



HELVETAS

Together for a better world

BHUTAN



Annual Programme 2009

April 2009

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Acronyms and Glossary

CF	Community Forest
CoOf	Helvetas-Bhutan Coordination Office
CoE	College of Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DTD	Dairy Technology Development
GAO	Gewog Administrative Officer
LG	Local Government
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MPU	Milk Processing Unit
NGO	Non Government Organization
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PFMP	Participatory Forest Management Project
RGoB	Royal Government of Bhutan
SBP	Suspension Bridge Programme
SLG	Support for Local Governance
SSTB	Short Span Trail Bridge
PPS	Policy and Planning Support
RDT	Rural Development Training
RLP	Rural Livelihood Project

1. Development Context

1.1 Brief Country Context:

One year into the introduction of Parliamentary Democracy, several milestones are expected to take place in 2009:

- implementation of the CSO Act, registration of existing local civil society organizations, and formation of a few new NGOs;
- finalization and passing of the Local Government (LG) Bill 2009, and conduct of local government elections; and
- implementation of the Cooperatives Act and plans to initiate simpler regulations within the Act to enable farmers' groups to gain a legal status.

There is increasingly more public interest on issues that directly affect them, and discussions and debates on these have been growing - quality and efficiency of public services, corruption, rules and regulations and their implications, and deliberations in the Parliament.

In the economic sector, work on several of the 10 selected sites for hydropower projects will start (10th plan goal - 1602 MW). Activities in the tourism sector are expected to receive emphasis, specifically in diversifying tourism products (eco-tourism, community-based tourism, identification of new trails and tour packages).

1.2 Brief Programme Context

Within the overall framework of the country programme (2008-2012), the major focus will be on the NRM sector both in terms of number of projects and financial volume. However, there is increasing emphasis on more direct engagements in the area of governance. Even as a cross cutting theme, governance aspects in NRM and infrastructure building projects will be monitored and documented more systematically (case study on forestry and governance in the pipeline; documentation on governance in bridge building will be done). Opportunities for entering into small interventions that are meaningful and are within the overall objectives of Helvetas will be sought in close consultation with Helvetas head office.

2. Outlook 2009

2.1 Education Youth and Culture

Expansion of Colleges of Education (CoE) Paro and Samtse:

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- 2 hostels (one funded by the RGoB) in Paro CoE expected to be completed by mid of 2009
 - Compound development in Paro CoE
 - Learners Resource Center in Samtse CoE
 - Further development of the college maintenance units capacity to operate and maintain the completed and handed over infrastructure.
 - Establish the operation and maintenance documentation including “as built” drawings and inspection checklists, enhancing the management capacity in operating and maintaining infrastructure and introducing a room and space management concept in order to optimize the use of the infrastructure.
 - Completion of annual audit and final report
- To carry out an impact assessment of Swiss engagement in the education sector by an external consultant (covering PEP, PITT, SEP, STEP and Infrastructure)

Thangkha Painting project

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- Set-up of work studios
- Procurement of materials, including import of stone or rock paints from Nepal
- Design and weaving of silk textiles
- Start of painting process
- Supervision of painting process

Bhutan-Swiss Archaeology project

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- Documentation of the excavations
- Introduce the cantonal archaeology departments of Switzerland and how they are embedded in the Swiss legal system through conducting a workshop in Bhutan. Swiss experts will give lectures on the functional, financial and political dimension of archaeology in Switzerland. Legal issues such as property rights will be of special concern
- A short-term training in Switzerland for relevant Bhutanese specialist. Recommended activities include: visits to excavation sites (ongoing excavation and finished projects), visits to specialized laboratories dealing with the conservation and analyses of artefacts (ETH etc.), visits to various Swiss Institutes dealing with archaeology in the broader sense (Universities, cantonal and civic archaeology departments) and visits to different kinds of museums

2.2 Rural Infrastructure

Suspension Bridge Programme (SBP)

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- Construction of new bridges mainly of the SSTB type. SBP is currently compiling and scrutinizing the design and estimates sent by the Dzongkhags
- Sending of first batch (tentatively 12-14 nos.) of Dzongkhag engineers for a degree course in India
- Practical training on SSTB suspension bridge
- External backstopping mission

Tang Bridge

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- Preparations and floating of tender following RGoB tendering processes.
- Start of bridge foundation work.
- Supervision of construction.

2.3 Natural Resources Management

Participatory Forest Management Project (PFMP)

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- Establishment of at least new Community Forests (CFs) and CFMG (Community Forest Management Groups)
- Strengthen economic enterprise development related activities in CFs
- Review and printing of CF manual.
- Fine tuning of activities for the remaining three years of the project phase
- Capacity building – several in-service trainings, 2 master courses, in-country workshops
- The Nature and Conservation Rules are due for revision and the project will have conducted or initiated several studies to "influence" the rules
- Collaboration with other programs and organizations (within and outside Helvetas like SNV, SLMP, CBNRM) will be continued
- New Project Advisor in place
- In-country workshops

Rural Development Training (RDT)

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- Start of new phase
- Needs assessment of farmers' groups (also in new areas) and upgrade and adapt business plan module within the FBT
- Follow-up services
- Farmer to farmer information and experience sharing forum, and disseminating relevant information to farmers (collected and compiled from MoA's marketing services)
- Support CNR to develop business plan and farm economics facilitation modules for extension agents, pilot testing and finalization
- Conduct awareness/orientation for school youths on potential of agriculture for self-employment and income generation
- Complete infrastructure development (one staff quarter)
- Introduce standardized tool sets for continuous assessment of program quality
- Capacity development of RDT instructors within the RDT HRD masterplan
- Assess potential and provide training for third parties on request
- Develop and apply rules for cost-recovery training based on a long term business plan

Rural Livelihood Project (RLP)

Main priorities in 2009 are:

- Support for small enterprise development (piggery, fishery, poultry farms, goat farming, MPUs), including capacity development of farmers' groups to set up and run the enterprises
- Demonstration plot for citrus development and citrus nursery
- Improve post-harvest management, storage facilities and processing facilities to reduce post harvest losses
- Support the development of market outlets
- Support the exhibition of RNR technologies to farmers
- Technical assistance for participatory market chain analysis (in collaboration with RDT) and fishery program

Dairy Technology Development (DTD)

Main Priorities in 2009 are:

- In-country training in milk processing for extension staff of the Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture
- In-country training of technicians from existing milk processing units and new milk processing units in improved milk processing technology

- Supervise quality of products

Moa policy and planning support

Main Priorities in 2009 are:

- Priorities will be based on the priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture. The inputs will partly consist of follow up activities from inputs in 2008 (such as Food Policy consultancy).
- Facilitating access to information and expertise
- Supporting short term inputs by specialists (e.g. Food policy)
- Inputs by CoOF

2.4 Civil Society and the State

Support for Local Governance

The main priorities in 2009 are:

- Fine-tuning of action plan if necessary
- Coordination and networking among projects and stakeholders from RGoB
- Capacity Development of local government functionaries after finalization of the national Integrated Capacity Development Plan. This includes orienting Gewog and Dzongkhag functionaries in the three target Dzongkhags on gender mainstreaming
- In-country training for Gewog Administrative Officers
- Identification and start-up of support to CSOs/non-state actors

Support to the Tarayana Foundation

The main activities planned for 2009 are:

- Support for community groups in three target areas in identifying, producing and developing at least one niche product from each community. In parallel, support for production, post-production and processing of products.
- Networking with other projects involved with farmers' groups and CSOs
- Support target communities in marketing and facilitating sale of crafts. This will include development of common facility centers (community work sheds cum sale outlets).
- Short-term training in the region for the Foundation Staff specifically in the areas of marketing strategies, rural enterprise development, and NGO management.
- Support the Foundation's efforts at documentation (video + publications)

2.5 Programme Office

Coordination Office

The main activities planned for 2009 are:

- Programme/project management, monitoring and reporting
- Donor collaboration and coordination
- Representation in steering committees and planning, decision-making forums
- Cooperation with partners from the government, NGOs, and farmers' groups
- Public relations
- Providing procurement and logistics support, including for HRD for partners

Small Actions

The main activities planned for 2009 are:

- Support small initiatives contributing towards poverty reduction, gender equality and equity enhancing activities, building on partnerships with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, and complementing and adding value to on-going projects.

Major Events

Main events planned for 2009 are:

- Improving/updating the Helvetas-Bhutan website by end of January 2009
- Staff re-organization and revision of ToR by end of May 2009
- Preparations for programme review 2010 starting in December 2009

3. Budget

Project Name	Budget
PO - Programme Office 2009	201,604
ProDev - Programme Development 2009	-
CoE - Expansion for Colleges of Education Paro/Samtse (SDC) 2002-09	1,013,301
SBP - Suspension Bridge Programme (SDC) 2007-10	464,354
PFMP - Participatory Forest Management Project (SDC) 2007-12	743,988
RDT - Rural Development Training Programme 2009-11	177,147
RLP - Rural Livelihood Project 2008-10	647,684
BIO - Bio Bhutan 2005-10	

	1,694
Tarayana - Support to Tarayana Foundation 2008-10	121,884
DTD - Dairy Technology Development 2009-10	28,834
DTD TA - Dairy Technology Development Technical Assistance 2008-10	73,182
RDG - Support to Local Governance 2008-10	336,909
MoA Planning and Policy Support	21,816
Small Projects 2009	39,223
Tang Bridge	102,133
Thankha	25,656
Drapham	63,988
TOTAL	4,063,397