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INTRODUCTION

The second Bhutan Bird Festival (BBF) will be held in Tingtbi, Zhemgang from November 11 to 13, 2019. The BBF intends to encourage local community of Zhemgang to protect their rich forest and conserve high diversity of wildlife.

Zhemgang is a popular birding destination.

With the Dzongkhag boundary intersecting with three protected areas – Royal Manas National Park, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National

Park and Phrumsengla National Park, Zhemgang is home to more than 500 species of birds. White-bellied heron are found in Mangdechhu and its tributaries. All the four species of hornbill found in Bhutan – Rufous-necked Hornbill, Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill and Pied Hornbill are sighted at different

elevations. Beautiful Nuthatch is



occasionally sighted at the upper regions of Zhemgang.



Twin waterfall - Ngangla





Besides high avi-faunal diversity, Zhemgang is home to the highest density (4 tigers/100 sq.km) of Royal Bengal tiger in the country. The Dzongkhag also a safe home to Golden Langur that is endemic to Bhutan and part of Assam. This is place that provides exciting river journey, wish fulfilling bird sighting and healing hot spring bath. Zhemgang's people are humble and offer the best experience of rural life.

Bhutan Bird Festival is an annual event for Zhemgang Dzongkhag and a signature event to promote community-based ecotourism with objectives to:

1. Celebrate birth anniversary of Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck and pay tribute to His Majesty's visionary leadership to conservation in Bhutan.
2. Promote Community-based ecotourism in Zhemgang through signature events like river journey and bird watching.
3. Provide opportunities for local people to participate in festival and enhance their income





Manas river - Ngangla



EVENTS OF THE FESTIVAL

1. PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

- i. **Bird-athon:** Birders can form a group consisting 1-4 members or individuals can participate. The group or individual can do birding for three days from November 8-10, choosing one of the transects.



- a) Panbang to Tingtibi (75 kms)
- b) Batasey to Tingtibi (65 kms)
- c) Buli to Tingtibi (57 kms)
- d) Koshala to Tingtibi (55 kms)
- e) Zhemgang to Tingtibi via Dakphel (33 kms)
- f) Zhemgang to Tingtibi via Wangdigang (34 kms)

While the group or individuals will be allowed to choose any afore mentioned transects for birding, birders should submit Photographs and acoustics recording to the event organizer on November 11, 2019; 8.00 am at the festival venue. A nominal registration fee of Nu 1,000 per head should be deposited at the time of registration and the top three birding groups will be awarded cash prizes.



ii. Photo Framing (Photographic contest): Interested groups or individuals can take photographs of wildlife (mammals, birds, butterflies and reptiles) and landscape (natural areas and cultural landscape) within the jurisdiction of Zhemgang.

The photographs should be recent, taken within a month from the date of submission. The electronic copy of photographs should be submitted to the event organizer on November 11, 2019; 10.00 am at the festival venue. Participants should submit three best photographs for each category. A nominal registration fee of Nu 1,000 per head should be deposited at the time of registration and the top three photographers will be awarded cash prizes.





iii. **Art and Literary Competition:** Art and literary competition will be organized among the 30 Schools of Zhemgang in the following category and themes:

- Class PP- III (Drawing: My favorite bird)
- Class IV - VI (Drawing: Protect & conserve forest)
- Class VII - VIII (Essay: Save forest to save birds)
- Class IX - X (Letter to humans from white bellied heron)
- Class XI - XII (Poem: Untouched natural beauty of Zhemgang)

The results of the competition will be declared on November 11, 2019 during the opening ceremony of the festival. Works of the winners will be framed and displayed during three days' festival.



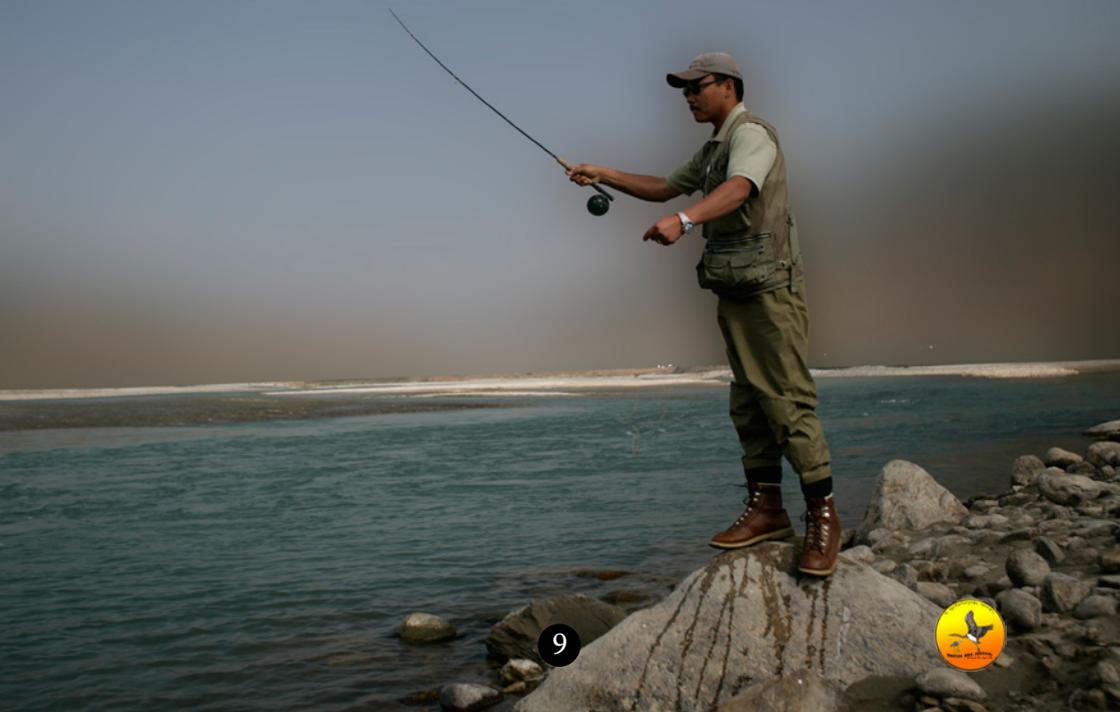


2. MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS

iv. Capture Fishery:

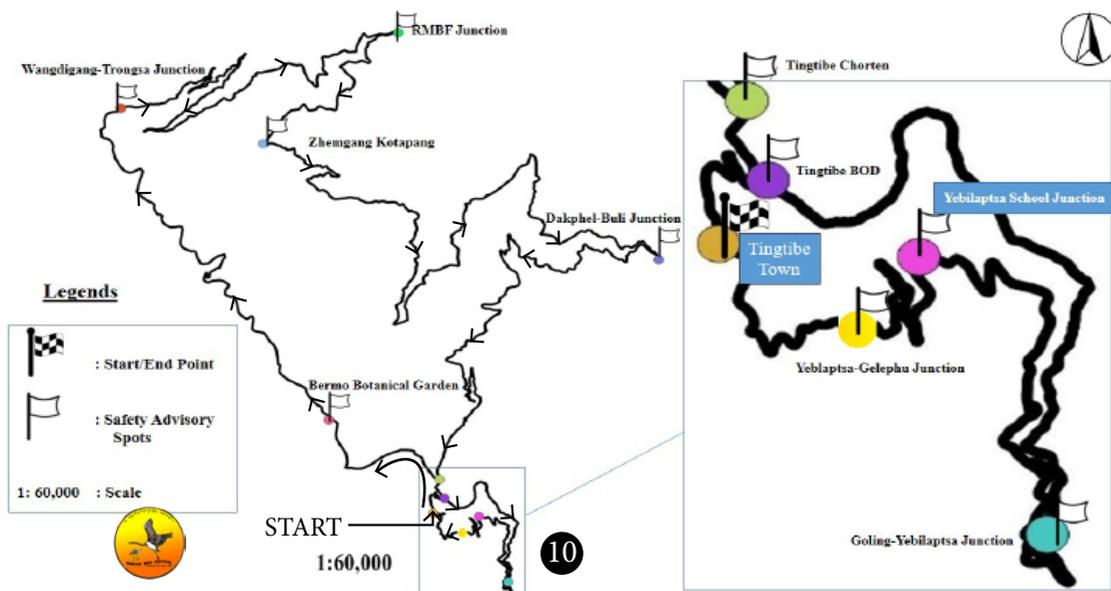
It will be organized by the Berti Capture Fishery Management Group (BCFMG). The community will offer recreational fishing (catch and release) using local trap (Nyee) or fly-fishing equipment.

This event is valid only from November 10 to 14, 2019 (excluding November 12, 2019 as it coincides with Bhutanese full moon day) from morning, 9.00 am to 12 Noon and afternoon from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm with the fishing duration of three hours per permit. The BCFMG will also provide local guides. A nominal fee of Nu. 500 per head for local guest & Nu. 1,000 per head for foreign guests and should be deposited at the time of registration at the event venue.



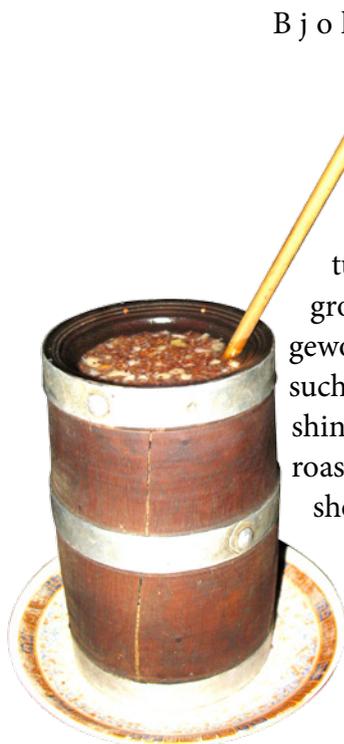


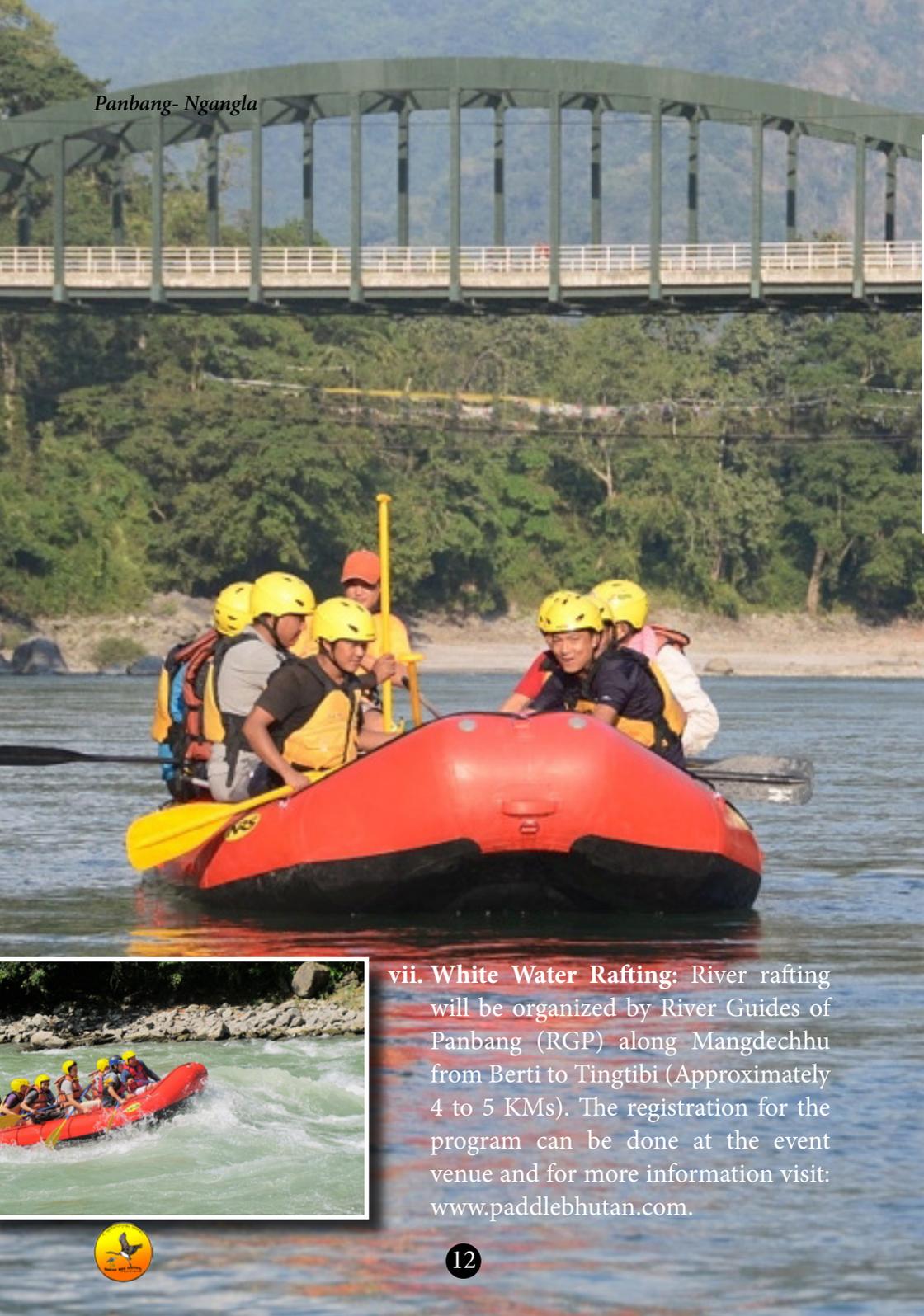
v. Cyclothon: Cycling competition will be organized on the second day of the festival (November 12, 2019) for professionals and novices. The event will start from 7:30 am and end at 3:30 pm with its voted route from Tingtibi-Wangdigang – Zhemgang – Dakphel – Tingtibi – Phophel – Yebilaptsa – Tingtibi which is approximately 85 KMs. A nominal registration fee of Nu. 7,000 per head for local guest & Nu. 10,000 per head for foreigners should be deposited at the time of registration. Participants are requested to bring your own bikes. The top three cyclists will be awarded attractive cash prizes and certificate of participation will be awarded to all participants. All participants are requested to report on 10th November and an opportunity for pre test run along the route can be availed.





vi. Food stalls: Food stalls will be one of the main events of the festival. Food stalls will be installed for displaying local cuisines from eight gewogs. Bjoka Tsharzo Gongphel Tshogpa - a farmers' group from B j o k a gewog will display assortment of cane and bamboo products, Khengrig Namsum Cooperative (KNC) will present processed food products like banana candy, potato chips and pickles. A Dakphel women's group under Nangkor gewog will put on show like turmeric and ginger powder while Buli Farmers' group shall exhibit its gene bank seeds. Other gewogs will come up with non-wood forest products such as patsha, mochali, damroo, mushroom, Kinmar, shingmar, fruits, cereals, tengmaand zaw, cooked and roasted tubers, bamboo shoots and ferns. MPU's will show case their fresh and processed dairy products.





vii. White Water Rafting: River rafting will be organized by River Guides of Panbang (RGP) along Mangdechhu from Berti to Tingtibi (Approximately 4 to 5 KMs). The registration for the program can be done at the event venue and for more information visit: www.paddlebhutan.com.





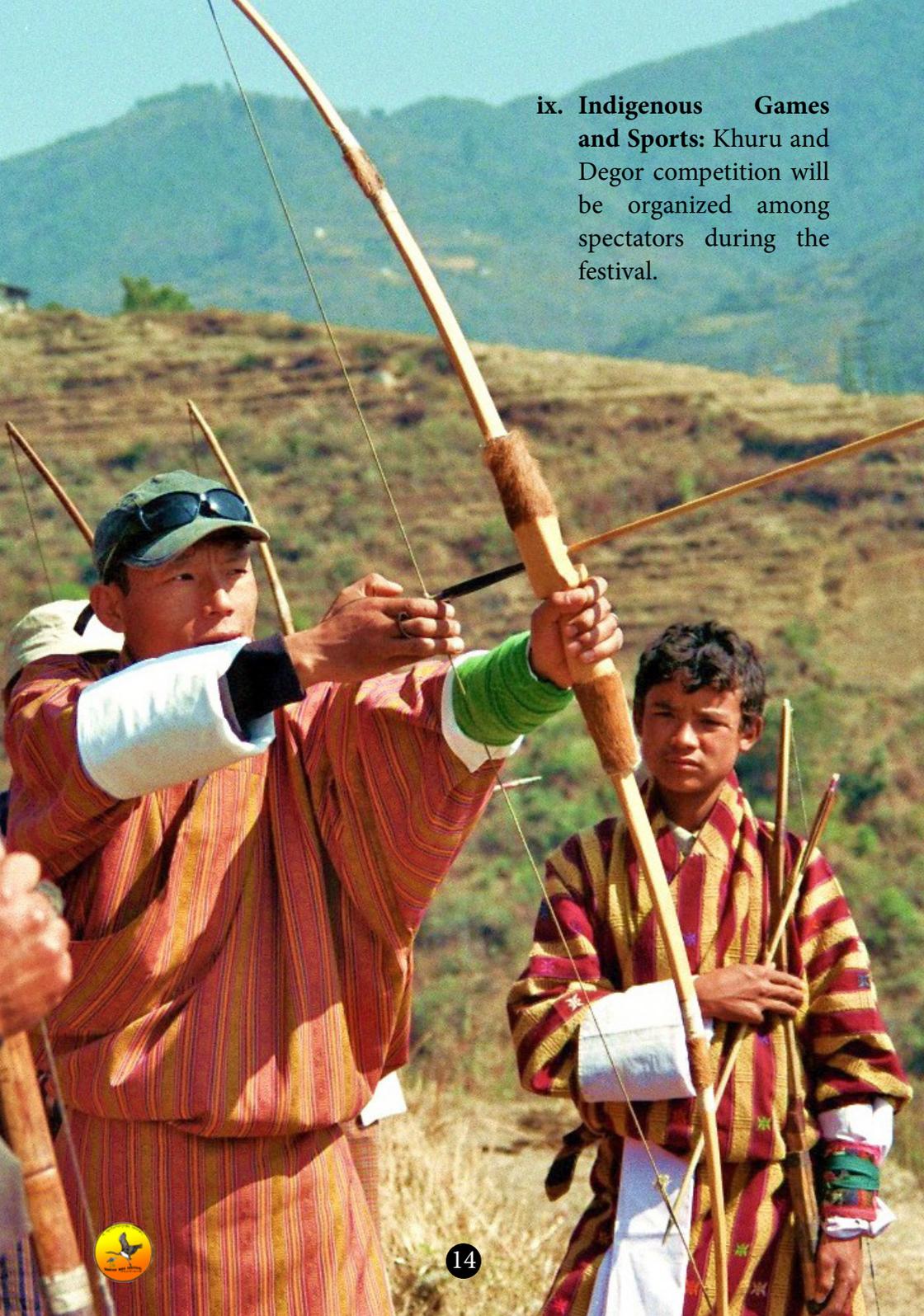
viii. Cultural Extravaganza:

Cultural programmes will be organized in the following approach towards the evening of the three festival days (7:00 pm-10:00 pm):

- Night 1: Songs and dances by Schools and local artists
- Night 2: Screening movies and documentaries
- Night 3: Songs and dances by Schools and local artists



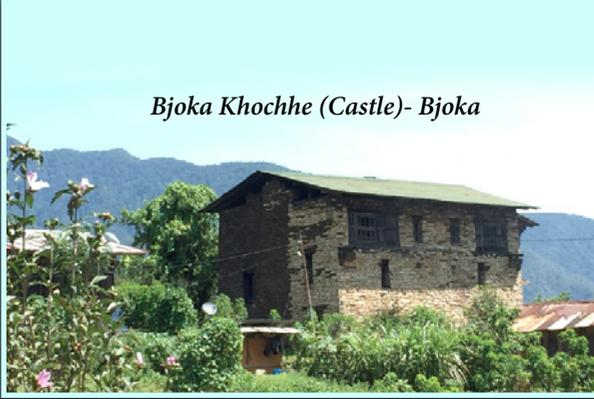
ix. **Indigenous Games and Sports:** Khuru and Degor competition will be organized among spectators during the festival.



Bjoka Khochhe (Castle)- Bjoka

3. POST FESTIVAL EVENTS

- x. **Photography Trip:** Two areas are identified for the post festival event. The participants can either choose to travel to Shingkhar (6 Hrs drive) in Upper Kheng or Bjoka (5 Hrs drive) in Lower Kheng.



In Upper Kheng, participants can see beautiful landscapes, religious sites, birds and wildlife, Buli village and experience home stay facilities in Buli. In Lower Kheng, there is twin waterfall, Bjoka Khoche Castle, cane and bamboo showroom, birding areas, Royal Manas National Park and experience facilities of eco-camps.

A nominal registration fee will be charged for those requiring local guide.



Duenmang tshachu - Nangkor



xi. Trip to Duenmang Tshachu (Hot Spring): A three-day trip to Duenmang Tshachu (Hot Spring) will be organized as part of the post festival event. Since November is the peak season, participants will have to book accommodation in advance and make their own arrangements for meals while pantry facilities shall be provided.

