

Full Project Report 2000 BT0008 Women in Environment

Project Summary:

Women in Environment aims at integrating nature conservation and community development in areas in and around Royal Manas National Park through programs such as Non-Formal Education, Alternate income generating activities, Micro-credit and savings, Social Forestry and Environmental/developmental awareness. After having trained 777 NFE graduates, held several trainings on weaving, tailoring, cane and bamboo production, mushroom cultivation, kitchen gardening, availed loans to 175 households, planted 46,200 seedlings of cane/bamboo, and organized and conducted study tours and nature study programs, the project was phased out from RMNP and reestablished in the Phobjikha Conservation Area. Women in this valley will be given the opportunity to receive similar trainings and micro credit schemes. To date, 29 women have been trained in weaving traditional textiles by two master weavers hired by the project. The micro credit scheme will be extended to support activities such as vegetable farming, poultry, piggery and potato cultivation among others.

Project Background:

A significant percentage of the Bhutanese rural population is located in and around protected areas. Most of the rural communities have undergone very little or no development. Besides being one of the most backward areas in the country, it is located in and around the Royal Manas National Park, which is why it was covered under the umbrella of WWF Bhutan Program's projects. In Phobjikha valley, WWF Bhutan is working with the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), the only national NGO dedicated to environmental conservation. RSPN has already initiated several integrated conservation and development programs in the Phobjikha valley such as the Phobjikha Conservation Area Program Committee, which organizes the annual Black Necked Crane Festival and the Women In Environment project.


Project Objectives:

- Improving alternate income generating opportunities by providing vocational training
- Providing small loans/savings facilities
- Capacity building of women by providing trainers, equipments and materials and organizing different activities
- Increasing awareness on conservation and development

Evaluation Criteria:

Activities:

- Vocational training

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- Alternate income generating activities
 - Micro-credit and savings
 - Procurement of equipments and materials
 - Awareness programs

Outputs:

- Local women population trained in weaving
- Trainers hired to train women in weaving
- Credit and Savings facility provided
- Active participation and significant contribution of women in the annual Black Necked Crane festivals
- Awareness on environmental issues and development created.

Indicators:

- Number of women trained
- Size and sources of income
- Number of Credit/Savings program beneficiaries
- Level of contribution of local people for environmental and developmental causes