

**UN BHUTAN COUNTRY FUND**

**BI-ANNUAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**AS OF 30th July 2010**

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| **Participating UN Organization(s)** | UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP | | |
| **MDTF Programme Number** | 00073278 | | |
| **Programme Title** | **Environment** | | |
| **Approved Budget**  **(by PO, if applicable)** | **UNDP: 122,146**  **UNICEF: 20,935**  **UNEP: 48,165** | | |
| **Expenditure**  **(by PO, if applicable)** | UNDP: 125,888.35  UNICEF: 20,934  UNEP: 47,941 | **% of Approved Budget**  **(by PO, if applicable)** | UNDP: 103%  UNICEF: 100%  UNEP: 100% |
| **Forecast Final Date:** | 30th July 2010 | **Delay**  **(if applicable)** | NA |

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| **Qualitative achievements:** |
| * Contributing to the establishment of better preparedness and response systems to reduce risks of the Bhutanese populations from disasters, emergency response kits consisting of basic equipment and supplies were procured by the Department of Disaster Management and distributed to 4 districts (Sarpang, Samtse, Mongar and Trashigang). Specific emergency search and rescue equipment were also distributed to the Royal Bhutan Police. In addition, 80 participants were trained in community based disaster risk management in Bumthang district, covering four geogs. * Communities are adopting mitigation measures to address human-wildlife conflict issues, thereby protecting crops from wildlife depredation (a very common problem in rural Bhutan) following an exposure visit of 9 community leaders and 4 forestry personnel to two national parks in Thailand. The leaders and forestry personnel were exposed to various mitigation measures and functioning of village committees for the resolution of human wildlife conflicts. They were also exposed to potential livelihood and income generation activities through the sustainable use of natural resources. The community leaders demonstrated keen interest in taking up mitigation measures like alarm fencing and adopt the idea of forming village level human wildlife conflict management committees in their villages and improve their existing natural wealth and sell it for nature tourism initiatives. They consider this a possible means to sustainably finance some of the mitigation measures under the Human Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy. * Process for the development of the Bhutan Environment Outlook and its way forward was adopted following a three day inception workshop/training (17th-19th May 2010) in Thimphu. The scope of the report will include the link between the assessment and relevant policy and decision-making processes. The workshop/training also contributed to the enhanced capacity of the environmental and policy-making community on Integrated Environmental Assessment and its participatory process. * Leading towards an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Bhutan, a concept paper for a more detailed water resources inventory has been developed. The paper contains a review of existing statistical data and information systems on water resources and stakeholders involved in water management. * Three officials, who are focal persons for disaster management in the Ministry of Education, have become familiar with the basic concepts and terminologies in disaster management and preparedness planning. They now know how to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development planning and also mainstreaming gender in disaster risk management. They also acquired the basic skills on emergency response management and vulnerability assessment, all of which are very important in the context of Bhutan and in the backdrop of the ever increasing vulnerabilities to disasters. |