[UN Bhutan Country Fund]
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINALPROGRAMME[1] NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM *12.2009* TO *12.2012*

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[2]
- Programme Title: Environment - Programme Number *(if applicable)* - MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[3] 00073278	*(if applicable)* *Country/Region: Bhutan* *Priority area/ strategic results*
Participating Organization(s)	**Implementing Partners**
UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNEP	Department of Disaster Management (MOHCA), Department of Forest and Park Services (MOAF), Secretariat (MOAF), Department of Culture (MOHCA), National Environment Commission Secretariat
Programme/Project Cost (US$)	**Programme Duration**
Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution[4]: *by Agency (if applicable):* *UNDP=**USD 283,060** (This amount excludes the USD 200,000 that was transferred to Poverty Project in 2013 by the MPTF upon request by the Steering Committee. However, this amount is still reflected under the Environment Portfolio on the MPTF Office GATEWAY).* *UNICEF=**USD 100,935*** *UNESCO=**USD 25,000*** *UNEP=**USD 48,165*** Agency Contribution *by Agency (if applicable)* Government Contribution *(if applicable)*	Overall Duration *(months)* Start Date[5] *(16.12.2009)* Original End Date[6] *(31.12.2013)* Actual End date[7]*(31.12.2013)* Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Yes No ☐ ☐

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[1] The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

[2] Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

[3] The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

[4] The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see MPTF Office GATEWAY

[5] The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

[6] As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

[7] If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see MPTF Office Closure Guidelines.

Other Contributions (donors) *(if applicable)*	Programme in its(their) system?
TOTAL:	Expected Financial Closure date[8]:

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	**Report Submitted By**
Evaluation Completed ☐ Yes ☐ No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* Evaluation Report - Attached ☐ Yes ☐ No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*	o Name: Karma L Rapten o Title: Asst. Resident Rep, UNDP & Co-chair of Environment TG o Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP o Email address:karma.rapten@undp.org

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[8] Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the Certified Final Financial Statement and Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The programme contributed to UNDAF Outcome 5: "By 2012, national capacity for environmental sustainability and disaster management strengthened". Support was allocated to five main activities contributing to various outputs and implemented by three different agencies of the Royal Government of Bhutan and four UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP, and UNESCO).

The specific outcome, outputs and objectives under each activity are listed below:

1) The objective of the Disaster Preparedness component (DDM-MoHCA / UNDP, UNICEF) is to contribute to the establishment of better preparedness and response systems to reduce natural disaster risks in fulfillment of:

CT Outcome 5.2: "National capacity for disaster risk management strengthened" through:
- CT Output 2.1: "Capacity of national focal agencies, relevant sectors and disaster management authorities at all levels strengthened to implement disaster management framework;" and
- CT Output 2.2: "Preparedness and response systems to reduce risks, mitigate and cope with disasters/climate change operationalized".

2) The objective of the Implementation of Bhutan Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy component (MoAF / UNDP) is to adopt mitigation measures to address human-wildlife conflict issues, thereby protecting crops from wildlife depredation in fulfillment of:

CT Outcome 5.4: "Conservation of bio-diversity and ecosystems enhanced" through:
- CT Output.4.2: "Sustainable land management, biodiversity Conservation, and utilization of natural resources promoted/strengthened".

3) The objective of the Awareness on Climate Change (UNDP) component was pursued through support to the SAARC Art Camp on Climate Change as a side-event to the 16th SAARC Summit on Climate Change in fulfillment of:

CT Outcome 5.1: "National capacity to address current environmental challenges and mainstream environmental concerns into policies, plans and programs enhanced" through:
- CT Output 1.1. Capacity of national and local authorities/agencies to mainstream environmental concerns strengthened.

4) The objective of the Development of the Bhutan Environment Outlook and Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (UNEP) is to support the development of the Outlook and the Integrated Plan in fulfillment of:

CT Outcome 5:1: "National capacity to address current environmental challenges and mainstream environmental challenges and mainstream environmental concerns into policies, plans and programmes enhanced" through:
- CT Output 1.2: "Environment mainstreaming tools developed".

5) The objective of the International Conference on Disaster management and Cultural Heritage - Living in Harmony with the Four Elements (DDM-MOHCA / UNDP, UNESCO) is to provide technical support to the conference in fulfillment of:

CT Outcome 5.2: "National capacity for disaster risk management strengthened" through:

- CT Output 2.1 Capacity of national focal agencies, relevant sectors and disaster management authorities at all levels strengthened to implement disaster management framework.

I. Assessment of Programme Results

As planned, the programme addressed major challenges and gaps in implementing the Government's 10th FYP. In particular, the programme contributed to the establishment of better preparedness and response systems to reduce risks of the Bhutanese populations from disasters, as well as resulted in strengthened capacity of national focal agencies, relevant sectors and disaster management authorities at all levels to effectively implement the disaster management framework. The programme also addressed the linkages between disaster management and the tangible and intangible aspects of culture, which will assist the government and practitioners in drawing on synergies between Disaster Management and Cultural Heritage, while also strengthening national, regional and global disaster management frameworks. The interventions addressed both long-term and short-term disaster risk reduction issues, learning from experience and lessons from recent/past disasters.

The programme also contributed to enhanced biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods through piloting adaptation measures to address human-wildlife conflict issues, thereby protecting crops and livestock from wildlife depredation, which is a very common problem in rural Bhutan. The programme also contributed to enhanced national capacity to address current environmental challenges and mainstream environmental concerns into policies, plans and programs through strengthening environmental reporting mechanisms in the government.

The main beneficiaries of this programme include: i) national institutions and staff involved in environment and disaster risk management, local governments and local government functionaries, as well as local communities all across Bhutan.

Key outputs of the programme included:

- Strengthened emergency response mechanisms in the government through implementation of a comprehensive search and rescue training conducted for 30 national stakeholders from the government, Royal Bhutan Police, Royal Bhutan Army, Royal Body Guards and corporate agencies. Basic emergency and search and rescue equipment and supplies were procured by the Department of Disaster Management and distributed to districts (Sarpang, Samtse, Mongar andTrashigang) and the armed forces; A Bhutan Disaster Assessment (BDA) tool along with associated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was drafted in line with the draft Disaster Management Bill and trainings were conducted to roll out these assessment tools. In addition, the Emergency Info, which is a DevInfo application was adapted in the form of BDA-Info within the Department of Disaster Management to manage disaster related data and information.
- Disaster preparedness and response capacities strengthened through a safe school initiative that was conducted for 90 teachers in Trashigang district;
- Enhanced capacity of local communities to respond and cope with disasters in 3 districts (Bumthang, Trashigang and Trashi Yangtshe) through Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training of trainers for more than 160 district and bock officials;
- Strengthened livelihoods and natural resources management through mitigation of human-wildlife conflict issues. Through the initiative, Bhutanese communities adopted pilot measures such as construction of alarm fencing, formation of village-level human wildlife conflict management committees, as well as considering possible sustainable financing mechanisms. The programme also funded an exposure visit of 9 community leaders and 4 forestry personnel to two national parks in Thailand through which participants were exposed on relevant mitigation options and measuresas well as potential livelihood and income generating activities through sustainable use of natural resources.

- Enhanced knowledge and awareness on climate change issues in the region through support provided to organization of the SAARC Art Camp on Climate Change as a side-event to the 16th SAARC Summit on Climate Change held in Thimphu in April 2010. Artists from all eight SAARC member states were invited to the Art Camp to depict Climate Change, interact, and expose their works for the Summit delegates. In addition to the formal exhibition at the Summit, the diverse art works created during the Art Camp – some using provocative expressions and ways - received great attention from media and the general public as an innovative way to address development issues in the Bhutanese setting;
- Enhanced environmental reporting mechanism through the development of Bhutan Environment Outlook and an action plan for an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Bhutan;
- The programme also supported the "International Conference on Disaster Management and Cultural Heritage - Living in Harmony with the Four Elements" which was held in Thimphu from 12-14 December 2010, which brought together 153 participants from 24 countries including Bhutan. The conference addressed the linkages between disaster management and the tangible and intangible aspects of culture. The main outcome of the conference deliberations ("Thimphu document") holds a set of universal principles and practical recommendations, which will assist governments and practitioners in drawing on synergies between Disaster Management and Cultural Heritage, while also strengthening national, regional and global disaster management frameworks.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWPs** - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
UNDAF Outcome 5: By 2012, national capacity for environmental sustainability and disaster management strengthened (MDG 7) **Indicator:** - National policies and plans incorporating environment/ disaster/ climate concerns - Disaster management framework in place - Number of remote households with access to renewable energy - CO_2 emissions, total, per capita - Proportion of land area covered by forest **Baseline:** - National policies and plans do not adequately address environment/disaster and climate change concerns. - Not available - 4341 (2007) - 1540.9 Gg CO_2 equivalent (2000) total, 2.4 tonnes CO_2 equivalent per capita - 72.5 % **Planned Target:** - 11th FYP Incorporates environment, disaster and climate change concerns - Disaster Management framework operationalized - 8000 households - Carbon Neutral - Maintain at least 60%	-11FYP guidelines mandated sectoral agencies to mainstream cross-cutting issues such as environment, climate change, poverty -Disaster Risk Management Framework implemented and Disaster Management Act finalized - National forest cover maintained at current level		- 11 FYP Guidelines - 11 FYP - Annual Progress Reports - Disaster Management Act - MoAF Website
CT Output 5.1.1: Capacity of national and local authorities/agencies to mainstream environmental concerns strengthened **CT Output 5.1.2:** Environment mainstreaming tools developed	- Enhanced knowledge and awareness on climate change issues in the region through support provided to SAARC Art Camp on Climate Change as a side-event to the 16th SAARC Summit on Climate Change held in Thimphu in April 2010; - Enhanced environmental reporting mechanism through the development of Bhutan Environment Outlook and an action plan for an Integrated Water Resources Management		- Report of the SAARC Summit on Climate Change - Bhutan Environment Outlook Report - Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management in Bhutan, NEC

	Plan for Bhutan		
CT Output 5.2.1: Capacity of national focal agencies, relevant sectors and disaster management authorities at all levels strengthened to implement disaster management framework **CT Output 5.2.2:** Preparedness and response systems to reduce risks, mitigate and cope with disasters/climate change operationalized	- Strengthened emergency response mechanisms through search and rescue training of DRR institutions and individuals – Procurement of basic emergency and search and rescue equipment and supplies – Finalized Bhutan Disaster Assessment (BDA) tool along with associated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) - Emergency Info, which is a DevInfo application was adapted in the form of BDA-Info within the Department of Disaster Management to manage disaster related data and information. - Disaster preparedness and response capacities strengthened through a safe school initiative conducted for 90 teachers in Trashigang district; - Enhanced local community capacity to respond and cope with disasters in 3 districts (Bumthang, Trashigang and Trashi Yangtshe) through Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training of trainers for more than 160 district and bock officials; -Support provided against "International Conference on Disaster Management and Cultural Heritage - Living in Harmony with the Four Elements" which was held in Thimphu from 12-14 December 2010, which addressed the linkages between disaster management and the tangible and intangible aspects of culture. The main outcome of the conference deliberations ("Thimphu document") holds a set of universal principles and practical recommendations, which will assist governments and practitioners in drawing on synergies between Disaster Management and Cultural Heritage, while also strengthening national, regional and global disaster management frameworks.		- Department of Disaster Management (MOHCA) - Final Bhutan Disaster Assessment Tools for Bhutan - Report of the Safe School Initiatives on DRR - CBRDM Training Manuals and Curriculum, DDM - Report of the Internal Conference on Disaster Management and Cultural Heritage - Living in Harmony with the Four Elements" which was held in Thimphu from 12-14 December 2010
CT Output 5.4.2: Sustainable land management, biodiversity Conservation, and utilization of natural resources promoted/strengthened	Strengthened livelihoods and natural resources management through pilot human-wildlife conflict management measures and techniques		- Annual Reports of the Wildlife Conservation Division (DOFS) - Impact Assessment of Human-Wildlife Conflict Interventions, 2013 - National Strategy for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management in Bhutan, 2008

iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- A mid-term self-assessment for UNDAF Outcome 5 was conducted during the programme cycle and recommendations from the evaluation was considered in the implementation of DAO funds in the specific areas prioritized in consultation with government counterparts.
- Some delays occurred in programme implementation due to time constraints of district officials to implement disaster management activities and unavailability of community members to attend CBDRM-trainings during farming seasons. Lessons learnt from the CBDRM-trainings were used to revise the curriculum.
- Aligning DAO interventions with programming regular development assistance is key to the success of the interventions. In the context of Bhutan, existing programmes such as the Bhutan Recovery and Reconstruction project formulated after the 2009 earthquake in eastern Bhutan complimented the efforts under DAO implementation and vice versa. The project also benefited from support provided, especially in strengthening national capacity on emergency repose and search and rescue.
- While DAO funds resulted in significant impacts on the ground through pilot initiatives (eg. human-wildlife conflict management interventions), it is important to ensure continuity and up-scaling of these programmes through institutionalization of these efforts in government programmes for long-term sustainability and results.

iv) A Specific Story (Optional)

- This could be a success or human story. <u>It does not have to be a success story – often the most interesting and useful lessons learned are from experiences that have not worked</u>. The point is to highlight a concrete example with a story that has been important to your Programme.
- In ¼ to ½ a page, provide details on a specific achievement or lesson learned of the Programme. Attachment of supporting documents, including photos with captions, news items etc, is strongly encouraged. The MPTF Office will select stories and photos to feature in the Consolidated Annual Report, the GATEWAY and the MPTF Office Newsletter.

Problem / Challenge faced: Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).

Programme Interventions: How was the problem or challenged addressed through the Programme interventions?

Result (if applicable): Describe the observable *change* that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?

Lessons Learned: What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?