

A SHARED PLANET

Bhutan Foundation Annual Report 2015



The Four Friends shows an elephant, a monkey, a hare and a bird, perched acrobat-fashion one on top the other, standing under a tall tree laden with fruit. The fable relates how the elephant, though strong and mighty, needs the agile monkey to help him reach the fruit on the tree. But, it continues, there would be no tree if the bird hadn't eaten a seed to begin with and then deposited it on the soil in its droppings; and the seed would not have grown into a tree had the hare not protected and nurtured its roots underground. The elephant, the monkey, the hare and the bird also symbolize, respectively, the four terrestrial habitats—the ground, the air, the underground and the sky. The fable underlines the virtue of cooperation, and the connections of interdependence between all creatures great and small, and all the elements, in nature's cycle.

—Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, in "Sacred Landscapes,"
Treasures of the Thunder Dragon: A Portrait of Bhutan, 2006.



A Shared Planet . . .

In the beloved Bhutanese fable known as “The Four Friends,” each creature is distinct, each represents a different earthly place, and each, we discover, has a critical role to play in the well-being of all.

The story reminds us, at the Bhutan Foundation, of the many gifts that the people of Bhutan share with the world: exemplary biodiversity and conservation, a unique culture and perspective, an enlightened development philosophy, and more.

It also reminds us of those across the globe who share their support of the people and country of Bhutan: our partner organizations in Thimphu and Jomolhari; our international partners in the United States, Europe and Asia; and you, right here, right now.

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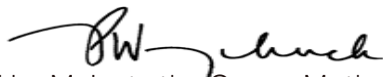


A Shared Planet

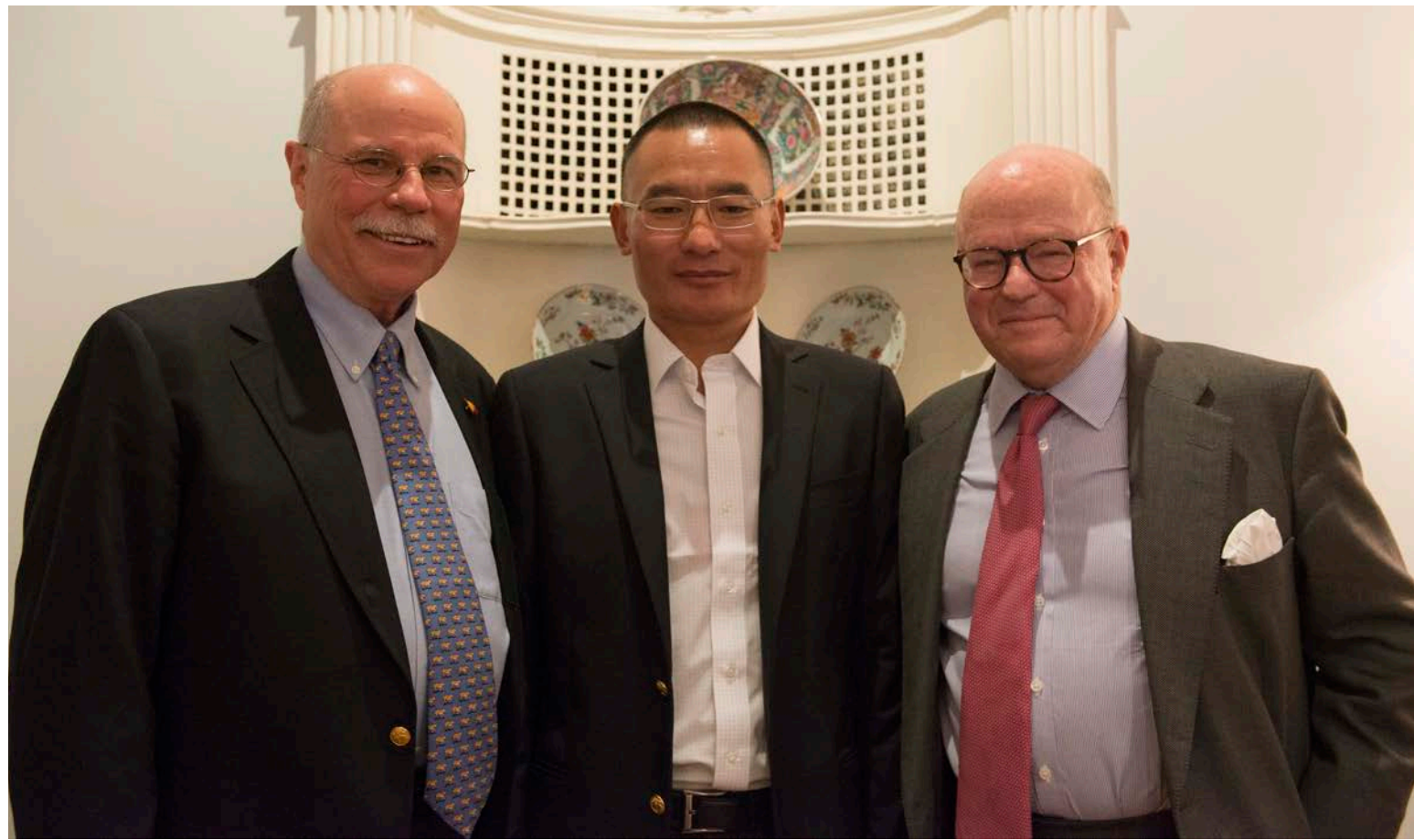
In 2012, His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck observed that peace, prosperity, and equality could be achieved only if we “accept that in the end we are people, all alike, sharing the Earth among ourselves and also with other sentient beings, all of whom have an equal role and stake in the state of this planet and its players.” This idea of a “shared planet” is a very Bhutanese worldview and is at the heart of the Bhutan Foundation’s work.

On the one hand, Bhutan’s citizens and leaders work to conserve our exemplary natural bounty and to develop our country in the most responsible ways. On the 60th birth anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, we join the nation in paying tribute to a uniquely Bhutanese development philosophy that he developed: Gross National Happiness. Indeed, GNH and our conservation success have inspired not only travelers to our country, but the larger global community. On the other hand, the challenges of rapid development are many, and key partnerships from around the world help us to build our new democracy in ways that are consistent with our own philosophy. The Bhutan Foundation understands this interdependence, supporting projects that both help us to develop our country and allows us to share our gifts with the world.

We all breathe the same air. To varying degrees, we all tend to our sick, teach our children, care for our families, depend on our environment, and value our various heritages. I hope you will take a moment to read this year’s annual report and learn more about how the Bhutan Foundation helps Bhutan to learn from and share with the planet.



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



(Starting left) Dr. Bruce W. Bunting, President of the Bhutan Foundation, Hon'ble Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, and Hon'ble Frank G. Wisner, Co-Chair of the Bhutan Foundation.

Frank G. Wisner *Bruce W. Bunting*





Social Enterprise

Prior to opening Dhungsel Home Spa, I had just lost a job at a company that went out of business, and my wife and I were struggling to make ends meet. Thanks to the Bhutan Foundation and the Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan (DPAB), I was provided an opportunity that I never thought I could have.

The AmanKora Resorts, a very high-end, luxury branch of resorts in Bhutan, in collaboration with the Bhutan Foundation and DPAB, was offering a six-month training in massage therapy for individuals with visual impairment. Of course, I immediately signed up for the training because there are not a lot of opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities in Bhutan and, especially, for the visually impaired. There were four of us being trained at the AmanKora in Paro, and another four were being trained at the AmanKora in Thimphu. After the training was over, many were provided jobs at local spa salons and local hotels throughout the country. I had a dream to create my own spa house, and so, with the help of my wife and two other colleagues who received training at AmanKora, we opened Dhungsel Home Spa. Located in the capitol city of Bhutan, Thimphu, Dhungsel Home Spa now provides various types of massages and facials. My wife, who does have vision, has taken over as the spa manager and is also, currently, receiving professional development training in management at the AmanKora in Thimphu.

We are so thankful to the Bhutan Foundation, DPAB, and AmanKora Resorts for assisting us from the very beginning to become a successful social venture. We are committed to helping others living with disabilities in Bhutan and will contribute 10% of our salaries for one year to DPAB to help continue their work in supporting individuals with disabilities. We hope that Dhungsel will empower other individuals with disabilities throughout the world to pursue their dreams and spread awareness and support for social ventures like Dhungsel Home Spa.

Tshering Dorji
Proprietor
Dhungsel Home Spa

A Citizen's Network to Understand Climate Change

At 16,000 feet above sea level, yak herder Wangchuk helps track climatic patterns from Bhutan's highest weather station in Tsharjathang, two days' walk from the nearest village, Laya. In Sakteng Lower Secondary School, in eastern Bhutan, students and teachers of the Nature Club record in detail how plant phenology changes across seasons. They are all part of the Bhutan Phenology Network that is bringing together some 340 students, 34 teachers, and a few yak herders like Wangchuk to contribute to Bhutan's largest network dedicated to help better understand the effects of climate change on the natural environment. Already, they have contributed over 130,000 entries on plant phenological data. I am proud to say that their work will now be included in the high school curriculum for environmental science in Bhutan.

While Bhutan remains carbon negative (and is committed to stay carbon neutral), the impact of climate change recognizes no political boundaries. Himalayan glaciers are fast receding and erratic weather patterns becoming more unpredictable. Countries like Bhutan stand to bear the brunt of climate change. Through better climate change science, Bhutan will be in a position to guide mitigation and adaptation strategies as a response. This is what we hope to achieve through this project.

Changa Tshering
Head of Technical Services
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment







A Model for Restoration

The Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS) under the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs would like to sincerely thank Bhutan Foundation for their commitment to support the Restoration and Adaptive Re-use of Wangduechoeling Palace Project, a project that is considered of high priority for the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs considering its importance in the history of the Bhutan. Following the successful completion of the documentation phase of the existing structures at the Palace, the Phase I of the project, which includes the restoration conservation of the damaged structures, is currently in full swing.

Furthermore, we are also very pleased to learn and thank the U.S. Ambassador Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) for their continued support for the project in collaboration with the Bhutan Foundation. In addition to the financial support the Bhutan Foundation continues to work in close cooperation with DCHS and continues support in seeking technical assistance for the project from the United States and others. With all this global support, the restoration of Wangduechoeling Palace will aim to be a model project contributing towards sustainable protection of heritage sites in Bhutan. The Palace will also set an example for rehabilitation of heritage sites with a bottom-up approach whereby the local communities are extensively consulted for the end result. Furthermore, implementation of the adaptive reuse concept is another critical aspect of the project in the country when many other traditional structures are, increasingly, undervalued and in danger of being replaced by new structures for economic gains.

Again, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Foundation's continued support and assistance. We look forward to working closely with all our partners in implementing this very vital project.

Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites
Department of Culture
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Royal Government of Bhutan

Using Research to Set Health Priorities

Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan was established in 2015 to cater to the need for human resources for the health care delivery systems in Bhutan. The University has three faculties: the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, the Faculty of Traditional Medicine, and the Post-Graduate Medical Education Centre.

The University has the vision to become “A premiere centre of excellence in medical education, research and quality healthcare” and a mission to develop health-care human resources for the provision of sustained quality; patient-centered care through innovative, learner-centered, integrated, and humanistic training curricula; and research activities in consonance with the principles of Gross National Happiness and universal human values. To fulfill the aspirations and the mission of the university, it is important that we build strong partnerships and linkages with academic institutions and other partners across the globe.

The collaboration and assistance from the Bhutan Foundation was crucial during the nascent stages of the University. With the assistance from the Bhutan Foundation, the university has managed to establish partnerships with world-reputed universities in the United States, such as the Yale School of Public Health and many others. The Bhutan Foundation has also supported setting research priorities for health, conducting authors’ training and establishment of Bhutan’s first health journal. These initiatives are beneficial to the country in building a knowledge-based society and conducting evidence-based discourses. The journal will provide a platform to publish scientific articles for researchers from Bhutan, create a learning platform for health professionals, and inform evidence-based health decisions for our policy makers. The Bhutan Foundation also supported faculty exchanges globally. With these collaborative efforts, we are hopeful that the partnership will bring a lasting change to the health care delivery system in Bhutan and, ultimately, promote the health and happiness of the Bhutanese community.

We look forward to a lasting partnership with the Bhutan Foundation with a common goal of improving the lives of all sentient beings.

Tashi Tobgay, MD
Director
Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan







Guiding Principles

- * Effective leadership is important for sustainable implementation of the SEN Program.
- * Inclusive models are focused on a child-centered approach to meet each individual child's changing needs.
- All teachers are SEN Teachers.
- Strong literacy instruction is essential for children with learning difficulties.





Education for All

On behalf of the Principal, teachers, and students of Mongar Lower Secondary School (MLSS), I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your immense support in establishing the Special Education Needs (SEN) program in our school. You have made us aware of special education, given us the knowledge and skills to identify and provide interventions to students with special needs, made us become more compassionate teachers, given us more skills to be better trainers, and provided us with a lot of teaching and learning resources. You have been a strong partner in setting up the SEN program in our school. Most importantly, your keen interest and enthusiasm in supporting us to put together a good SEN program has been a great source of inspiration for us, which has made us work harder. We remain ever grateful for all this support. The Bhutan Foundation and each one of you will be always mentioned when the SEN program in Bhutan is talked about. We look up to you all for what you have done for the students with special needs in Bhutan.

And we still look forward to your continued support hereafter. We hope you will always be there for us as you have been since the inception of the SEN program in our school. We will keep looking forward to your kind support and generous assistance in making our SEN program more inclusive and stronger.

Thank you all on the Bhutan Foundation's US Special Education Advisory Committee for working so hard for children with special needs in Bhutan!

May there be more and more people like you all, and may peace prevail on Earth!

Yeshey Choeki
Special Education Need Co-ordinator (SENCO)
Mongar Lower Secondary School

Global Exchange and Partners

The National Assembly (NA) Secretariat would like to thank the Bhutan Foundation for your immense support in strengthening and upgrading the NA library with a new system. With the technical assistance from the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress based in Washington DC, our librarian and Committee Secretaries were able to receive professional development on the operations and maintenance of the national library.

Ms. Sherry B. Shapiro helped catalogue over a thousand books in the library in a more efficient manner with a cataloging software used worldwide, called KOHA. Another goal for this program was to establish institutional partnerships globally with other research libraries. Having access to the services of such a high-caliber research library as the Library of Congress will greatly improve our research endeavors. This assistance has benefitted the Members of Parliament (MPs) who are regular users of the library and enabled the NA Secretariat staff to carry out their research more effectively and efficiently.

We would like to extend our warm gratitude to the Bhutan Foundation, IRI, and the Library of Congress for all their support, and we look forward to continued assistance in the future. Moving on, we hope to establish partnerships with parliamentarians from other countries so that we are able to build upon our still-fledgling knowledge of democracy and all that it entails.

Sangay Duba
Secretary General
National Assembly of Bhutan





A.S. LIBRARY



Emergency Medical Response: Our Experience in Nepal

On April 25, 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, creating a tragedy of immense proportions. Entire villages, ancient temples, homes, and lives were reduced to rubble. At such a time, many stories of hope emerge, and that is what keeps the hardest hit clinging on, even if to an uncertain future. This is a time when stories of compassion, heroism, and unconditional love for humanity also arise. Today, I want to report on our emergency disaster response to the call of the moment.

Upon the news of the devastating earthquake, His Majesty the King of Bhutan sent a medical relief team consisting of highly trained and motivated medical professionals and volunteers to Nepal. We were stationed in Trishuli, one of the areas worst hit by the calamity, from April 27 to May 17. We set up our self-contained, well-equipped medical team and treated over 2,000 patients. In addition to providing medical care through the stationary unit, we also visited remote and unreachable areas from which we evacuated additional casualties and provided medical consultations and treatment.

This success was only possible because of the full guidance and support from His Majesty the King of Bhutan, the government, and the people of Bhutan. In addition, our professionalism, knowledge, and skills in dealing with emergency response during such disasters, whether it is within the country or outside, is mainly due to great achievements in Emergency Medical Services over recent years through the support of the Bhutan Foundation and other stakeholders. Many of the team members received emergency, trauma, and disaster medicine trainings funded by the Foundation.

We hope that these achievements will be an inspiration to continue supporting emergency medical services in Bhutan.

Tashi Tenzin, MD
Head of the Emergency Department
Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital

Anderson Center for Autism
Environmental Film Festival in the
Nation's Capital
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)
Humane Society International (HSI)
Karuna Foundation
International Republican Institute
Møbulz LLC
National Geographic
Perkins International
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center
Smithsonian Institution
Snow Leopard Conservancy
Squire Patton Boggs LLP
The Shelley and Donald Rubin
Foundation
Tsao & McKown Architects
U.S.A.I.D.
U.S. Ambassadors' Fund for Cultural
Preservation
University of Montana
World Monuments Fund
World Wildlife Fund
Yale University





International Partnerships

The Bhutan Foundation, across all our projects in Bhutan, focuses on building local capacity in various disciplines, such as emergency medicine, special education, and conservation. We are uniquely positioned to do so due to our presence in the United States and Bhutan. For those fields in which the capacity is lacking in Bhutan, we reach out to United States based institutions and experts to conduct trainings in Bhutan, or we bring Bhutanese students or professionals for training in the United States. Where Bhutanese expertise exists, we foster cross-learning and provide the tools and resources for Bhutanese experts to carry out their missions.

Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, New York, has been instrumental in helping develop Bhutan's National Emergency Education Centre, where every Bhutanese doctor undergoes training in emergency medicine. Likewise, several faculty members from Bhutan's Royal Institute of Health Sciences have attended a semester at the Yale School of Public Health taking relevant courses, such as epidemiology, biostatistics, and tropical medicine, learning to be better public health educators. In another area, Bhutan's conservation stories need to be told on a global platform. This is just what the National Geographic Society provides us for exciting stories on Bhutan's tiger and snow leopard conservation successes. Through our partnership, we are given access to the National Geographic Society's wide audience reach to share Bhutan's conservation stories. These are a few examples that highlight the partnerships we foster between Bhutanese and US institutions.

Local Partners

Ability Bhutan Society
Bhutan Canada Foundation
Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy
Bhutan Ecological Society
Bhutan Media Foundation
Bhutan Nuns' Foundation
Bhutan Youth Development Fund
Clean Bhutan
Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan
Draktsho Vocational Training Center
Jangsa Animal Saving Trust
Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan
Loden Foundation
QED Consulting Group
Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women
Royal Government of Bhutan
Royal Society for Protection of Nature
Tarayana Foundation
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
VAST (Voluntary Artists' Studio, Thimphu)
World Wildlife Fund Bhutan





Bhutan Foundation Grants Fiscal Year 2015

Conservation of the Environment

Over 100,000

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
*Bhutan Phenology Study–Himalayan Environmental Rhythms Observation
and Evaluation System*

50,000 to 99,999

Humane Society International, Bhutan Program
National Dog Population Management and Rabies Control

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
Kheybaythang Wildlife Center

20,000 to 49,999

Jomolhari Community
School Among Snow Leopards

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
Daphne Hall

10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Ecological Society
General Support

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
International Glacier Symposium

5,000 to 9,999

Association of Bhutan Tour Operators
Jomolhari Base Camp Bakery

Jigme Dorji National Park
Jomolhari Mountain Festival

QED Bhutan and Bhutan Ecological Society
Economy, Energy and Environment Conference

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
Research on Small Felids in Bhutan

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
Tiger Conservation Program

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
Establishing International Partnerships

Equitable and Sustainable Development

50,000 to 99,999

Ministry of Health
Improving Emergency Medical Services Program

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment
Establishing International Partnerships

20,000 to 49,999

Department of Disaster Management
Disaster Preparedness Trainings

Ministry of Education
Enhancement of Educational Opportunities for Children with Special Needs

5,000 to 9,999

Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences
Public Health Mapping Workshop

1,000 to 4,999

Clean Bhutan

Zero Waste Bhutan Muenselling Institute
White Cane Orientation and Mobility Workshop

Upto 1,000

Lhaksam

Quickbooks for Nonprofits

Good Governance

Over 100,000

Bhutan Trust Fund
Biodiversity Surveys

50,000 to 99,999

Bhutan Youth Development Fund
General Support

Jangsa Animal Saving Trust
General Support





10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Media Foundation
Social Media, Citizen Journalism and Photojournalism

Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy
Deepening Bhutan's Young Democracy by Strengthening Citizen Participation

Greater Himalayas Foundation
Nepal Earthquake Relief

Loden Foundation
Loden Entrepreneurship Program

Tarayana Foundation
General Support

Wheaton College
Bhutan Scholarship Program

5,000 to 9,999

Ability Bhutan Society
Capacity Building

Bhutan Nuns' Foundation
General Support

QED Bhutan
Enhance Citizen Participation on Substantive Issues

1,000 to 4,999

Bhutan Animal Rescue Center
General Support

Bhutan for Nepal
Nepal Earthquake Relief

Bhutan Youth Development Fund
General Support

National Biodiversity Center
Bhutan Orchid Project

Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women
General Support

Royal Society for the Protection of Nature
General Support

Thammasat University
Bhutan Scholarship Program

Upto 1,000

Bhutan Canada Foundation
Teach in Bhutan

Volunteer Artists' Studio Thimphu
General Support

Preservation of Culture

20,000 to 49,999

Ministry of Home and Culture
Restoration of Wangduechoeling Palace

1,000 to 4,999

Chocham Lhakhang
Restoration of Temple

Upto 1,000

Ugyen Choeling Palace Museum
General Support

Events

5,000 to 9,999

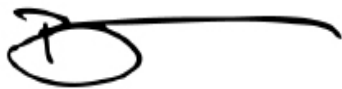
Dechen Roder and Tashi Gyaltsen
Promoting Bhutanese Filmmakers

Financial Overview

During Fiscal Year 2015, the Bhutan Foundation raised \$2.1 million in revenues. Most of our donations continue to come from individuals and private foundations. We are grateful for your generosity. Your support helps contribute to strategies of conservation of the environment, equitable and sustainable development, good governance, and preservation of culture in Bhutan.

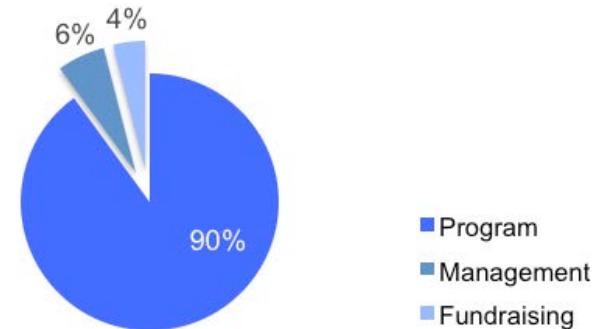
Program expenses during FY 2015 were approximately \$1.67 million, representing 89% of all expenditures. Program expenditures were as follows: \$590,000 for conservation of the environment; \$368,000 for equitable and sustainable development; \$538,000 for good governance; \$102,000 for preservation of culture; and \$76,000 for events to increase knowledge of Bhutan. Supporting services expenditures accounted for 11% of total expenses: 4% for fundraising and 7% for management and administration costs.

We are thankful for all of you who have helped bring us closer to our vision of Bhutan as a progressive society enriched by Gross National Happiness values. Together, we are working to unleash the potential of our partners in Bhutan and to share their success with the world.

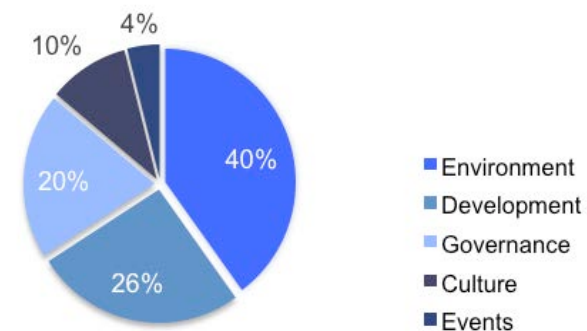


Brian J. Menkes
Treasurer

TOTAL EXPENDITURES



EXPENDITURES by Program Areas



Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2014

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Individual Contributions	586,884
Foundation and Trust Contributions	1,532,404
Government Grants	25,852
Corporate and Other Support	5,210
In-Kind Services	290,800
Total Support and Revenue	2,441,150

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Conservation of the Environment	700,964
Equitable and Sustainable Development	470,814
Good Governance	348,073
Preservation of Culture	168,625
Events To Increase Knowledge of Bhutan	74,780
Total Program Expenses	1,763,256

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Fundraising	84,685
Management & Administration	114,686
Total Supporting Services	199,371

TOTAL EXPENSES

1,962,627





Ways to Give

Your support helps build capacity, fill gaps, and realize hopes and aspirations in Bhutan.

Donate Online

www.bhutanfound.org/MakeAGift

Make 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.

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.

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

Leadership

Honorary Patron

Her Majesty Ashi Kesang Choeden Wangchuck
The Royal Grandmother of Bhutan

Co-Chair Persons

Her Majesty Ashi Tshering Pem Wangchuck
The Queen Mother of Bhutan

Hon. Frank G. Wisner

President

Dr. Bruce W. Bunting

Vice President

Mrs. Lisina M. Hoch

Secretary

Mr. Michael J. Mars

Treasurer

Mr. Brian J. Menkes

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Mr. William Tacon

Mr. Gérard A. Tardy

Mr. Sonam Tobgay

Mr. Anurag Varma

Dasho Lhatu T. Wangchuk

Ms. Dechen Wangmo

Ms. Melina Ward

Our Team

Collectively, our staff represent the spirit of the Bhutan Foundation. Both our teams in Washington, DC, and Thimphu exude passion, creativity, and dedication to our mission. We enjoy doing what we do best—helping our partners accomplish our shared goals for a better Bhutan.

Washington, DC Office

Dr. Bruce W. Bunting
President

Mr. Tshewang R. Wangchuk
Executive Director

Ms. Dawa Sherpa
Program Director

Ms. Tshering Yangzom
Communications and Program Manager

Mr. Tenzing Dorji
Program Associate

Thimphu, Bhutan Office

Mr. Tshering Dorji
Program Director

Ms. Deepika Chhetri
Program Manager



Ms. Sonam Y. Tobgyel
Program Officer

Mr. Kinley Tshering
Finance Officer

Mr. Kinley Rabgay
Office Assistant



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Find us on Social Media: @BhutanFdn





Bhutan
FOUNDATION
www.bhutanfound.org

