



Bhutan Trek 2012:

Part 2- On the Road

From Himalayan Highlands to Tropical Rainforest

We headed south toward the border with India,
through a valley where a hydroelectric power
dam is under construction





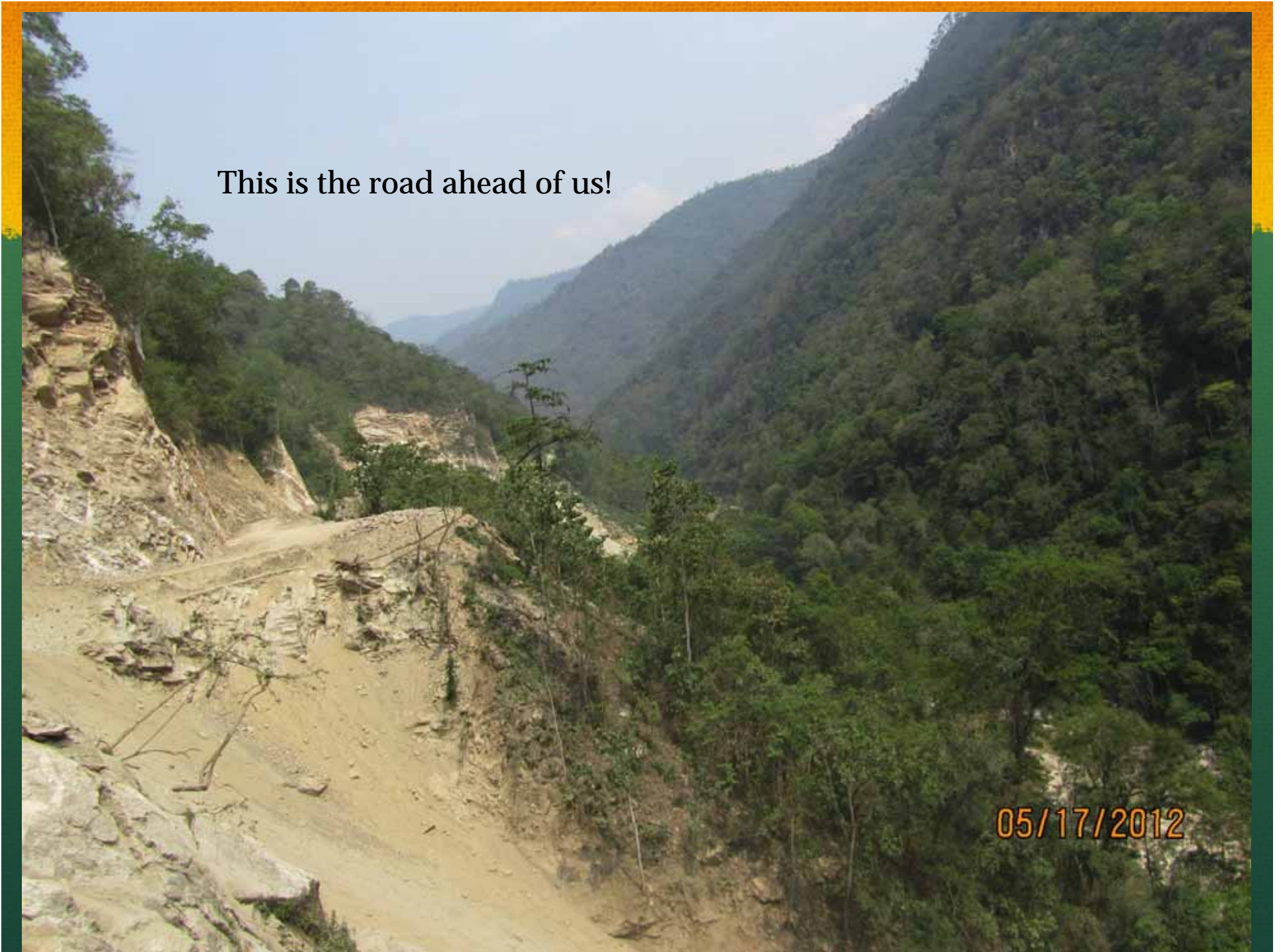
These roads are still under construction.

The roads are unpaved and have no guard rails.

The valley floor is far below. The edge of the road is near the bottom of the photo. Can you see the road we traveled on the other side of the valley?

This is the road ahead of us!

05/17/2012



Our little bus on the road in southern Bhutan where there are tropical banana plants and other signs of warm climate.



Rocks on the road were a hazard to our little bus, but it never failed us.



We stopped often to look for birds and mammals. We saw lots of birds in a valley near Phunakha.



We use a guidebook to identify birds
that are new to us.



The valley was lush with new
springtime leaves and flowers.



05/10/2012

We camped above this river.



Greg photographed birds so that we would remember what species we saw and what they look like. These are a greenbacked tit and a hoopoe (on right).



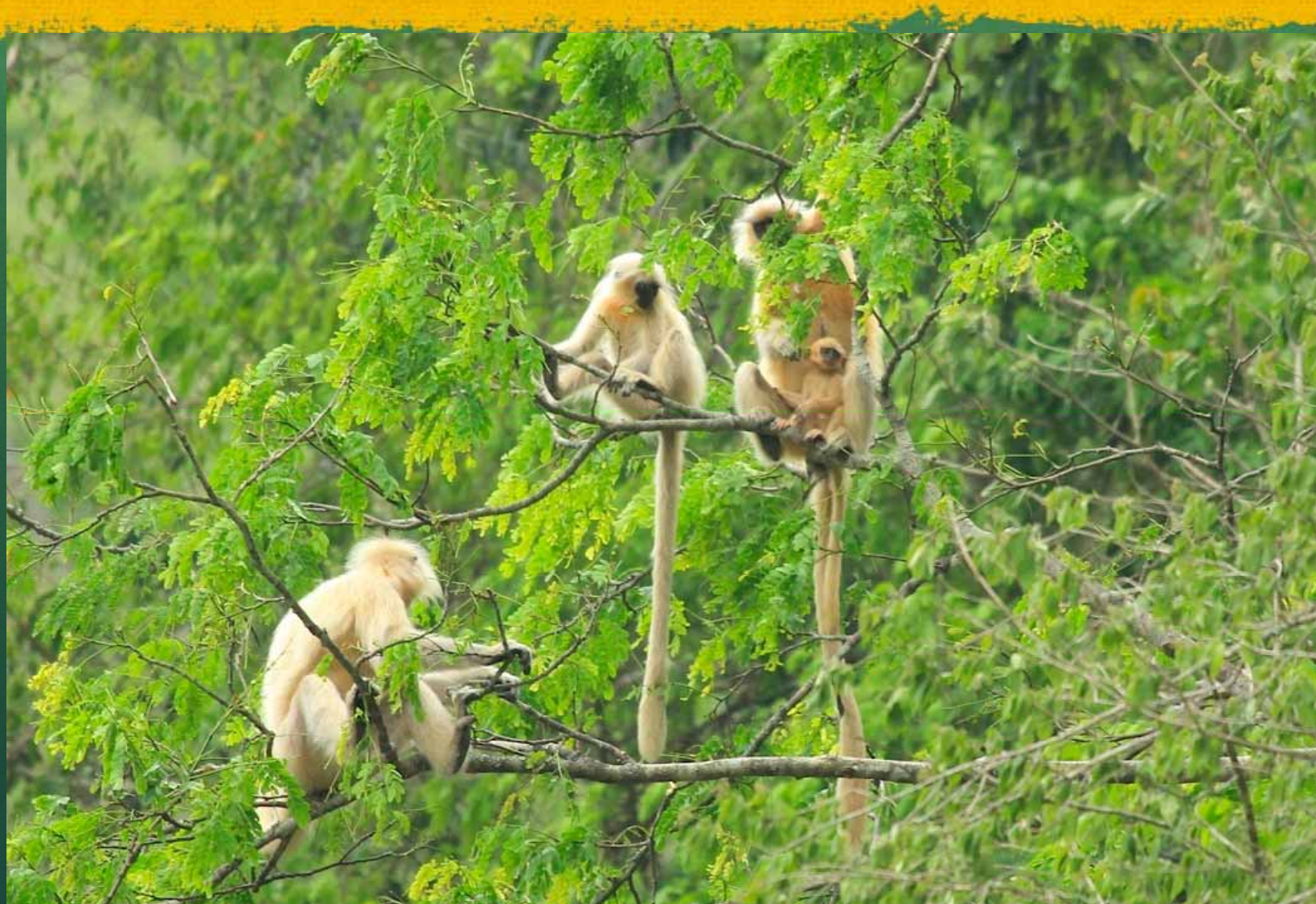
Hornbills have strange bills and bright colors.



Jackie made friends with an orphaned sambar deer that the campsite attendant was raising.



Golden Langurs are a rare treat to see.
This group had a tiny baby.



Macaques are much more common than langurs.



This campsite was very simple, but there was a toilet and outdoor sink (on the left) and two tiny cabins to share.



Dinner in camp in a cool rainforest was served outdoors on a porch of a small kitchen building.



This other campsite was better equipped. Dinner was served under Phulbul's watchful eye: he saw to it that food was prepared properly so that none of us became ill. The people of the village take care of the campsite.



Tshetshe packed all our food and utensils in our little bus. The local village people helped prepare the meals.



Tasty dinner!



Our campsite was surrounded by lush rainforest and wildlife.



Land leeches sought our blood!



Waiting for breakfast. We slept in two small cabins in the background. Phulbul and Tshetshe put their sleeping bags on the dining porch.



We bring our binoculars and trek through a lush rainforest in the tropical part of Bhutan, in search of hornbills and giant squirrels.



Royal Manas National Park



The kitchen is open
for breakfast.



Picnic time in a painted gazebo at a roadside rest. Stray dogs helped us finish the leftovers.

