SAI - BHUTAN

CHINA
BHUTAN
NEPAL
INDIA
BANGLADESH

Bhutan's Development Philosophy

Gross National Happiness

4 Pillars of GNH

i. Promotion of equitable and sustainable socio-economic development,

ii. Preservation and promotion of cultural values,

iii. Establishment of good governance &

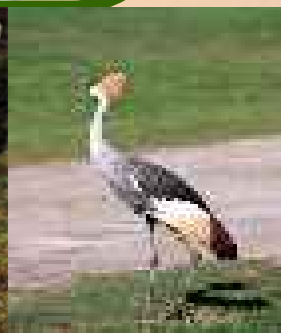
iv. Conservation of the natural environment

Major Environmental Concern of Bhutan

- Increasing Population
- Increase use of land for agricultural production
- Increase demand for livestock products
- Demand for fodder, grazing, firewood, non-wood forest products and building materials
- Increase in road networks
- Increase in mining & industrialization
- Improper Urban Development

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

- 72.50% of Bhutan under Forest Cover
- 26.23% under protected areas (9 Parks, Reserves and Sanctuaries)
- Biodiversity includes 7000 vascular plants, 700 birds and 250 Mammals
- Unique & endangered species include Golden Languor, Snow Leopard, Takin, White Rhino, Musk Deer and Black Necked Crane.



General Government Environmental Policies

- Ensuring sustainable use of Natural Resources
- Preparation of Master Plans for different sectors
- Use of Economic Incentives
- Community and NGOs involvement
- National Environment Commission
- Bhutan Trust Fund
- Nature Conservation Division

Draft Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan

- Minimum 60% of Bhutan's total land to be maintained under forest cover for all time;
- Intergenerational equity benefting present and future generations.

The Middle Path

(Achieving Sustainable Development)

1. Expanding Hydropower
2. Increasing Agricultural self sufficiency
3. Expanding Industrial Base

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. Environmental Assessment Act 2000
2. Strategic Environmental Assessment 2002
3. Forest Act 1969
4. Forest & Nature Conservation Act 1995
5. Mines & Minerals Act 1999
6. Sectoral Guidelines
7. Environmental Codes of Practices

Bhutan in International Arena (Environment)

- Signatory to 10 Multilateral Agreements
- Party to the convention on Biological Diversity
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 2004 Champion of Earth from UNEP
- 2 awards for Restoring Ozone Layer from UNEP in 2007.

RAA Initiatives in Environmental Auditing

- More than 30 auditors trained in EA
- Auditors trained through short term training
- MSc in EIA, EMS and EA
- Efforts made to look into Environmental Aspects in all normal audits
- Separate EA Section to be opened in 10th Five Year Plan (2008-2013)

Thank You