



sustainable tourism to increase people's appreciation and support for the conservation of our cultural and natural heritage

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Around 6000 indigenous communities of Brokpas live in the sanctuary with close proximity to nature

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365MSW

## **Eco-Tourism: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**



### **View of Merak**

Ecotourism is defined as a responsible Ecotourism is increasing in popularity across the world, but has significant practical value in developing countries where the needs of impoverished communities may conflict directly with the need to capitalise on the growing tourism industry. In many cases developers move in and designate certain areas as tourism hotspots without giving much thought to the impact that this will have on local

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communities. These communities may depend on the area for food and shelter, but their concerns are buried beneath the potential for financial revenue.

Ecotourism is a move to counter this. It aims to create viable and sustainable tourism opportunities, and limit the impact

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**Cont. from page 1 :Eco-tourism**

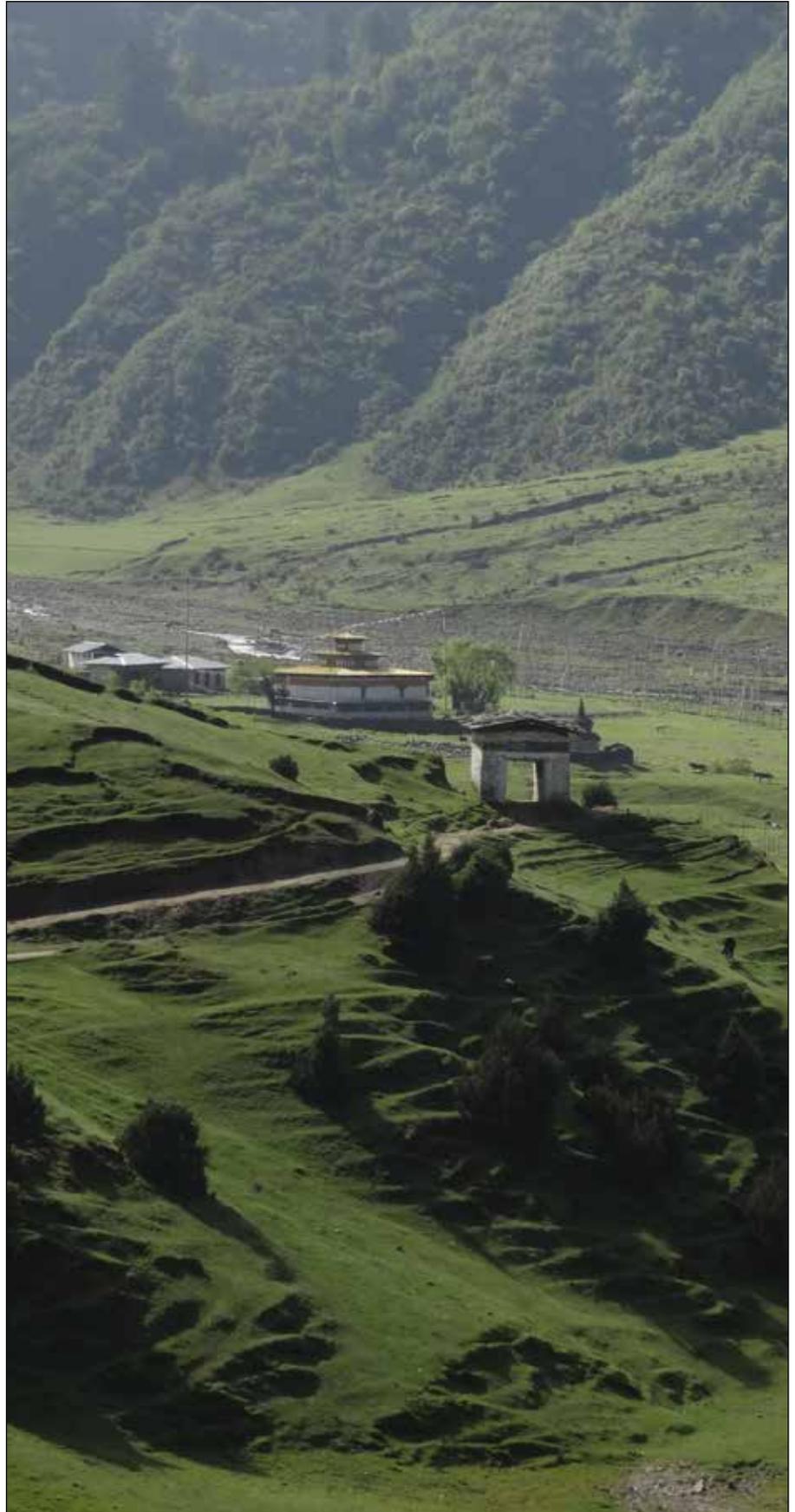
that all related activities will have on the environment, while improving the lives of the local people living in the area.

The aim is to achieve sustainable and responsible tourism practices with benefit of all. One of the most important factors in the success of any ecotourism venture is knowledge. Those proposing the project must gain intimate knowledge of the area, the fauna, the flora and the communities living there. They must understand how they impact on each other and how a change in one will affect the rest. They must understand the culture governing the people's relationship with the environment, and how they view concepts such as territory, farming and gathering materials for personal use.

It's vital to include the local communities not merely as grateful beneficiaries of charity, but as empowered and informed team members. Their input is to be valued, as chances are that they understand the area and complex ecosystems better than anyone else involved in the project.

The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable resource that protects both the people and the nature involved. Over 20 years ago, in 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development stated that sustained development implied, "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This sentiment is just as applicable now as it was then.

Equally important is that within all this concern for sustainability and empowerment, we don't forget the tourism aspect of ecotourism.

**Cont. on page 4****Gateway to Sakteng**



### Eco-Campsite at Phajoding

While tourism generates substantial revenue for the country, it is essential that programmes and activities that bring economic opportunities to local communities are encouraged. With this intention, Phajoding eco-campsite was developed to enhance the social, cultural, and environmental opportunities. Given the historical and cultural richness of Phajoding and the fact that it is already used as a tourism destination as part of the Druk Path Trek (between Paro and Thimphu), the Nature Recreation and Ecotourism Division (NRED) under the Department of Forests and Park Services initiated the development of the campsite. This project intends to link tourism development with cultural preservation and environmental conservation.



HE Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji, Minister of Agriculture and Forests graced the inauguration of the Phajoding campsite as the Chief Guest. Models like the Phajoding campsite that promotes sustainable tourism to increase people's appreciation and support for the conservation of our cultural and natural heritage, will go a long way in realising our national goal of Gross National Happiness. The model and its management will also help develop other ecotourism sites in the country with similar opportunities.



The campsite has basic facilities strictly incorporating traditional and environmentally friendly designs. The Eco-campsite has four camping grounds that can accommodate around 15–20 people. Each camping ground can accommodate about two 2-men tents and one 1-man tent at spacious intervals.

There is also a shelter house with two rooms to accommodate about 8-16 people. There are two gazebos (a medium sized circular one to accommodate around 10 people and a large sized rectangular one to accommodate around 20 people).



Facilities also include separate toilets with a bathroom for both men and women, Common kitchen with cooking shelves and water supply. It is estimated to facilitate about 25-30 tourists per day, comprising a maximum of two large groups or three smaller groups.

A management guideline was also developed that considers minimal impact on natural environment and cultural & traditions. The fund management modality is in place. While this will encourage the monks to conserve our natural and cultural heritage, strict considerations have also been taken that the monks will not engage in any other tourism and economic activities that will deviate from their studies. The success of this campsite will act as model for other campsite development in the country, both in terms of designs and management.

Phajoding is one of the most sacred and important cultural sites in the country with strong historical grounding rooted in the 13th Century. It also forms a part of the most popular Druk Path Trek, with as high as 30% of tourist trekkers using this trek annually. Up until now, the area is heavily used by tourists and pilgrims especially during peak season with severe impacts including solid waste generation.



The development of Phajoding eco-campsite was funded by Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation and RGoB.

## Cont. from page 2 :Eco-tourism

### Knowing Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary with an area 741 sq.km is one of the most remote protected areas. The sanctuary forms an integral part of the protected areas network of Bhutan connecting Khaling Wildlife Sanctuary in South-Eastern Bhutan and Namdapa Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh, India to the North-East.

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is home to the unique nomadic tribes from Merak and Sakteng areas known as the Brokpas.

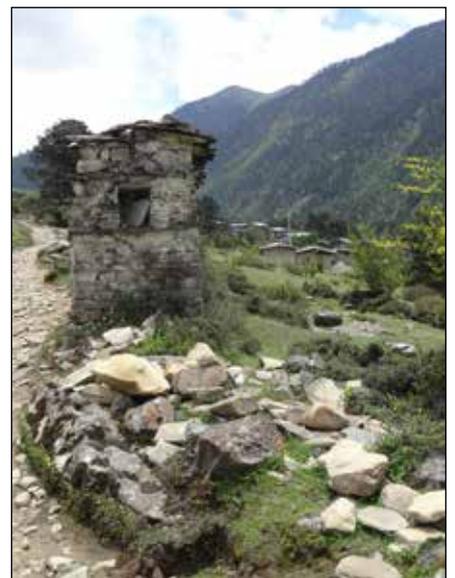
Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary falls within the temperate ecosystem range with elevations ranging from 1700 m to 4500 m. The sanctuary represents a wide diversity of Himalayan terrestrial ecosystems, namely alpine meadows, temperate forest, and warm broadleaf forest. The land use in the sanctuary comprises of 59 percent forest, 37 percent pasturelands, 2 percent agriculture land and the rest others.

The two geogs of Merak and Sakteng, which are at least a day's walk from the nearest road, are located in the sanctuary. Around 6000 indigenous communities of Brokpas live in the sanctuary with close proximity to nature, untouched by the furor of development. The Brokpas are mostly nomads, who practice subsistence farming and own herds of cattle and yaks. They depend on livestock and natural resources for their livelihoods.

The diverse flora and fauna, scenic beauty and unique local customs and traditions of the Brokpas offers unique attractions for tourists and nature lovers to the sanctuary.

The sanctuary has also many sacred cultural and pilgrimage sites with potentials for eco-tourism activities such as Mount Jomokungkhur – near Merak believed to be the citadel of Ama Jomo, the most important local deity of Brokpas. Gengo Lhakhag (temple)- at Merak holds importance of housing the remains of Buchung Kewazangpo, son of Thangthong Gyalpo, a Buddhist King.

The local festivals and dances form another attraction for visitors. They include Trendera Tshachu at Borangtse Lhakhang on the 5th Bhutanese month to



Cont. from page 4 :Eco-tourism



mark the birth anniversary of Guru Rinpoche. Mangkurim-religious ceremony conducted on the 5th month, where famous Tere chham is performed on the last day after every three years. The rare Yak Chham and Acho Lamai Chham are performed in Merak and Sakteng.

The sanctuary is home more than 18 species of mammals such as Common leopard, Wild dog, Red fox, Red panda, Capped langur, Asiatic black bear, Goral, Serow and Himalayan yellow-throated marten. Local folklore relates that the mysterious Yeti, or Abominable Snowman, also resides here.

The bird survey recorded 119 species of birds with seven species of pheasants such as Snow partridge, Hill partridge, Rufous-throated partridge, Blood pheasant, Himalayan monal pheasant, Satyr tragopan, Kalig pheasant and other birds such as Grey-backed shrike, Grey-headed woodpecker, Common hoopoe, Rufus-vented tit and Dark-breasted rose finch. Plant life includes Bhutan's national flower-blue poppy, rhododendrons, primulas and gentians, all of which transform the park into a garden of colours during spring time. There are also many plants with medicinal properties. The forest contains 203 tree species including herbs, shrubs, and small trees.

The sanctuary has different forest types due to different altitudinal variations. They are Coniferous, Conifer-broadleaved, Conifer-Deciduous, Deciduous, Deciduous-broadleaved, Evergreen-broadleaved, Fir, Fir-Rhododendron, Juniper, Juniper-Rhododendron, Mixed, Mixed-broadleaved and Riverine.





# Leisure

## Invitation of topics for SAP Literary Competition 2014

As an annual School Agriculture Programme (SAP) activity jointly coordinated by CoRRB, MoAF and DSE, MoE, school children are encouraged to express their views and expression on the Agriculture sector through essays and posters. Therefore, we request any voluntary contribution of topics of concerns for

1. High school level (XI-XII)
2. Middle SS level (IX-X)
3. Lower SS (VI-VIII)
4. Primary level (III-V)
5. Pre-primary level (PP-II)
6. For Focal Agriculture Teachers (FATs)

The selected topics will be rewarded

**-School Agriculture Programme**

## Pre-departure Briefing for new CNR Candidates by RCSC

The HR Division of this Ministry is pleased to inform all concerned officials that the pre-departure briefing for pursuance of Bachelors of Science at College of Natural Resource has been scheduled by the Royal Civil Service Commission as shown below:

BSc Animal Science: 15 July 2014, 2:00pm

BSc Agriculture: 16 July 2014, 2:00pm

BSc Forestry: 17 July 2014, 2:00pm

## Sudoku Puzzle

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1-9, without repeating any. Answer in the next issue

9			8			6	5	
			7			3	9	
		4			2			
		5				1	4	
7	2						6	8
	4	8				9		
			2			8		
	7	1			6			
	9	2			3			5

## Applications invited for Postgraduate Study Fellowships

Applications are invited for a One Health Epidemiology Fellowship Program being implemented in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh by Massey University, New Zealand. The Program is funded by the European Commission under the One Health Program in Asia.

The program will be undertaken by six participants in each of the four participating countries (24 participants in total), comprising two public health, two animal health and two wildlife health participants, beginning on 15 September 2014.

Applications are currently invited for the Fellowship Program and close on 18 July 2014. For detail please visit: <http://www.hubnet.asia/one-health-fellowships>

## MAGIP supports farm road renovation and maintenance in Shermung geog

By Khampa, DAO Mongar and Khando Tshering, DoA

The Market Access and Growth Intensification Project (MAGIP) annually support maintenance of infrastructure particularly for farm roads and irrigation developments, a key intervention to market access and to enhance production. For 2013-2014, a budget provision of Nu. 39.587 million for farm roads and Nu. 13.15 million for irrigation out of which Nu. 6.00 million was earmarked for farm road maintenance for Mongar Dzongkhag.

The Dzongkhag have identified 17 km stretch Shershong-Sonakhar farm road as a project site that benefits five villages covering approximately 80 farming households. The farm road was selected based on the road condition, risk vulnerability, its potential for agricultural production potential and the fragile soil type that leads to frequent blockage of road.

Besides, maize, rice and vegetables, the farmers there produces considerable quantity of butter and cheese. With improved road facility, some of these

products are anticipated to arrive at the market shortly. Improved road would not only help farmers access to market, delivery of services and inputs are as well guaranteed in agriculture production thereby improving the livelihood of the farming community. Apart from fulfilling the project's mandate, the road also immensely benefits school, religious institutes and health outreach clinic centre improving social amenities and more so it also opens an easy access for many pilgrimages visiting Aja Nye, a sacred and holy site for thousands of devotees across the country.

Therefore, in keeping with the objective of sustainability measures, the training of trainers (TOT) was conducted both for irrigation and farm roads at Chali Agriculture Extension Centre which was attended by 17 Agriculture Extension Agents under the Dzongkhag and two Extension Officers based at the Dzongkhag Head Quarter. The TOT programme was done at the field level with the presence of beneficiaries from one of the irrigation

channels constructed during the last financial year.

The TOT has been viewed as an eye opener by many of the participants and expressed their confidence in furthering the programme. The training programme extensively delved into practical issues and problem solving with lot of exercises and group works and sharing their views and findings through presentations.

Moreover, many of the TOT programmes were attended by local leaders creating more awareness and understanding of the project priorities and objectives.

During the TOT programme, the participants were briefed on the priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and the highlights on as to how the farming community should try to adapt with the changing climatic conditions. This is mainly because the mountain farming communities have already started experiencing the effects of the climate change.



Road connection to farm land



## Breng and Thongrong farmers trained on the Electric fencing system

By Suraj Gurung, Assistant Dzongkhag Agriculture Officer (ADAO), Trashigang

The Dzongkhag Agriculture Sector, Trashigang in collaboration with the National Plant Protection Centre (NPPC), Simtokha, Thimphu organised a six-day 'Hands-on training-cum installation of electric fencing system (EFS)' at Breng under Phongmey geog from 3-8 June 2014.

The Hon'ble Dasho Dungpa of Wamrong Drungkhag Administration graced the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest. In his opening remarks, Dasho stated that EFS would be the ultimate means of resolving Human Wildlife Conflict which has become a

contemporary global issue. He also added that such type of innovative technology would contribute towards attaining food self-sufficiency within the country.

A total of 42 participants were trained in EFS awareness, procedures, by-laws formulation and installation. The participants included farmers of Breng and Thongrong villages. The training program also oriented Dzongkhag and Geog Agriculture Officials and Electricians of Trashigang Dzongkhag Administration.

The training installed 1.08 kilometres

of electric fencing and 3 numbers of energisers along with connectivity through solar panels, sealed batteries and charge controllers. The training also developed by-laws for the beneficiaries

The training was facilitated by the resource persons from NPPC and Regional Agriculture Machinery Centre (RAMC), Khangma. A sum of Nu.0.175 million was expended including the cost of training and EFS materials. The program was funded by the Market Access and Growth Intensification Project (MAGIP) and NPPC.



Submit articles for  
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(July) to

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*theme: animal health*

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To

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