

THE WANGCHUCK CENTENNIAL PARK LAUNCHED



The new building

The Wangchuck Centennial Park was designated and launched on 12 December 2008 as a tribute to the visionary leadership and sacrifice of the Wangchuck dynasty. The Park is the largest park with 4914 km² and extends all the way from Lunana in the west to Trashiyangtse in the east covering parts of 5 Dzongkhags and 10 geogs.



Harbouring headwaters for all the major river systems in Bhutan, this park is significant in terms of ensuring water security for Bhutan. As an area which is perhaps the only space on this planet where the Tiger and the Snow Leopard roam together it is a truly outstanding global treasure. With increasing threats associated with Climate Change, such conservation is not only timely but urgent. While the setting up of the park itself may not halt global climate change, the setting aside of such an area would help raise global awareness on the impacts of climate change in the Himalayas.



Signing the letter of intent

Bhutan has always had a global reputation for having sound environmental policies. The Wangchuck Centennial Park is yet another demonstration of the commitment of the Bhutanese Government to ensure the conservation of the some of the last remaining unique landscapes and species on this planet.

WWF-Bhutan has been a steadfast partner in Bhutan's conservation efforts and they have funded most of the conservation activities in Bhutan. They have been instrumental in visioning the declaring the Wangchuk Centennial Park. They understand the role and importance of Bhutan's conservation efforts, and its regional and global significance.



Mr. Carter S. Roberts, the President of WWF-US, enjoying the view while riding a horse

In his first ever visit to Bhutan, Mr. Carter S. Roberts, the President of WWF-US was hosted for 3 nights (12th to 14th April 2009) by Lyonpo (Dr.) Pema Gyamtsho, Minister for Agriculture at Nasiphel where the Park Head Office for the Wangchuck Centennial Park will be established. The President was also accompanied by his wife, the Managing Director of WWF-US for the Eastern Himalayas, Mr. Miceler, the Board of Directors from WWF-US, Mr. and Mrs Litterman and Mr and Mrs Grantham. With them was also a long time supporter of WWF-Bhutan, Miss Meeker.

Given Bhutan's commitment and dedication to conservation, the Ministry of Agriculture and the WWF-US signed a letter of intent which envisions future partnership in terms of joining management of the park and funding of the management plan by the WWF-US. Such joint management is the first of its kind in Bhutan's conservation history and demonstrates the trust and faith between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the WWF.

In continuation, the Minister of Agriculture also opened the temporary Park Head office at Chamkhar, Bumthang on the 15th of April, 2009.

- from press release from Wangchuk Centennial Park