



Full Project Report 2000
BT0010 Management of Royal Manas National Park

Project Summary

Royal Manas National Park is one of the oldest and richest among the protected areas of Bhutan. The project seeks to protect this park through a wide range of interventions such as the development and implementation of a sound park management based on scientific management principles. Main components of the project include conservation research, institutional and capacity development and ecosystem protection.

Within the project period of five years, the project will establish a management system supported by trained staff to carry out various activities. Rural development form an important component in the project with the aim of addressing farmers needs to enable sustainable use of natural resources.

Project Background:

Royal Manas National Park, the national heritage of Bhutan is the most important among the protected areas of Bhutan. It is the first protected area to be formally declared and to have a scientifically based management plan. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1996 and upgraded to a national park in 1993. Lying in the southern belt of Bhutan, with the Black Mountain National Park to its north and Indian Manas Tiger Reserve to its south, it covers a vast diversity of tropical grasslands, temperate moist forests, alpine meadows and scrublands. among the variety of species the park holds about 45 species of mammals, 366 species of birds and 900 species of vascular plants, with many more still to be researched.

With 92% of the park still under forest cover it represents one of the most unique and best example of the eastern Himalayan ecosystem.

Project Objectives:

- Conserve the biodiversity of the park through the implementation of a five-year conservation management plan.
- Build and strengthen the capacity of the park management and local communities through training, education and infrastructure development.
- Provide rural development opportunities for residents of RMNP through integration of conservation and development.



Evaluation Criteria:

Activities:

- Demarcation of park boundary
- Informal consultative meetings with the authorities of Indian Manas
- Construction of staff headquarters at Gelephu
- Capacity building
- Provision of transportation for patrolling activities
- Repair and maintenance of infrastructure
- Patrol trail maintenance

Outputs

- Two students pursuing BSc. Degree in Forestry
- A four-wheel drive pick up truck purchased
- Cordial relationship with the authorities of Indian Manas maintained
- 47 km road to Kanamakra repaired to facilitate monitoring and patrolling
- Construction of headquarters started
- Demarcation of park boundary ongoing
- Patrol trails maintained
- Construction of warden complex at Lalai started

Indicators

- Infrastructure/equipment
- Patrolling and monitoring activities enhanced
- No./quality of staff