutan Foundation uniquely suited to make a difference in Bhutan:

**Our network of global partners.** From Yale University, to National Geographic, to Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and many other distinguished international organizations, we bring world-class expertise to the table to fill gaps and build capacity in Bhutan.

**Our Bhutanese partners.** The Bhutanese nonprofit organizations that implement so much of the work we support know their country's needs and resources better than anyone. What's more, they care like no one else can.

**Our organization.** The Bhutan Foundation itself is small and lean, employing only nine staff members across two offices. Our Washington DC office makes us accessible to many of our donors and helps us to introduce Bhutan to the United States and beyond. Our Thimphu office provides direct insight into Bhutan's needs and resources.

**Our donors.** Simply put, we would have no impact in Bhutan without you, our generous donors. We would not be able to raise the standard of emergency medical services in Bhutan, to educate future experts in public health, to equip teachers to teach students with special needs and then train other teachers, to help Bhutan adapt to climate change, to engage youth in their new democracy and away from dangerous diversions, or to save and strengthen treasured examples of Bhutanese culture.

We now invite you to read about these and many other ways that, together, we are making a true impact in Bhutan. Thank you for staying connected to Bhutan through the Bhutan Foundation.

Hon. Frank G. Wisner  
Co-Chair

Dr. Bruce W. Bunting  
President

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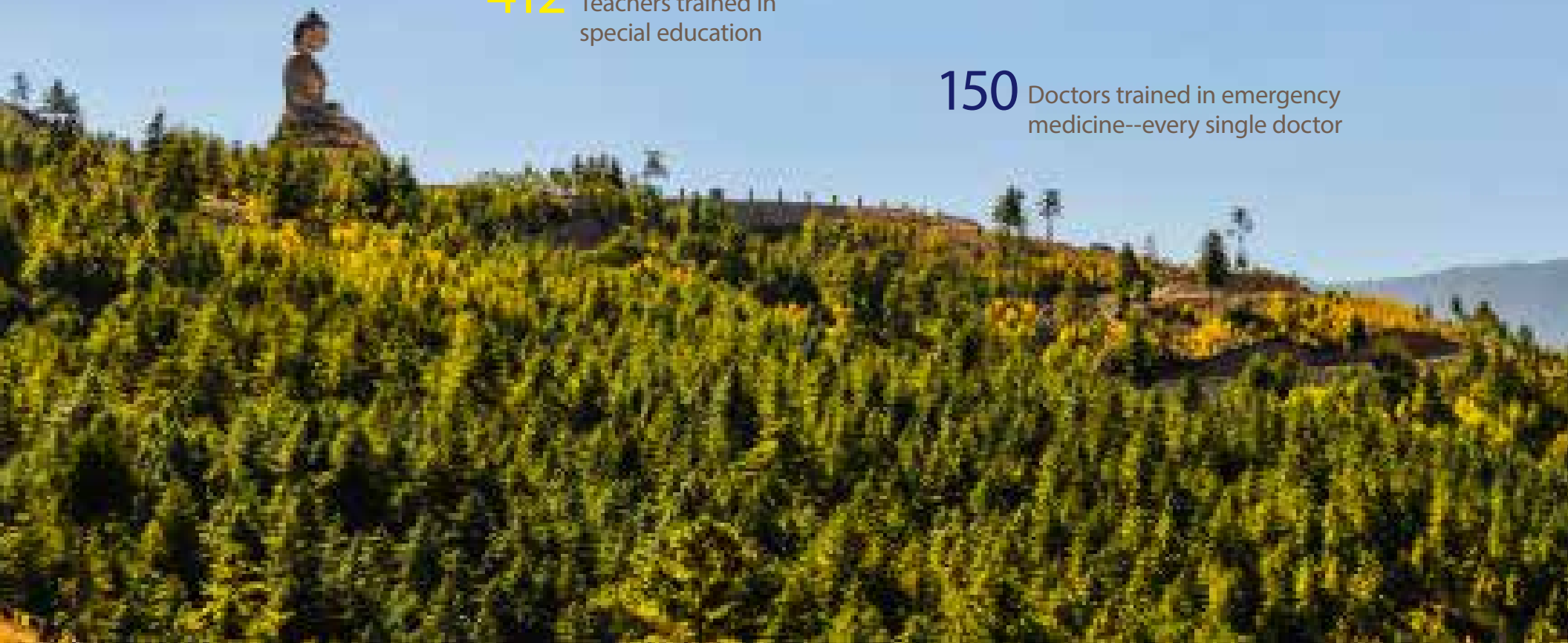
# Our Impact by Numbers...

**26** Years of service in Bhutan

**20** Schools throughout **20** districts studying climate change

**412** Teachers trained in special education

**150** Doctors trained in emergency medicine--every single doctor



10 Wild-cat species discovered in Bhutan to make 28 percent global wild-cat diversity

2700 Yaks saved from gid disease

40,000 Dogs spayed, neutered, vaccinated, and released in Bhutan through HSI and Ministry of Agriculture

1103 Friends on facebook

641 Followers on twitter

Supporting conservation work in 3 national parks out of 10

30 Volunteers providing in-kind services

22 Local partners in Bhutan that implement our projects

24 Institutional partners that provide technical expertise

Reaching 900 nuns in 25 nunneries through the Bhutan Nuns' Foundation

# Conservation of the Environment



# Vet Trek: Protecting Snow Leopards and Supporting Rural Communities

How can we protect endangered snow leopards when they threaten the livestock of Bhutan's hard-working yak herders? The Bhutan Foundation supports the Jomolhari Snow Leopard Conservation Program (SLCP), which involves the herders in conservation and minimizes their livestock loss to disease.

Recent investigations revealed that more yaks died from gid disease than from wildlife attacks. If conservationists could save yaks from disease, perhaps herders would accommodate some inevitable losses to predation by snow leopards. Conflict with and retaliation against snow leopards could be prevented, and livestock health could improve, creating a win-win situation.

Gid disease in yaks is caused by a parasite, and dogs serve as definitive hosts, so to reduce yak mortality, gid control must target both yaks and dogs. In August, a group of Bhutanese veterinarians from the Department of Livestock Services trekked to the Jomolhari base camp to treat sick yaks, take parasite samples, and sterilize

dogs. The Jomolhari SLCP intends to reach out to all herders in the Yutoed and Yaksa communities and will cover about 2,700 yaks. Around 100 dogs will be handled through the spay-neuter-vaccinate-release program.

The overall goal is to ensure a healthy snow leopard population in the Jomolhari region with benefits from conservation going to local residents. Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP) is the coordinator for the project and the lead on the conservation component. The Nature Recreation and Ecotourism Division (NRED) helps the community with snow leopard-based tourism, and the Livestock Department is helping with the animal health service component of the program.

This program has already garnered the support of several external partners, including the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, Humane Society International, Mindspring Foundation, the Shared Earth Foundation, and the Snow Leopard Conservancy.



*“The Snow Leopard Conservation project is of great benefit to the community of Soe since it not only educates us in the importance of conservation but it also includes other components such as livelihood development, livestock disease control, and improving education for our children. We are grateful for the recent gid program and its efforts to provide the community with proper livestock health care plans and disease management. The community of Soe would like to extend our support for the Snow Leopard conservation project and the upcoming Jomolhari Mountain Festival.”*

*Kencho Dorji, Gup, Soe, Thimphu, Bhutan*

# Finding the Real Impact of Climate Change on Bhutan's Wetlands

Our partner, the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), is bringing its 26 years of experience in environmental education, research, and sustainable livelihood to study the impact of climate change in one of Bhutan's largest wetlands, the Phobjikha valley. What they learn will not only help conserve this rich valley and its ecosystems but will add to the global knowledge base about the impact of climate change.

Phobjikha valley has the best-known high-altitude wetland in the country and is host to a large number of globally threatened black-necked cranes and several other water birds, plants, and animals. Wetlands are among the world's most productive environment, performing vital functions and providing a large variety of ecosystem services. Droughts and heavy precipitation as a result of climate change could adversely affect the ecological character of wetlands and their potential. Wetland ecosystems in Phobjikha are strongly controlled by the hydrology, so climatic factors can play an important role in maintaining the health of the wetland.

RSPN's study includes a comprehensive inventory of the watershed and its biodiversity to document and understand the change due to climatic stressors. To date, data including soil pH, relative humidity, relative air temperature, and water discharge have been collected from two sites northeast and northwest of the valley. This program is being carried out in partnership with RSPN, the local community, the Wangdue Dzongkhag Administration, Department of Forest and Park Services, and Phobjikha Environment Management Committee.







## Tiger Survey: Where the Wild Cats Are

Bhutan harbors 10 out of the 36 cat species found in the wild today, making up 28 percent of the global wild-cat diversity. The presence of eight species, including the tiger, clouded leopard, and golden cat, was confirmed in Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) alone. Surveys conducted over the last year by the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) and RMNP confirmed that Manas is a hotspot for wild felids.

UWICE is currently completing a major tiger survey in the adjoining Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (JSWNP) and will soon have updated population baselines for that park. Equipped with reliable population estimates, Bhutanese conservationists will be in a better position to monitor trends and gauge effectiveness of conservation efforts of target species.

*“We strongly believe local capacity is the key to conserve our rich natural heritage. Bhutan Foundation is committed in helping us realize this.”*

*Tempa Tshering, UWICE,  
Bumthang, Bhutan*



# Using Citizen Science to Study Climate Change

The negative impacts of climate change might require individuals and communities to migrate or adapt to survive. In order to adapt, a better understanding of climate change is essential. To that end, the Bhutan Foundation is supporting an innovative initiative using citizen science to study climate change.

Twenty schools across Bhutan (one in each district) were strategically selected to represent Bhutan's varied ecological and climatic zones. In these schools, students are collecting climatic data (precipitation and temperature) and information on plant phenology and animal population cycles to infer natural responses by key indicator species to a changing climate.

This project is implemented by UWICE, in partnership with the Department of Hydromet Services and the Ministry of Education. It is supported by funding from the Karuna Foundation.

*“Understanding climate change dynamics through plant and animal cycles is crucial, especially at times of increasingly unprecedented climate change-related events of national scale.”*

*Changa Tshering, UWICE,  
Bumthang, Bhutan*

# Equitable and Sustainable Development



# Changing Lives Through Initiatives in Public Health

In Bhutan, health care is centered on primary health, where prevention of disease and promotion of health are the main focus. With the country's health programs heavily based on public health, the Royal Institute of Health Sciences (RIHS) started a Bachelors of Public Health program that trains 50 in-service health workers each year. The Bhutan Foundation, in partnership with Yale University School of Public Health, has been supporting this initiative for two years and partnered in a fruitful exchange this past year.

RIHS lecturers Tara Laabar and Pema Udon spent a semester at Yale studying biostatistics, epidemiology, and research methods. Tara said the Yale experience taught her to engage her public health students in reading and analyzing journal articles on public health issues. It also provided a great networking opportunity with other professors and students from different countries. Tara and Pema actively participated in panel discussions, international conferences, and programs associated with the Yale Himalayas Initiative, Yale Health Hospital, and Yale School of Nursing.

As part of the exchange, Yale Public Health faculty and graduate students visited Bhutan to engage in public health projects. Last summer, graduate student Nicole West traveled to southern Bhutan with the Ministry of Health's vector-borne disease program to conduct an evaluation of the malaria surveillance system in Bhutan. More recently, Kaveh Khoshnood, Director of Yale Public Health international fellowship program, visited Bhutan to discuss research ethics and to explore potential areas for collaborative public health research.



*“I am very grateful to the Yale School of Public Health for the rich knowledge, experiences, and exposure that I got from such a renowned university... The experiences at Yale will be utilized in my work, because my primary responsibility is to teach and facilitate the Public Health students here at RIHS.”*

*Tara Devi Laabar, Associate Lecturer, RIHS, Thimphu, Bhutan*

# Expanding Special Education throughout Bhutan

Since 2008, support from the Bhutan Foundation has trained 419 teachers of students with special needs across the country. During the summer of 2012 and 2013, the program focused on embedded staff development in two of the lead schools, Changangkha Middle Secondary School (CMSS) and Mongar Lower Secondary School (MLSS), where students are starting to benefit from their teachers' effective new strategies.

The two lead schools will become special education training centers for teachers in the eastern (MLSS) and western (CMSS) parts of the country. A team of five special education specialists in 2012 and seven in 2013 provided training workshops for teachers in the two lead schools and the other four schools that address the needs of children with disabilities. The specialists worked with 32 Special Education Coordinators (SENCOs) and Special Education (SEN) teachers on the SEN process, screening, development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and remediation.

At MLSS, students are now starting to see new, engaging strategies being used by their teachers. According to a student, "my teachers are using different cheers for motivating and acknowledging us when we do good things or say correct answers." The use of differentiated instruction is also in place, as one student said, "I got special attention from my teacher during an activity today.

The activity worksheet was different from my classmates'. I was able to do well and complete the worksheet."

Every summer, the team of specialists also brings teaching and learning materials for the teachers and students of all eight identified schools. Materials have included screening tools for children with learning differences and resource guides for teachers, principals, and the Ministry of Education. The Bhutan Foundation Special Education Program has also provided computers and other technologies for students at the Deaf Education Unit at the Drukgyel Lower Secondary School in Paro and musical instruments for the Muenseling Institute for the Visually Impaired in Eastern Bhutan.

Six nonprofit organizations address the needs of individuals with disabilities in Bhutan, and this growing sector presents a need for collaboration and communication. We are also working to support the Ministry of Education in coordinating efforts and supporting collaboration among the various stakeholders.

The Special Education Program is a five-year initiative with the Ministry of Education, Early Childhood Care and Development and Special Education Division, to build the capacity of the special education teachers in Bhutan by enhancing their educational and training opportunities.

*"We were given intensive workshops on explicit instructions: how to use the book, Recipe for Reading; how to follow the road map; how to develop IEPs; and the SEN Team Referral procedure. Most of the teachers are now focusing on explicit instructions in their classrooms, which are now becoming literature rich with beautiful charts covering their classrooms."*

*Chimi Wangmo, SENCO, Changangkha Middle Secondary School, Thimphu, Bhutan*







# Improving Emergency Medical Services, Saving Lives

“There was a time when every patient coming to the emergency room was treated without being categorized because we did not have much knowledge and adequate training to work in the emergency department,” said Brother Sonam Penjor from the Emergency Department at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH). In addition, a study done by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative in 2009 revealed that the emergency care of Bhutan had one of the lowest standards in the world. Support from the Bhutan Foundation has changed that.

Recognizing the critical need, the Bhutan Foundation supports the Ministry of Health in developing capacity of health care workers in emergency medicine through training of doctors, nurses, and emergency room technicians. Last September, 41 general duty medical officers across the country were trained in Emergency Medical and Trauma Care. In November, 31 doctors and nurses attended Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) provider and instructor courses. We have now supported the training of every single doctor in Bhutan in ACLS and PALS. These doctors are now also certified by the American Heart Association. Through our support a Bhutanese emergency medical service specialist is

currently studying in Malaysia.

We also support the emergency department in developing the country’s first trauma registry in collaboration with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and Clinical Data Management, Inc., USA. Our support has trained nurses and technicians at the Emergency Department at JDWNRH on trauma registry, and, more recently, a nurse from the JDWNRH was also provided further training in the United States on trauma registry.

“We have come a long way since 2009; the standards of nurses and doctors have improved, therefore improving the standard of care, because of this program with the Bhutan Foundation,” said Dr. Tashi Tenzin, the Head of the Emergency Department.

He said it was through trainings both within and outside the country with support from the Bhutan Foundation and the Ministry of Health’s program, Improving Emergency Medical Services, that they could improve life support services and make them more systematic.

Dr. Kalpana Chhetri, also working in the emergency department, added, “Things are systematic now, and patient waiting time and load has greatly been reduced.”



# Improving Disaster Preparedness

In the last decade, Bhutan experienced major earthquakes and numerous fire disasters, which have affected the lives of thousands of Bhutanese residents and destroyed centuries-old cultural heritage sites and vast areas of Bhutan's forests. To address the clear need for disaster preparedness in the country in order to reduce risk from these unpredictable events, the Bhutan Foundation collaborated on a disaster management course for participants from all 20 districts.

In November 2012, the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the US Forest Service and the Bhutan Foundation, organized the course. All Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT) for Disaster Management & Facilitative Instructors in Southern Bhutan.

The participants were disaster management focal persons from across Bhutan, DDM officials, and members of National Search & Rescue Teams that included members from the Royal Bhutan Army, Royal Bhutan Police, Royal Body Guards, Ministry of Health, Department of Agriculture and Forests, Road Safety Transport Authority, and the Thimphu Municipality. Representatives from local schools and district administrations and

sectors also attended the training program.

The course focused on operating as functional disaster management teams and utilizing the principles of Incident Command System (ICS) to manage emergency incidents. It prepared participants to operate as members of a team during a disaster and function in various command and general staff positions. They learned to ensure efficient and effective use of resources, maintain communications, and operate safely to respond to the needs of citizens in disaster. The course also provided a basic framework for rapid organization of disaster operations, ensuring that all ministries, departments, and local governments are adequately involved in the process. The training offered practical experiences of disaster operations through extensive exercises and simulations. Participants were also trained in becoming facilitative instructors for the course, further expanding the impact of the course in Bhutan.

AHIMT was made possible with a grant from the US Agency for International Development and the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance and was conducted by technical experts from the US Department of Agriculture and Forest Service.

# Preservation of Culture



# Restoring Cultural Priorities

Thanks to a Bhutan Foundation supported restoration effort, the future looks safer for one of Bhutan's cultural heritage sites.

After a major earthquake in 2009, the restoration of Drametse Lhakhang in Eastern Bhutan was a priority for the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Division of Cultural Heritage Sites. Under the guidance of Sungtrul Rinpoche, as chair and manager of the overall restoration work, the original design for Drametse Lhakhang was maintained. In March 2013, the restoration of the final structure, the Shakor (the outer structure enclosing the main temple) was completed.

In September 2012, the Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs, Lyonpo Minjur Dorji, and Chief Architect and Head of the Division for Conservation of Architectural Heritage Sites, Ms. Nagtsho Dorji, led a team to Drametse Lhakhang for inspection and oversight on the progress of the project. They observed during the visit that earthquake-resilient features were well incorporated into the restoration work, which will go a long way toward protecting this irreplaceable structure in the future.

The work was carried out by masons and carpenters trained in earthquake-resilient construction by the Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement. The project is funded by the Prince Claus Fund in partnership with the World Monuments Fund and the Royal Government of Bhutan, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs.

*Picture: (Left) Shakor before renovation. (Right) Shakor after renovation.*





# Assessing Stability of Trashigang Dzong

Trashigang Dzong is recognized as an important Bhutanese heritage site and suffered considerable structural damage because of the September 2009 earthquake. The Division for Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs compiled a detailed renovation plan to restore Trashigang Dzong as much as possible to its original state. However, some concerns were raised about the structural stability of the Dzong, and a preliminary geological study indicated the possibility of instability of the surrounding steep slopes that would affect the integrity of the Dzong.

To investigate this concern and to recommend possible mitigation measures to enhance the Dzong's stability, a geological and geotechnical assessment was carried out in January 2013, supported by the Bhutan Foundation and the Prince Claus Fund. The assessment included a hands-on capacity-building module to train staff of the Division for Conservation of Cultural Heritage and the Department of Geology and Mines in geological and geotechnical investigations of slopes and their relation with structural stability of heritage sites.

The findings and recommendations of the assessment will be used to finalize the master plan for the renovation of Trashigang Dzong. The Bhutan Foundation will continue its support toward the larger renovation plan of the Dzong by focusing on critical restoration components.



# Wangduechhoeling Palace Restoration: The Walls Are Talking

In its support of the documentation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of the Wangduechhoeling Palace in Bumthang this past year, the Bhutan Foundation explored a number of interesting and exciting discoveries about this significant cultural heritage site. The Foundation invited an ethno-historian specialist in Bhutan, Ms. Francoise Pommaret, to work on a historical analysis and documentation of the Palace. For example, despite very limited written and oral resources, Ms. Pommaret found some textual evidence that the Palace may have been founded between 1853–1854, which is three to four years prior to the official recorded date of 1857.

More interesting stories emerged from students of the Wangduechhoeling Lower Secondary School who participated in an essay competition. They collected stories from members of the community and elderly members of their families who served in the Palace. The students were able to engage the local community and spread awareness about the historical significance of the Palace. This event took place in celebration of the one-year anniversary of the marriage of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck and in partnership with the World Monuments Fund and the Division for Conservation of Architectural Heritage Sites, Ministry of Home and Culture.

In addition, a team of architects and engineers from the Division for Conservation of Architectural Heritage Sites carried out a structural and condition assessment of the Palace. The study concluded that the Palace surprisingly had no major structural problems but did have some areas that require immediate attention due to negligence.

The Bhutan Foundation plays a key role in partnership with the Division for Conservation of Architectural Heritage Sites, Department of Culture under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, toward the documentation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of the Wangduechhoeling Palace in Bumthang. The Bhutan Foundation continues to acquire further funding and technical assistance for the Palace's restoration and preservation.





# The Bhutan Nuns' Foundation Helps Underserved Nuns

Girls and women in Bhutan who become nuns seek a peaceful, selfless, and spiritual life. They believe they can contribute to the well-being and happiness of all sentient beings through direct action, or at the very least, through their prayers. There are also those in the nunneries who have come purely for refuge from extreme poverty, overwhelming social challenges, loss of family, and deprivation. But of the 26 nunneries throughout the country, the government of Bhutan supports only 5 of them. Nunneries in Bhutan are also located in very remote areas (19 of the 26), and they often lack access to clean and safe drinking water, electricity, and proper sanitary bathrooms, and have inadequate nutrition in their daily meals. Thus, the Bhutan Nuns' Foundation (BNF) was founded in March 2009 with an aim to improve the basic living standards of nuns in Bhutan, from nutrition, shelter, sanitation, and medical care to education.

The Bhutan Foundation supports BNF as it continues its reach to 25 nunneries throughout the country serving the needs of about 900 nuns. The BNF provides workshops on life skills education to nuns and their teachers; constructs and renovates proper toilets, showers, and kitchens; and provides training on health, hygiene, and nutrition. Also, through the Bhutan Foundation's Emergency Medical Services Program, 150 nuns were trained as first responders.

*"I am very grateful to Bhutan Nuns' Foundation for helping us rebuild our kitchen and proper toilets after it got burned down. We can now cook proper meals and use a sanitary toilet."*

*Tshering, Nun, Kila Nunnery, Paro, Bhutan*

# Good Governance



# The Generation In-between: Making Their Voices Heard

With the transition to democracy in Bhutan and the growing needs of a developing society, there is a critical need to create a space for public discourse and understanding of a citizen's role in a new democracy. Today, the Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy (BCMD) has expanded their programs throughout the country engaging the media, national and local government, members of constitutional agencies, and civil society. They have also begun reaching out to youth and children to share concepts of democracy and the need to value independent news media. To give a voice to the youth of Bhutan, BCMD is currently setting up a Youth Media Lab in Thimphu, with an objective of engaging young people in using digital media as a way to participate actively in the world around them.

The need for including young people in their new democracy is clear. Since Bhutan's transition to democracy in 2008, Bhutanese youth--comprising 59 percent of the country's population--have been excluded from the democratic process. They are negatively portrayed by the media, are not consulted by policymakers for decisions, and have few outlets to voice their opinions in

schools. Outside of school, there are few facilities for youth to pursue learning and stay engaged in a positive way. This has led to a rise in gang formation, drug abuse, and violence in urban areas. If youth continue to be ignored, lack opportunities to express themselves, and remain underserved, then the future of Bhutan's democracy could be bleak.

Therefore, BCMD in partnership with the Youth Development Fund and the Bhutan Foundation is creating the Youth Media Lab to engage the youth of Bhutan in their society. In addition, BCMD organizes open forums where youth are encouraged to speak out on issues related to democracy, media, civil society, and policies in the presence of parliament members, government officials, media, and the general public.

The Bhutan Foundation supported the establishment of BCMD in 2008 with a mission to nurture a culture of democracy by strengthening media, expanding discourse, and providing essential training and education for key persons who will have a direct impact on Bhutan's democratic transitions as it lays the processes and institutions for a newly formed democracy.

*“Wearing the national dress, speaking the national language, and holding an ID card may legally define a citizen, but understanding and feeling yourself as a citizen has a meaning broader than these physical markers. He or she is a person with honesty, a person true to his or her self and others as a whole. Above everything, all that it takes to being a good citizen of any nation--or for that matter the world--is being a good human being.”*

*Lotey Om, Winner of the “Beyond the Ballot” Challenge organized by BCMD in celebration of International Day of Democracy.*





# Helping Bhutan's Nonprofits Meet Increasing Needs

Since Bhutan's Civil Society Organizations Authority was established in 2009, 31 civil society organizations (CSOs) have been registered. The role of these nongovernmental organizations is to carry out work that benefits the public or that advances the shared interests of the Bhutanese people. With the growing number of CSOs in Bhutan, and the increasing demands and needs of a rapidly developing society, Bhutan's CSOs must learn how to manage their organizations in order to benefit the public. In response, the Bhutan Foundation helped facilitate a strategic planning workshop for the CSOs in Bhutan.

Mr. William Tacon, previously a managing partner of Zolfo Cooper BVI, and previous managing director of Ernst and Young in the British Virgin Islands, volunteered to organize this workshop for the CSOs in Bhutan. With his experience in advising management teams on business strategy, including financial management and improving internal processes, he was able to assist with and overview strategies for the CSOs that attended the workshop.

CSOs improved their organizational management by identifying priorities, refocusing their energy and resources, strengthening operations, and creating a clearer road map for their mission and vision. This workshop is part of the Bhutan Foundation's continuing efforts to develop the capacity of the CSOs. Further training in financial management, operational management, proposal writing, and budgeting seminars are planned.

*"Due to the fact that CSOs in Bhutan are at their nascent stage, I found the workshop on Strategic Planning for CSOs very useful. The success of your organization, in my view, can be determined by how well you prepare your strategic plan."*

*Dorji Tashi, Executive Director, Loden Foundation*



# Tarayana Foundation: 10 Years of Service to Rural Communities

The Bhutan Foundation congratulates the Tarayana Foundation for their 10 years of service in Bhutan working to uplift and enhance the lives of vulnerable individuals and communities. The Tarayana Foundation supports rural communities throughout Bhutan, reaching more than 1,000 households in 100 villages, 76 schools in all 20 districts of Bhutan, and thousands of people. Some of Tarayana's programs include developing and promoting rural artisan crafts and microenterprises, facilitating housing improvements and solar electrification, encouraging organic farming and carbon-footprint reduction initiatives through green technologies, and providing scholarships and financial assistance to students from underprivileged backgrounds.

Since 2009, Tarayana's scholarship program has supported more than 1,200 students in partnership with His Majesty's Welfare Project. The Bhutan Foundation supports Tarayana's goal to enable children from disadvantaged families to pursue education.

*"I am very fortunate that I have received a scholarship from Tarayana Foundation. Getting a degree would have only been a dream, if I had not acquired the scholarship. I feel very lucky and blessed for this opportunity. I have now successfully completed my B.A. in English and EVS Studies from Royal Thimphu College."*

*Sonam Penjor, Student, RTC, Thimphu, Bhutan*





## Voluntary Artists' Studio, Thimphu: Breaking Boundaries Through Art

The Voluntary Artists' Studio, Thimphu (VAST) began serving the children of Bhutan 15 years ago when three local artists started tutoring and counseling more than a thousand young people, mostly high school dropouts and delinquents. These volunteers were helping these youth deal with their issues through art and helping them explore their artistic talents. Today, VAST has expanded their reach to almost 5,000 children throughout the country through art camps, workshops, and events.

With no art curriculum in the Bhutanese public school system and lack of opportunities for children during their school vacations, VAST provides a creative alternative for Bhutanese youth to participate and develop their potential talents as well as share social responsibilities through artistic exploration and through socially useful and productive work. Most students who first became involved in VAST continue to grow VAST's programs as instructors and peer educators for youth today. A few of VAST's programs include creating art through recycled items, participating in International Volunteer Day, visual art training workshop for inmates and at youth juvenile centers, and helping renovate and fence RSPCA's (Royal Society for the Protection and Care of Animals) dog shelter. The Bhutan Foundation supports VAST's mission and the impact they are making in the lives of children through art.

*"VAST is more than an art studio. It serves as an educational institution for children of all backgrounds. In a way it gives us a broader view of the opportunities there are out there for us. Under the vigilant interest of all the artists involved in the studio we learn more than just painting."*

*Yeshey, 13-year-old aspiring young artist, Thimphu, Bhutan*





# Events





# Bhutan Ecological Society Symposium: Conservation Issues in a Changing Bhutan

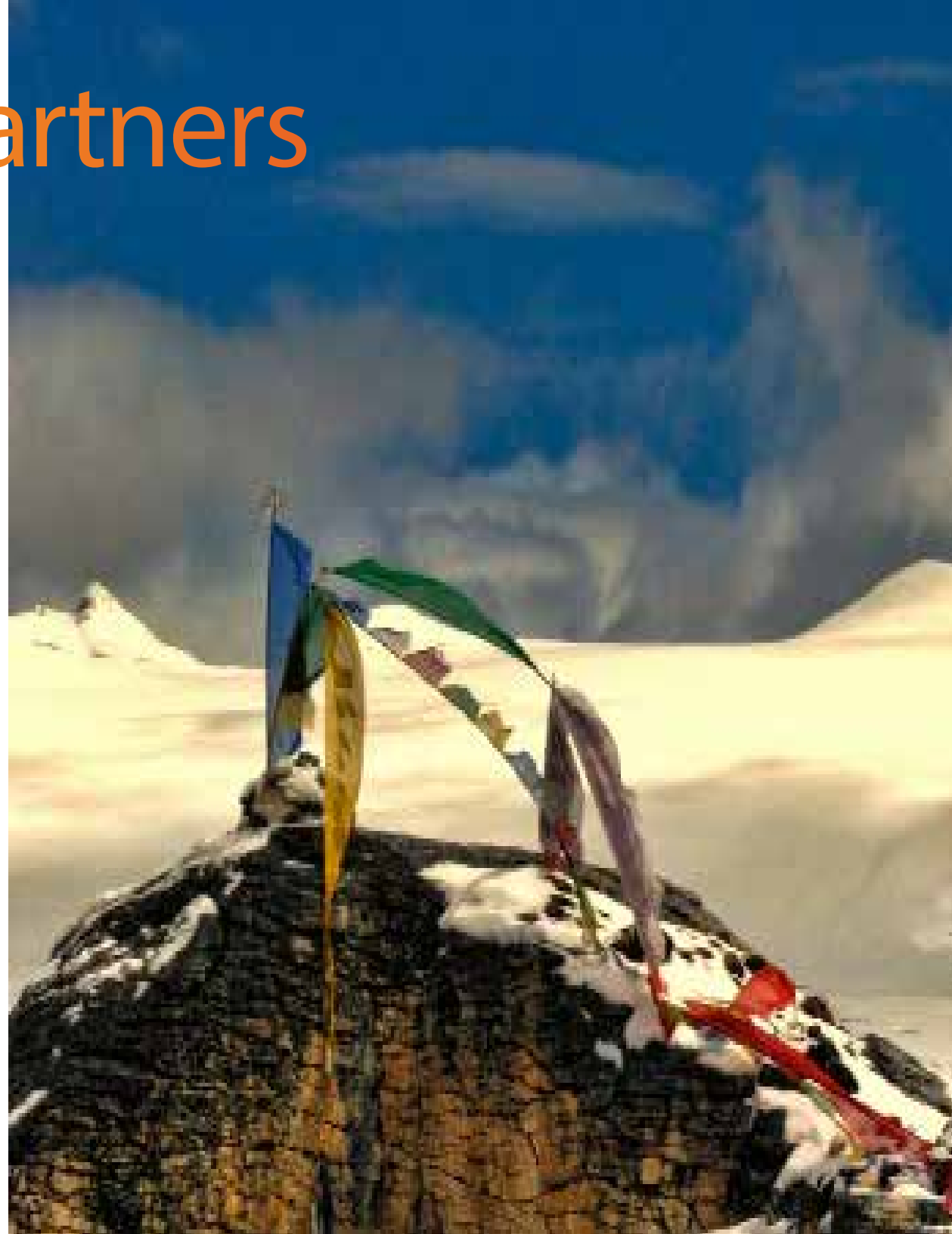
As Bhutan joins the bandwagon of global economic development, its government and citizens must ensure that development does not occur at heavy ecological costs. The nation has so far managed to balance economic needs and ecological concerns, but its citizens see value in strengthening scientific and policy mechanisms to ensure this balance going forward. To this end, the Bhutan Foundation has supported the Bhutan Ecological Society (BES), which advances broad-based scientific and policy mechanisms for conserving Bhutan's biological diversity.

We have supported BES in conferring the Jigme Singye Wangchuck Outstanding Environmental Stewardship Award to leaders in conservation. This past year, we supported BES's First Annual Environmental Fair and Research Symposium on July 20–21, 2013, in Clock Tower Square, Thimphu, to increase public awareness of conservation research, activities, and issues in Bhutan, and to foster new conservation partnerships.

The two-day event included a full-day research symposium and poster exhibition highlighting some of Bhutan's most important recent conservation research and activities and fostered informed discussion on pressing environmental issues of national importance. The research symposium featured 24 oral presentations and 8 poster exhibitions. In total, 22 organizations shared their recent and ongoing conservation work with colleagues and interested members of the public. The highlights of the BES Environmental Fair included 12 exhibition booths set up by various organizations to showcase their conservation activities and programs, a Recycled Art Contest among 164 young students from 14 Thimphu schools, and other children's activities.

# Our Local Partners

Ability Bhutan Society  
Bhutan Canada Foundation: Teach in Bhutan  
Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy  
Bhutan Ecological Society  
Bhutan Media Foundation  
Bhutan Nuns' Foundation  
Bhutan Youth Development Fund  
Jangsa Animal Saving Trust  
Lhomon Society  
Loden Foundation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs  
Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower  
Women (RENEW)  
Royal Institute of Health Sciences, Royal  
University of Bhutan  
Royal Society for Protection of Nature  
(RSPN)  
Tarayana Foundation  
The Kidu Foundation  
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation  
and Environment (UWICE)  
Voluntary Artists' Studio, Thimphu (VAST)  
World Wildlife Fund - Bhutan









# Our Institutional Partners

Asia Society  
Clinical Data Management  
DBA Trauma Program Services LLC  
Geographic Expeditions  
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative  
Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)  
Humane Society International (HSI)  
Møbulz LLC  
National Geographic  
Patton Boggs LLP  
Perkins International  
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center  
Population Media Center  
Rubin Museum  
Smithsonian Institution  
Snow Leopard Conservancy  
The Bhutan Canada Foundation  
The International Republican Institute  
The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation  
The University of Montana  
The Wildlife Conservation Society  
Tsao & McKown Architects  
World Monuments Fund  
World Wildlife Fund  
Yale University

# Bhutan Foundation Grants

## Conservation of the Environment

100,000+

Humane Society International, Bhutan Program  
National dog population and rabies control program

50,000 to 99,999

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
Tiger conservation program

20,000 to 49,999

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
Bhutan Takin ecology and conservation program

Royal Society for Protection of Nature  
Wetland conservation program

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
Climate change program

10,000 to 19,999

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
School for Field Studies program

5,000 to 9,999

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
Youth Environmental Stewardship

Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Jomolhari Snow Leopard Conservation program

1,000 to 4,999

Jigme Dorji National Park  
Climate change program

Manas National Park  
River guides of Panbang

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
Butterfly field guide

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
General support

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment  
Bhutan Ecological Society

## Equitable and Sustainable Development

50,000 to 99,999

Royal Institute of Health Sciences  
Bhutan RIHS Yale public health program

Ministry of Health  
Improving emergency medical services program

20,000 to 49,999

Ministry of Education  
Enhancement of educational opportunities for children with special needs

Ministry of Home and Culture  
Disaster management program

10,000 to 19,999

Colorado College  
Bhutan scholarship

5,000 to 9,999

Health Volunteers Overseas  
Bhutan EM Physician HVO program

1,000 to 4,999

Ability Bhutan Society  
Enhancement of educational opportunities for children with special needs

Drugyel Lower Secondary School, Deaf Education Unit, Paro  
Enhancement of educational opportunities for children with special needs

Muenseling Institute  
Enhancement of educational opportunities for children with special needs

Perkins International  
Enhancement of educational opportunities for children with special needs

## Good Governance

10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Canada Foundation  
Teach in Bhutan

Bhutan Nuns' Foundation  
General support

Tarayana Foundation  
General support

# July 2012-June 2013

World Wildlife Fund Bhutan  
General support

5,000 to 9,999

RENEW  
General support

National Biodiversity Center  
Bhutan Orchid Project

1,000 to 4,999

Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy  
General support

Bhutan Youth Development Fund  
General support

His Majesty's Welfare Fund  
Royal Wedding Scholarship in social work

Kilu Music School  
General support

Loden Foundation  
General support

Volunteer Artists' Studio, Thimphu (VAST)  
General support

Population Media Center  
Entertainment education program

## Preservation of Culture

20,000 to 49,999

Ministry of Home and Culture  
Restoration of Drametse Lhakhang

Ministry of Home and Culture  
Restoration of Wangduechhoeling Palace

10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Oral Literature Project  
General support

1,000 to 4,999

Bumdra Chorten  
Restoration of chorten

Ministry of Home and Culture  
Wangduechhoeling Palace watch day

Below 1,000

Kilu Music School  
General support

Lhuentse Dzongkhag  
Restoration of Dzong

Trashigang Dzongkhag  
Restoration of Trashigang Dzong



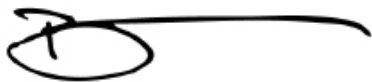
# Financial Overview

In FY 2013, the Bhutan Foundation received revenue and support of over \$2 million: \$1.7 million in contributions, and \$383,013 through in-kind services. The majority of our funding continues to come from major individual donors, foundations, and trusts. We are grateful to our donors for their generosity and continued involvement in the Bhutan Foundation's programs.

Over the years, the Bhutan Foundation has developed strong relationships with renowned institutions and individuals, who have generously volunteered thousands of hours to support our mission. Some examples of these efforts include doctors at Phelps Memorial Hospital New York who volunteer to train doctors and nurses in Bhutan, special education teachers from New York who volunteer to train teachers in Bhutan, and lawyers at Patton Boggs LLC who provide pro bono legal and programmatic services. These efforts helped build capacity and support programs in Bhutan.

Program expenses, which total \$1.7 million during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, represent 89% of all expenditures. Program expenditures were as follows: \$579,567 for conservation of the environment, \$668,341 for equitable and sustainable development, \$199,877 for good governance, \$212,709 for preservation of culture, and \$67,412 for events to increase knowledge of Bhutan. Supporting services make up the remaining 11% of expenditures.

All of the stories in this report highlight the impacts made in the lives of the Bhutanese people through your generous support – whether financial or in-kind contributions. Thank you for believing in and supporting our mission.



Brian J. Menkes  
*Treasurer*



# Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2013

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

Individual Contributions	352,041
Foundation and Trust Contributions	1,236,419
Government Grants	79,533
Corporate and Other Support	8,884
In-Kind Services	383,013
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>2,059,890</b>

## PROGRAM EXPENSES

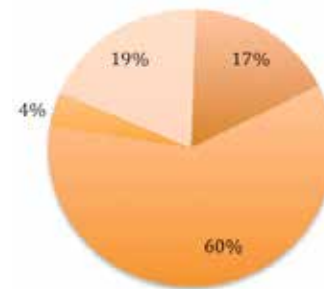
Conservation of the Environment	579,867
Equitable and Sustainable Development	668,341
Good Governance	199,877
Preservation of Culture	212,709
Events To Increase Knowledge of Bhutan	67,412
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>1,728,206</b>

## SUPPORTING SERVICES

Fundraising	75,261
Management & Administration	127,883
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>203,144</b>

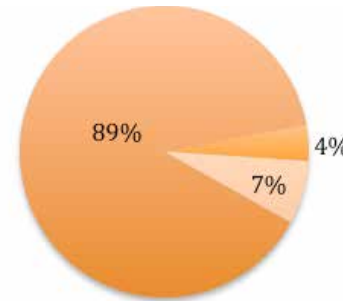
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,931,350</b>
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## Funds Raised By Source



Individual Contributions	17%
Foundation and Trust Contributions	60%
Government Grants	4%
Corporate and Other Support	0%
In-Kind Services	19%

## Total Expenditures



Program Expenses	89%
Management & Administration	7%
Fundraising	4%





# Ways to Give

With your support, the Bhutan Foundation and its Bhutanese nonprofit partners can make a bigger impact to save more lives, better protect the Bhutanese environment, give hope to children with special needs, help local nonprofits thrive, develop the role of a media in a new democracy, preserve Bhutan's unique culture, and much more. Here are some ways to be involved . . .

## Donate Online

[www.bhutanfound.org/MakeAGift](http://www.bhutanfound.org/MakeAGift)

## Mail a Check

Bhutan Foundation  
3121 South Street NW  
Washington, DC 20007

## Make a Wire Transfer

To make a wire transfer please contact the Bhutan Foundation at (202) 609-7363 or email: [info@bhutanfound.org](mailto:info@bhutanfound.org).

## Make a Stock Gift

The best method of transferring donated securities into the Bhutan Foundation account is via a DTC Transfer. You will need to initiate the transfer with your broker.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Dawa Sherpa at (202) 609-7363 or email: [dawa.sherpa@bhutanfound.org](mailto:dawa.sherpa@bhutanfound.org).

Please contact the Bhutan Foundation office by telephone or email once the transfer has been arranged.

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# Bhutan Foundation Team

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Ms. Tandin Pem

*Program Officer*

Mr. Kuenga Yarphel

*Program Officer*

Mr. Sonam Wangchuk

*Accountant*

Mr. Kinley Rabgay

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*(Washington, DC)*

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Mr. Kuenga Yarphel

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Ms. Tshering Yangzom

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Royal Society for Protection of Nature  
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