



ground of the communities in and around the park. During winter large herds of cattle migrate to lower elevations and in summer they return. This has a major impact on the park's natural resources and also results in conflicts between humans and wildlife, such as tigers attacking cattle. The collection of wood for fuel, roofing shingles and fencing is a huge drain on the forests.

WWF in Action in Thrumshingla National Park:

WWF and its partners are addressing these threats through integrated conservation and development programs (ICDPs), which are decreasing forest and wildlife degradation while improving the livelihoods of the communities. Surveys, meetings and field studies first identified the communities' major priorities as access to schools, electricity, drinking water, irrigation and markets.

Individual projects were then tailored to each community's specific needs. Barbed wire and corrugated iron sheets are now replacing wooden fencing and roofing shingles, which means less wood taken from the forests. Improved cooking stoves and small, environmentally friendly hydropower plants are reducing the need for firewood, while super-productive Jersey cows are being introduced so that farmers can produce the same amount of milk with less cows, meaning less harm from overgrazing.

Photo courtesy of Thimley Namgyel, Harald Schurz, RSPN, WWF, NCD and Pema Norbu.



Other projects include scholarships to schoolchildren beyond primary levels; alternative income opportunities; and environmental awareness programs. The development of eco-tourism also offers a huge potential to Thrumshingla communities. Local communities are especially interested in markets for Yathra – intricately woven rugs and other products that are a hallmark of the region's culture.

In 2001 WWF jointly funded with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) an ambitious five-year management plan for Thrumshingla National Park. The plan addresses cattle grazing, illegal plant harvesting, habitat degradation and conservation awareness. It is being implemented by the Royal Government of Bhutan, WWF, GEF and the United Nations Development Programme.

Thrumshingla National Park has some of the most breathtaking scenery and natural habitats in the world. It is a source of awe and inspiration for numerous tourists and trekkers and sustains the lives of the communities. With an effective management plan, dedicated park staff and WWF support, it should stay that way for generations to come.



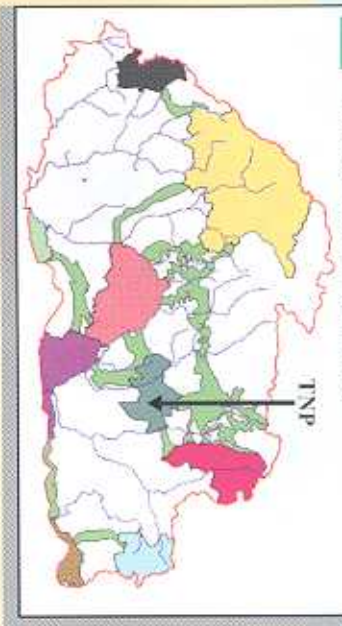
WWF Bhutan,
P.O. Box 210, Thimphu, Bhutan.
www.wwfbhutan.org.bt
Ph.# 323528/323316
Fax # 323518

Thrumshingla National Park,
Ura, Bamtshang, Bhutan.
Email: tnp@drknet.bt
Ph.# 4975-03-635000

WWF
THRUMSHINGLA NATIONAL PARK



...a contribution to the world



Thrumshingla National Park Conservation Success in Bhutan's Heartland

Situated at the very heart of the nation and covering 768 sq. km, Thrumshingla National Park (TNP) is Bhutan's newest national park, officially gazetted in July 1998. Pristine forests ranging from alpine to subtropical broadleaf combine with dramatic mountains over 3,000 meters, snow leopards, tigers, rare plants and red pandas to create a globally important habitat unlike any other. The park is an essential part of the Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex – a system of national parks, protected areas and forest corridors covering 35 percent of the country.

Climate and Vegetation:

Thrumshingla National Park falls within the political boundaries of four dzongkhags (districts) — Bumthang, Mongar, Lhunzise and Zhemgang. With its elevation ranging from less than 1000 m to higher than 4000 m, and temperatures between -21°C and 28°C, the park has some of the most diverse climatic variations and habitats in the world. Forest

vegetation varies from sub-tropical to temperate and alpine, while average rainfall varies from 700 mm in the north to 1500 mm in lowlands. The park is 94 percent forest, with three percent used for pasture and two percent for agriculture.

Species

Thrumshingla is home to more than 68 species of rare and endangered mammals such as tiger, leopard, red panda and Malayan giant squirrel. The park made news in 2000 when a WWF-supported survey team captured a camera-trap image of a tiger at 3,000 meters – the first photographic evidence that the magnificent creatures exist at such high altitudes. Yet another recent wildlife survey found what may be a species of deer that was thought extinct. Further studies will determine if it is in fact the "Bhutan Shou."

More than 620 plant species belonging to 140 families occur in the park, including 152 species with medicinal values. A recent study revealed 21 plant species found only in Thrumshingla National Park. Additionally, one endemic plant, *Lobelia rubigena*, is found in only one location within the park. Three new plant species were found during a recent survey and the park is home to many species of rhododendron, one of which is globally threatened.

The park is a birdwatcher's paradise, with 341 species. Of these, 168 species are found in the warm broadleaf forest and 101 in the cool broadleaf forest. Species include the globally threatened rufous-necked hornbill,

black-necked crane, blood pheasant, wood snipe, nuthatch, blue-naped pitta, brown wood owl, booted eagle, ultramarine flycatcher and black-headed shrike babbler.

People:

Central Bhutan is the cultural and spiritual heartland of the country, with castle-like dzongs and Buddhist monasteries everywhere. Inside Thrumshingla National Park, human habitation is sparse and confined to a few small settlements in the central, northern and southeastern sections. Ura, a village of incredible historical importance, borders the northwestern part of the park, while the ruins of the historic Zhongar Dzong border the eastern part. The local population consists primarily of subsistence farmers, for whom livestock is the primary source of cash income.

Dzongkhag	No. of Household in park area	Buffer zone	Means of livelihood
Bumthang	25	647	-Agriculture, livestock, yatha weaving.
Zhemgang	142	0	-Agriculture, livestock.
Mongar	165	266	-Vegetable, fruits, livestock, resin tapping, lemon grass oil extraction.
Lhunzise	66	320	-Agriculture, livestock, cane weaving, lemon grass oil extraction.

Threats

While the human population is sparse, the cattle population is huge. Almost the entire park area is the registered grazing



A traditional village, Ungar near the park



A park of the broad leaved forest



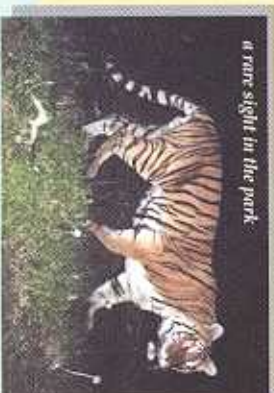
Red Panda, another endangered resident of the park



Rhododendron



Rhododendron



A rare sight in the park