

GEF-**Small Grants Programme** is implemented by **UNDP Bhutan** in partnership with the **Royal Government of Bhutan**

THE YEAR IN REVIEW-2021

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Executive Summary

This maiden Annual Report 2021 of the GEF-Small Grants Programme, UNDP Bhutan, shines a spotlight on the results and impact of both completed and on-going projects implemented in the communities. 2021 marked the second year of the SGP's Country Programme Strategy period (2020-2023).

Thirty projects were implemented in 2021 of which seven projects were completed in partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan. The projects are in the areas of biodiversity conservation (12), climate change (6), land degradation (8) water (3) and national policy dialogue (1). Spread across the country, the projects were implemented by 19 Community-based Organizations (CBOs) and eight Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

SGP saw the signing of its 200th project in 2021 which is a significant milestone. The SGP Steering Committee approved 17 projects in 2021 to the tune of USD 533,000. Nine projects were approved as part of COVID-19 response and recovery offer. The average grant size per project is USD 31,353. The total co-financing from the project grantees was USD 382,669 (USD 158,618 in cash and USD 224,071 in-kind). The project period ranges from 10 months to two years. Seven projects were approved for Lower Pema Gatshel, SGP's Operational Phase 7's landscape.

Of the 30 projects implemented in 2021, eight were led by women project managers, four by senior citizens, two by youth groups, one each by persons with disabilities and a monk, and rest by others. 15 project sites were either located in the peripherals of protected areas or within it. Nine project sites are located in COVID-19 High Risk Zone: five in Pema Gatshel, three in Zhemgang and one in Chukha.

Our project grantees and partners developed various knowledge products, including nine videos, two how-to manuals, one coffee table book, several radio programs, two photo stories and a case study. A policy dialogue on landscape approach for environmental conservation was conducted with the support from various stakeholders. A virtual Tree Hugger Campaign was conducted by a youth group to promote ecological consciousness among Bhutanese youth and citizens. Through our grantee, Bhutan Ecological Society, SGP-UNDP supported the Bhutan Lectures on Innovation, Science and Society (BLISS) and BES Symposium.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the projects were implemented successfully with the determination of the grantees, government extension officials, local government administrations and technical agencies in Thimphu. The SGP Secretariat at UNDP has received enormous support and guidance from the steering and technical committee, UNDP Country Office, Gross National Happiness Commission, GEF-Operational Focal Point and CSO partners.

Message



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) marked its 30th Anniversary in 2021. In the last three decades, GEF has played an instrumental role in supporting environmental conservation across the globe. In Bhutan, GEF has supported the Small Grants Programme (SGP) with Royal Government of Bhutan since 1998, walking arm in arm to ensure that small grants are used effectively to complement the country's conservation efforts.

I am glad to see that SGP Bhutan is now coming up with a digital annual report showcasing its impactful conservation works. I wish SGP Global a successful year and would like to congratulate on it's 30th Anniversary in 2022. I am confident that the Operational Phase 7 (2020-2023) will see lots of successful projects that can be scaled-up and replicated.

Dasho Rinchen Wangdi
GEF Operational Focal Point, Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC)
Royal Government of Bhutan(RGOB)

In partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan, SGP was able to implement its projects successfully in 2021 despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic. SGP approved a total of 17 projects in 2021 out of which nine were directly responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, targeting women, girls, and persons with disabilities.



UNDP is very proud that SGP has been promoting innovative and scalable initiatives. They have successfully fostered multistakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in the priority landscape of SGP as well as other areas in Bhutan. I welcome partners and organizations to forge partnership with the SGP-UNDP.

Azusa Kubota
Resident Representative, UNDP Bhutan



SGP Bhutan celebrated its 200th project signing in 2021. This is a remarkable milestone. The SGP and Royal Government of Bhutan have been supporting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to conserve local environment since 1998. While the small grants are relatively small, its impact has been enormous. With a holistic and inclusive approach to conservation, the SGP brought enormous local and global environmental and socio-economic benefits. As the Chairperson to SGP's Steering Committee, I am extremely proud to be part of the unique grant-making modality.

We welcome innovative project proposals that address national priorities and have the potential to solve environmental problems and enhance community resilience and livelihoods.

Wangchuk Namgay
Chief Programme Coordinator, Development Cooperation Division, GNHC, RGOB
Chairperson, Steering Committee, Small Grants Programme, Bhutan

In 2021, SGP supported and partnered with a wide range of CSOs to tackle local environmental issues facing their communities. SGP's 20 project grantees include seasoned CSOs and new CBOs. Project managers include women, senior citizens, and youth. These passionate people don't necessarily have project management skills. In the due course of project implementation, we build their capacities. SGP is often regarded as fund-providing window, but we provide both financial and technical support based on our long years of experience and in collaboration with government's technical agencies and expertise available at the Gewog level.

I am hopeful that the environment conservation players and other organizations in Bhutan would partner with us.



Tshering Phuntsho
National Coordinator, GEF-Small Grants Programme, UNDP Bhutan

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Established in 1992, SGP's grantmaking in over 125 countries promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, & empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, & youth. SGP has supported over 24,000 community-based projects on biodiversity conservation & sustainable use, climate change mitigation and adaption, sustainable land management, conservation of international waters, & chemicals & waste management, while generating sustainable livelihoods.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a catalyst for action on the environment- & much more. Through its strategic investments, the GEF works with partners to tackle the planet's biggest environmental issues. Our funding also helps reduce poverty, strengthen governance and achieve greater equality between women & men. As such, we occupy a unique space in the global partnership for a more sustainable planet.

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive & sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries & territories, we offer global perspective & local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY
for Operational Phase-7(2020-2023)

*"to **promote** and **support innovative** and **scalable** initiatives, and **foster** multi stakeholder partnerships at the **local** level to tackle **global environmental** issues in priority **landscapes** and seascapes"*

COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT



SNAPSHOT OF PROJECTS

16 new projects **approved** under OP7

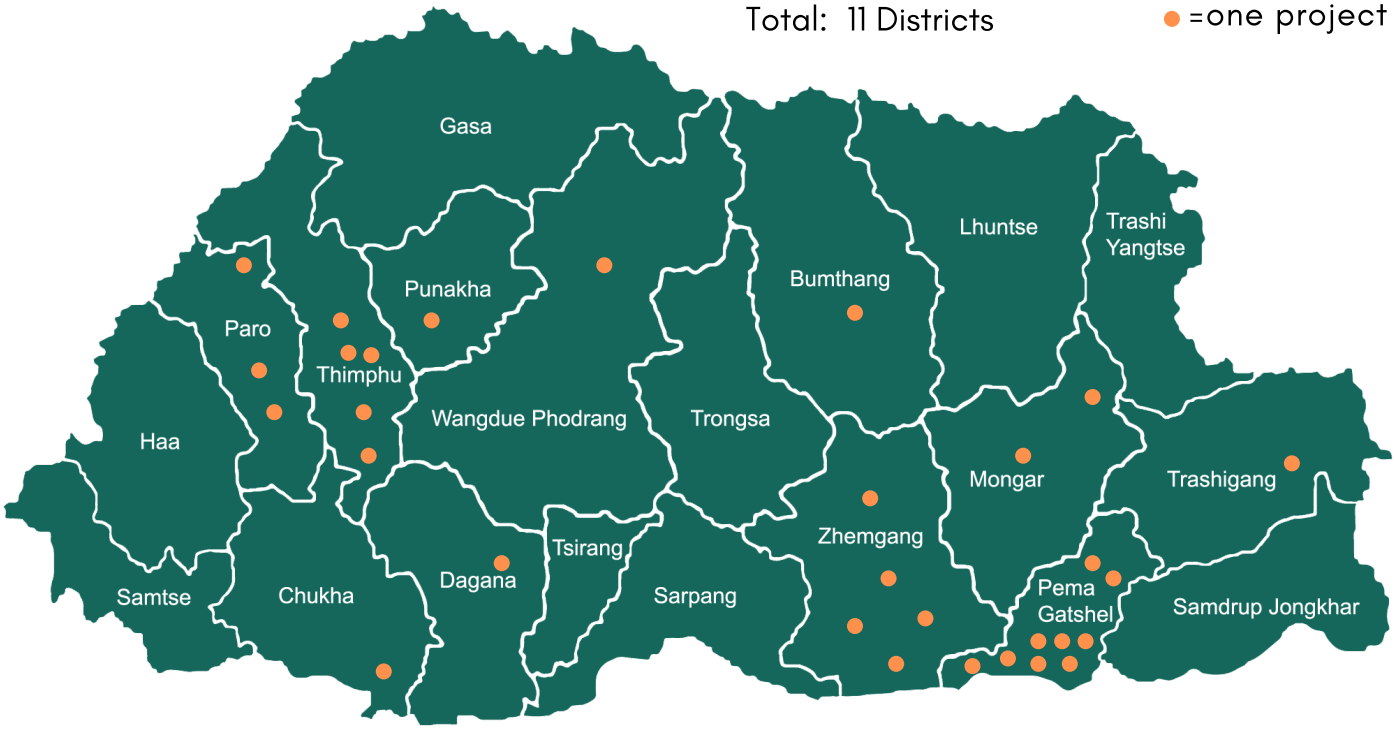
7 projects **completed**

20 on-going projects **(OP5, 6 and 7)**

Geographic Coverage

Total: 11 Districts

● =one project



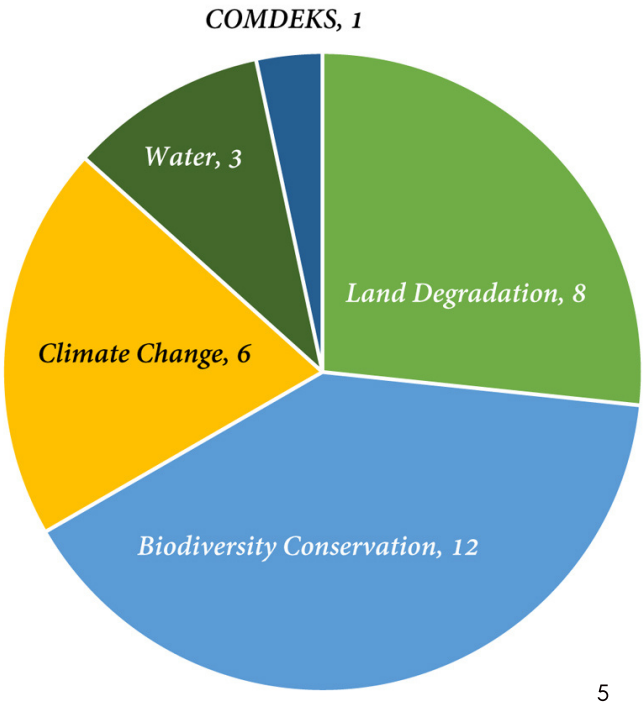
FOCAL AREA DISTRIBUTION

12 Biodiversity

6 Climate Change

8 Land Degradation

3 Water





HIGHLIGHTS ON
Completed Projects

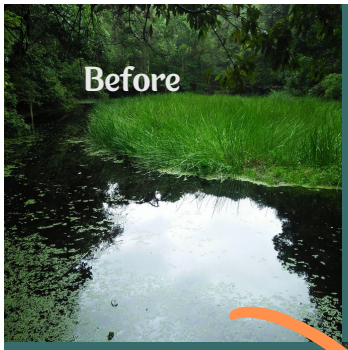
Leveraging Cultural and Scientific Knowledge and Practices for Environmental Conservation in Tali, Zhemgang

Implemented by **Loden Foundation**

Project Duration: July 2019 - June 2021
Grant Amount: USD 33,550
Co-Finance: USD 5,589 (Loden Foundation & community)

Key Results

- **Revived** Tali Lake (approx. 1 acre), which was plagued by invasive species. The lake is a critical **water source** for 25 households and an important **waterhole** for wild animals. It also holds great historical and cultural significance.
- Documented **environmental significance** of the lake and surrounding biodiversity rich area. 70 bird, 23 orchid, 19 plant, 21 tree and 12 mammal species were recorded.
- Developed three videos on the **significance of cultural and spiritual beliefs** in environment conservation. The knowledge products had global outreach, generating interest and funds for the community. One documentary video received 14,300 views with audience from France, UK, US, Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, India, Switzerland and Australia.
- Enhanced a key **waterhole** visited by tigers.
- **Restored** two significant stone monuments in Tali.
- Developed 3.7-km eco trail to promote eco-tourism



Area Coverage

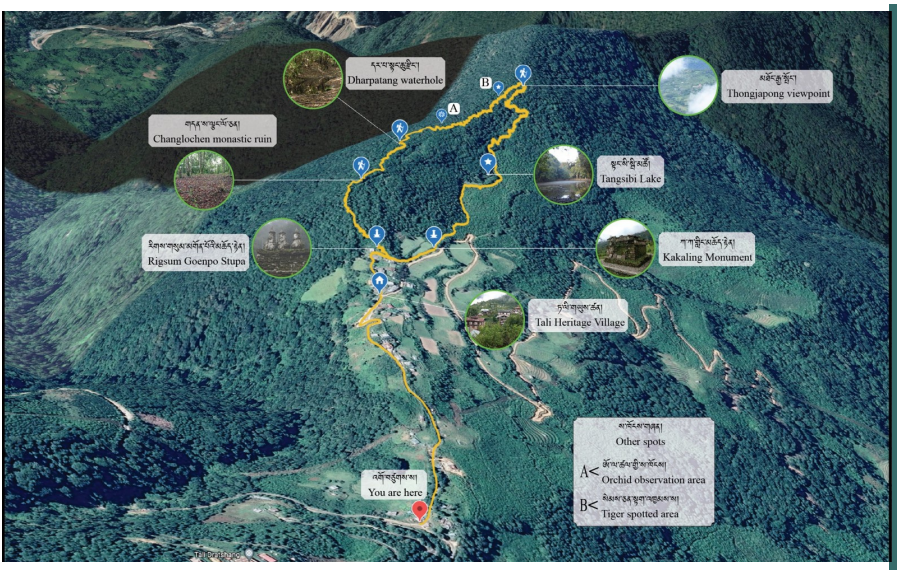
18.2 ha

390 beneficiaries

193 male & 197 female







"I am very impressed with the conceptualization and implementation of the project. It was appreciated at the Cambridge show as an exemplary local initiative supported by the local and national government and international agencies, all working together for a common goal. The interaction of scientific and local knowledge shows that with the right approach, you can successfully combine these two elements"

Bruce Huett, Cambridge University

*"The lake is a **source of irrigation** water for Tali village. We cultivated millet once but later stopped as it affected water availability . Obviously, the revival of the lake would benefit us immensely. On our part, we will make offerings and take care of the lake"*



Yuden, 64
Farmer

Gender and Social Inclusiveness Access to Clean and Renewable Energy Technology at Ugyen Gatshel Nunnery, Punakha

Implemented by **Rangjung Foundation**

Project Duration: Dec. 2018 - Aug.2020
Grant Amount: USD 37,200
Co-Finance: USD 21,650 (Rangjung Foundation)

Key Results

- Installed 2,000-liter **solar powered heating** system (16 solar panels, 4x500 liters) at the nunnery.
- 24x7 hot water supply to four bathrooms of 54 nuns
- Installed **energy-efficient electrical** cooking appliances in the mess
- Installed **roof-top rainwater harvesting** system to deal with water scarcity
- **Reduced fuel wood** consumption by 100% (eight truckloads of firewood) and reduced forest fire risks.
- **Improved heath** of nuns by 80% in the last two years - reduced cases of UTI, skin diseases and others.
- **Doubled study** time and **reduced drudgery** (collecting fuel wood and visiting hospitals).
- Protected nearby fire-prone **water catchment area**
- Promoted **women leadership** in project management





55
beneficiaries

nuns from disadvantaged families







Ani Pem Seldon, Principal

*"This project has been blessing to our nuns. We saw **drastic decrease** in hospital visits as their personal hygiene and sanitation improved. We thank the government and supporters for helping us **embrace clean energy** which also improved living condition of nuns"*



Building Climate Resilient Community through Sustainable land and forest management in Thasa village, Dagana

Implemented by **Tarayana Foundation**

Project Duration: Dec. 2018 - Sept. 2020
Grant Amount: USD 32,000
Co-Finance: USD 17,450 (Tarayana Founation & US-based charitable organization)



Key Results

- Built 20 **climate-resilient houses** and 21 pour flush toilets benefitting 62 people; 33 M and 29 FM.
- 1.2 hectares of farmland improved through **sustainable land management** to enhance resilience of farmers.
- Supported farm machinery equipment and promoted **climate-resilient crops**, such as lentils and traditional varieties like rice and sorghum.
- Established a **community forest** (105 hectares) protecting critical water catchment area and forest ecosystem.
- Installed two w**ater reservoir tanks** (50,000 & 20,000 liters) to provide water for drinking as well as farming to 25 households.



Area Coverage

107 ha

62 beneficiaries

33 male & 29 female









Zeko, Farmer and Chairperson of the Community Forest

"*most of us never had a decent house until the intervention of this projects. Besides the* ***climate resilient houses and toilets,*** *the project helped in promoting* ***community vitality*** *as the entire village participated in establishing community forest,* ***SLM practices*** *and construction works. Moreover, we were able to help the most disadvantaged families realize their dream of having a* ***decent home***"

Sustainable Land Management for improved land productivity and community livelihood in Thangrong, Mongar

Implemented by **Thangrong Phazhing Sungjab Tshogpa**

Project Duration: Dec. 2018 - Dec. 2020
Grant Amount: USD 34,500
Co-Finance: USD 13,700 (Community & Local government)

Key Results

- Brought **111 hectares** of land under SLM practices through *Napier* plantation, retention wall, stone bunding and landslide stabilization
- 2.5 hectares of **fallow land** was converted to usable agricultural land through SLM intervention
- Clean and 24x7 **water access** to 40 households under two water stressed villages
- Orchard development in 1.5 ha of farm land
- Conducted 12 capacity building programmes (SLM, soil nutrition and vegetable cultivation training) stretched over 2 years for community members



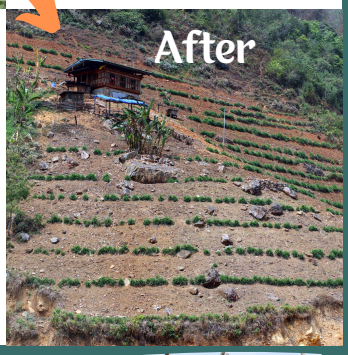


Area Coverage

111 ha

350 beneficiaries

122 male &
228 female







Sonam Choden, 33

*"I nearly lost my house to **land slide** few years ago but now I am hopeful that the SLM intervention would save me from such incidences. The SLM intervention through **contour Napier** plantation in more than ONE acre of land has helped **stabilize** the soil."*



Promotion of Biogas cooking in rural homes of Chimoong to reduce GHG emissions and enhance health of women, Pema Gatshel

Implemented by **Chimong Gonor Thenked Gongphel Tshogpa**

Project Duration: Dec. 2018 - June 2021
Grant Amount: USD 38,300
Co-Finance: USD 14,100 (Community)

Key Results

- Installed 40 **bio-gas units** at household level in Chimong and Pangthang community benefitting 40 households
- Four hectares of fallow land secured under **sustainable fodder plantation**
- **Orchard development** in 1.5 hectares of farmland
- Domestic drudgery for women reduced by two folds by **easing firewood collection** chore.
- Reduced indoor air **pollution** through reduction firewood use leading to improved health and hygiene of families



40
households

137
beneficiaries

76 male & 61 female







Kinley Pelmo, 41

"*when I am **tired** of work, I don't have to make fire. I simply use my **cookstove** to prepare meals. This saves my time and I can take good **rest**. Had it not been for biogas, I would be going to the forest at this time(winter), busy **fetching** and stocking **firewood**. I won't have to face the leeches this summer*"



National policy dialogue(s) regarding the sustainability and upscaling of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLs) conservation approach

Implemented by **Bhutan Ecological Society**

Project Duration: Feb-July 2021
Grant Amount: USD 33,000

Key Results

- 13 on-site **community dialogues** have been conducted in COMDEKS landscape for OP6: (a) Gamri Watershed, Tashigang District; and (b) Lower Manas Basin, Zhemgang District. In each of the 13 sites, field assessments and visits were conducted between April and May 2021.
- 91 people (31 women) were consulted. In addition to the community consultations, a total of 17 key **stakeholders** from government and the civil society have been **consulted for upscaling and mainstreaming** the SEPLs approach in May and June 2021.
- Graced by the Minister of Agriculture and Forests, organized a **virtual national-level dialogue** on **19 July 2021** to accommodate attendance from the target landscape and other districts. The dialogue's objective was to **generate recommendations** and provide a **platform** for stakeholders to come together and share insights.
- Produced **three knowledge products**: two videos on the dialogue process and the national dialogue outcome, and the National Dialogue Report.
- The report from the national dialogue presents insights from community members, CSOs, local leaders, government officials and policymakers on **mainstreaming and upscaling** landscape approaches (such as SEPLS) and ensuring their financial sustainability.
- The dialogues resulted in several **recommendations for mainstreaming** both SEPLS and landscape approaches (report can be accessed from *www.bes.org.bt*)



Stakeholder consultation meeting in Thimphu



Consulatation meeting at Samkhar, Tashigang



Consultation meeting at Saling, Tashigang



Consuiltation meeting at Langdurbi, Zhemgang



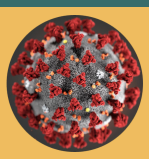
Natonal Policy dialogue

HIGHLIGHTS ON

Ongoing Projects



Projects supported as a part of COVID recovery offer are marked with COVID symbol





Community-based integrated approach for tiger conservation in Dangchu, Wangdue Phodrang

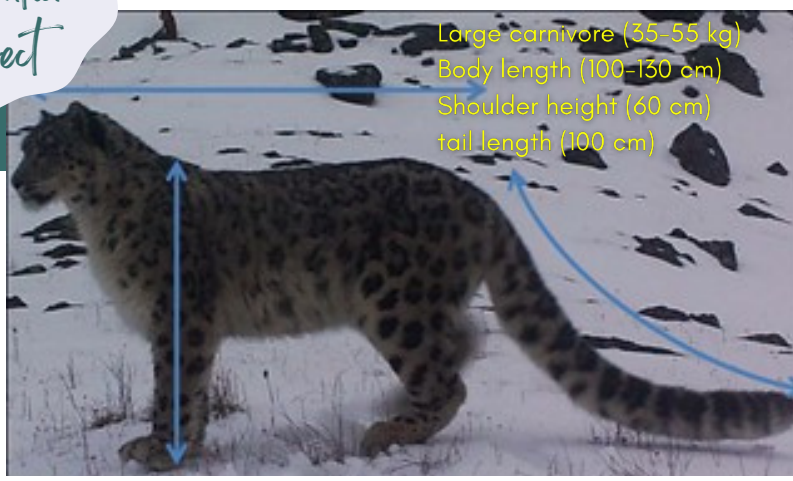


Key activities completed:

- In partnership with Dzongkhag Agriculture Sector, **installed** 88 low-cost poly houses with 55 % **co-financing** by community. A unit of poly-houses, including installation, costs approximately Nu. 18,000.
- 58 households cultivated new variety **(ema otto)** of chili with seedlings grown in their own polyhouses and fetched record-high price.
- Produced and supplied **several tons of vegetables** and chilies during 2020 COVID-19 lockdown period.
- Community-based tiger monitoring and **captured tiger** in one of the 18 camera traps from project site in the summer of 2021.
- 1,500 walnut seedlings were planted by 148 households
- Conducted **Buddhist teachings** to 128 farmers to reduce and stop killing of animals (especially tigers) by venerable Tsula and Yangbi Lopon of the Central Monastic Body.
- In partnership with Wangdue Forest Division, educated 30 farmers (7 women) on Forest and Nature Conservation Rules and Regulations.
- Installed **drinking water supply** system at Dechencholing Lhakhang nunnery and solar electrification in three temples

Big Cats Conservation Project

Fostering Community Participation in Snow Leopard Conservation in Jomolhari Landscape



Key activities completed:

- The project was implemented in partnership with Bhutan Foundation
- Established **Community-based Snow Leopard Conservation Group** in Lingzhi with 49 members and enhanced the existing group in Soe.
- Supported staff of JDNP with SMART patrolling equipment to enhance snow leopard conservation. The equipment includes 13 Samsung A20s (64 GB), 4 Alinco handsets, 2 Diamond Antennas and a laptop.
- Conducted perception-based assessment of past Snow Leopard conservation program in the project area.
- Trained 104 community members: Soe (28), Yaksa (27) and Lingzhi (49), on "Gid Control and Livestock Health" in partnership with the Livestock Sector.
- Provided 20 environment friendly durable tents to 20 yak-herder households of Lingzhi in partnership with Bhutan Foundation. The support was provided on cost-sharing basis.
- To mitigate grazing conflict, 26 households of Yaksa agreed to develop 30 decimals of their land into pastureland. 2,600 kg of barbed wire and 50 kg of U-nail were distributed.
- Sixteen community members, mostly youth, were trained on souvenir making from yak wool & revival of traditional yak tents called Bja







Community-based conservation of Tigers and its habitat outside the Protected areas in Zhemgang



Key activities completed:

- Socio-economic survey and **camera trapping** exercise completed in the project area
- Distributed and planted 3,165 seedling of ficus species in 23 **Community Forests** and 10,780 tea seedlings by 14 Community Forest members in Trong and Nangkor Gewogs. The tea produced from this area will be promoted as **tiger-friendly tea.**
- In partnership with Zhemgang Forest Division, created of 10 **waterholes** in frequently tiger spotted areas
- Established an orchid nursery in Zhemgang
- 11 days **knowledge sharing** field study tour for 23 community members (12 male and 11 female) in four districts conducted to learn about community-based tiger and conservation of other species
- Supported local schools with **smart teaching** aids (LED TV screen)
- Cattle sheds constructed for five households to enhance livelihood of the people.



Big Cats Conservation Project

Key activities completed:

- 167 households surveyed (110 male, 57 female) for the socio-economic assessment.
- Developed **tiger mascot** to create awareness about tiger conservation among school children and youth.
- Conducted **ordination of an old tree** in high density tiger habitat in the project area to garner community support for conservation.
- Buddhist **teaching for ex-poachers** conducted at Dhognga Tenpailing Monastery to reduce harmful action towards wild animals.
- Supported **winter vegetable cultivation** for women group at Tanzema, which is a biodiversity hotspot area
- Supported Norbugang livestock group with **milk processing equipment**, mini chaff cutter and silage to enhance farmer's livelihood.
- Supported 5 km eco-friendly **solar electrical fencing** for local communities of Gashari chiwog
- 45 e**nergy-efficient electric stoves** distributed to the ex-poachers & the Dhongag Tenpailing retreat center.



Conservation of tigers through compassion and alternative livelihood interventions in Buffer Zone of RMNP, Pema Gatshel







Floriculture to improve livelihoods of women and girls in difficult circumstances in Gawaling, Thimphu

Key activities completed:

- Installed four **poly houses** for the cultivation of indoor **plants and flowers** at Gawaling Happy Home at Wangsisina, Thimphu.
- Trained more than 1**00 women & girls** under difficult circumstances, **Bhutanese returnees** from abroad (impacted by COVID-19 pandemic) & others on basic floriculture. It has helped them overcome depression.
- 5 days trainings on floriculture and floral arrangement conducted in Chukha for participants from 11 Gewogs.
- Conducted **floriculture training** and learning program for 60 trainees at NBC.
- Flowers **raised and grown** at Gawaling include hardy plants such as camelia, garden azaleas and hydrangeas and ornamental flowers such as Tunia, African Daisy, Dianthus and Pansies.
- Sold flowers worth **Nu. 250,000** from 2020- 2021. The revenue generated will be ploughed back to support **domestic violence survivors**.
- In partnership with National Biodiversity Center (NBC), **developed manual** on basic floriculture for Bhutanese audience

Reverting Degraded Fallow Land into Climate Smart Agriculture in Thrimshing, Trashigang

Key activities completed:

- More than 80 acres of fallow land brought under s**ustainable land management** belonging to 27 h**ouseholds (162 female & 50 male))**
- **Installed 8.5 km** electric fencing using **plastic up-cycled poles** to protect crops from wildlife.
- 3,000 plastic up-cycled poles, produced by Greener Way, Thimphu, at the subsidized per pole cost of Nu. 230 (actual price Nu. 290) used to fence the farmland. About two tons of plastics re-cycled.
- With in-kind co-financing of Nu. 2,960,160 from the Mountain Hazelnut Ventures (MHV), 60 beneficiaries planted **6,800 hazelnut saplings** (six varieties) in 75 acres of farmland in June and July 2021.
- MHV supported 4,000 meters of **Agronet fencing** to protect hazelnut trees from animals.
- The communities supported **in-kind support** (in the form of labor contribution & materials) worth **Nu. 2,073,000** from Feb-Oct 2021.
- Women constituted 67% of total labor contribution at the project site and most of them have school going kids & livestock at home.
- Constructed 1.8 km **access farm road**, from village till Dribla farmland with in-kind co-financing of Nu.300,000 from Gewog administration
- **Traditional crops** (Wheat, Barley & perilla) are cultivated in seven acres of land
- MHV has deputed a full-time **technical expert** for 10 months at the site for sustainability of the project



Attaining food self-sufficiency for women through Organic farming during COVID-19 situation in Chubjekha, Paro





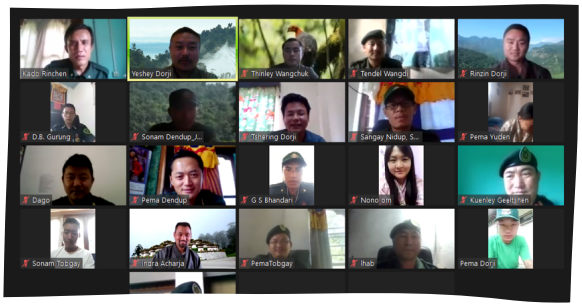

Key activities completed:

- Installed 4.3 **electric fencing**, with angle posts, benefitting 23 households, mostly led by women, in collaboration with Gewog & Dzongkhag.
- Installed **rooftop rainwater harvesting** for 9 women-led households with Nu. 350,000 co-financing from Bhutan Foundation implemented by Bhutan Water Partnership. The rainwater will be used to solve the acute drinking and kitchen garden irrigation issues in the community.
- In Partnership with Dzongkhag and Gewog, 15.1 acres of fallow land brought under **land management** benefitting 20 households including those affected by COVID-19 situation
- 23 households trained in **group management, organic farming, and marketing,** and supported with seeds (beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrot) to promote organic farming.
- 85 percent of the project activities completed by December 2021.

Capacity building for citizen science and ecological restoration of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Bhutan

key activities completed:

- With guidance from Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Birdlife International, Nature Conservation Division (NCD) and Thimphu Thromde, initiated Important Bird Areas (IBAs) assessment for Bhutan.
- Trained 53 birdwatchers (27 COVID-19 laid off people from tourism sector, 23 Forest Officers, 3 others) from 20 Dzongkhags on c**itizen science** and scientific ways to gather bird information & creating repository for bird data of Bhutan.
- **Published internal guideline** on '*The strategies and framework for assessment and monitoring of the Important Bird Areas of Bhutan*'.
- In collaboration with NCD (DoFPS), **assessed and monitored 19 IBAs**, identified five degraded IBAs and started restoration of one degraded area (10 acres at Tsalumaphey, Babesa, Thimphu).
- Completed systematic data extraction of bird species from Society's Facebook page ***'Birds of Bhutan'*** with the support of volunteers.
- Initiated & completed a **preliminary study** on the use of artificial /synthetic ingredients in Buddhist ritual cakes its impact to birdlife (large-billed crow). Findings suggest that use of synthetic dyes & colors are harmful for birds & recommends use of natural colors (Note: more scientific assessments will be conducted in 2022).
- Piloted ***"birding by ear"*** with two persons with disabilities (blindness) in which they were trained to identify 20 birds through their calls. This builds on PWDs' ability to hear and differentiate sounds.


Water catchment management to provide 24x7 water supply for community vitality at Jagathang, Paro



Key activities completed:

- 45 community members **sensitized** on water conservation and catchment management.
- A 5mX5m water reservoir tank constructed strategic location for **equitable distribution** of water all households.
- 1,700 meters of 63mm HDPE pipe connected the intake tank with the reservoir tank.
- Enhanced **drinking & kitchen garden water** for 50 households sourced from 3.5 kms.
- The revitalization of existing water scheme directly benefits 50 households (250 beneficiaries; 75 male, 95 female, 41 youth (male), and 39 youth (female)).
- It indirectly **benefits 500 people** in the community who now have adequate water supply throughout the day for drinking, kitchen garden & sanitation needs (including COVID-19 safety).
- In partnership with Gewog Forestry officials, 200 saplings of **native blue pine &** oak were planted by farmers in the degraded areas
- A water **management by-law** for the community has been developed and endorsed.
- 38 community members took part in the stream cleaning program stretching two kilometers.

Fishery Development for rural livelihood and conservation of fish species in Sarphu, Chhukha





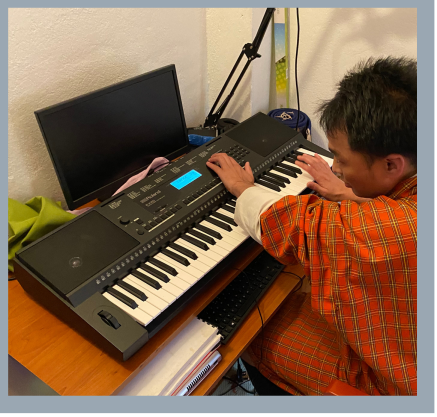


Key activities completed:

- Communities of Yanang & Sarphu in Darla, Chukha trained on aquaculture for sustainable agriculture & fisheries.
- Fishery Farmers Group instituted in Sarphu for alternative income generation & conservation of golden mahseer.
- In partnership with the Dzongkhag Livestock sector, 17 fishery ponds (12 at Yagang & 5 at Sarphu)) excavated & constructed with labor contribution from the people.
- Provided 7,520 meters (1000m (90mm), 2020m (63mm) and 5000m(40mm) of HDPE pond water irrigation pipes benefitting 27 households (with 12 male & 13 female lead farmers).
- 2.411 acres of land contributed by beneficiaries in total for the fishponds.
- 27 households were trained on fishery management, value addition and product diversification (filleting, salting, & smoking).
- Nu. 578,000 in-kind contributions supported by Dzongkhag through the livestock sector.

Nature for all – an inclusive nature garden for persons with disabilities (PWDs), Thimphu



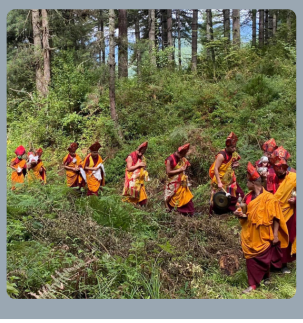



Key activities completed:

- **Institutional capacity** of Zhenphen Group (CBO formed by persons with disabilities(PwDs)) enhanced with 17 direct beneficiaries (9 male and 8 female).
- **White Cane day,** 2021, celebrated by members of Zhenphen group to raise awareness by visiting recreational parks in Thimphu (Centenary Children's Park, Ludrong Garden)
- Needs assessment for disabled friendly infrastructure at the Royal Botanical Garden completed.
- Constructed 172m x 2m disabled **friendly foot path** with tactile & railings at the Royal Botanical Garden.
- Developed **braille-signages** & basic interpretation for the garden to be installed in 2022.
- Royal Botanical Garden **Raised AUD 10,000** from Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund to leverage the project results.
- Garnered **in-kind support** from Nature Pour Tous, Belgium to develop insects & animal props for persons with blindness.
- *"Nature for All"* **video produced** to sensitize people on the need for universal designs in nature parks for PwDs & how they interact with nature.
- Basic music instruments (traditional & modern) with recording set procured by Zhenphen Group
- Bhutanese nature-related songs compiled, & two nature conservations songs composed & produced by Zhenphen group.

Watershed Management of Tamshing Chhu through Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) to enhance ecosystem services, Bumthang




key activities completed:

- The project is in line with the Foundation's Strategic Goal for 2030 which aims to promote sustainable livelihood through promotion and awareness on **cultural and spiritual** beliefs.
- **Degraded & critical** water sources identified and demarcated in *Jungkhang Chu* upstream water catchment (10,064.19 ha – Watershed No. 56 as per DoFPS)
- Traditional user rights **documented,** created awareness on spiritual significance of water source protection
- **Demarcation & identification** of spiritual and religious sites (sacred sites) completed in the water catchment area
- Constructed of 10 ***Lu-khangs*** *(ney khang at phola pong* (hill)) in the project site with labor contribution from the communities and monks.
- Three spiritual & religious awareness, and sensitization on importance of protection of water sources and deities conducted for local communities.
- Production of a **documentary video** on spiritual intervention for nature conservation commissioned.
- The project is targeted to benefit 899 male and 1,601 female members of the community (downstream).
- Drafting of **Action Plan** for Jungkhang Chu Catchment Area initiated.
- The project enhanced the project management capacity of staff at the Pema Lingpa Foundation which also helped them **secure** additional funding from HELVETAS BHUTAN.

Innovative community-based sustainable bamboo enterprise development to reduce pressure on forest resources in Lower Zhemgang





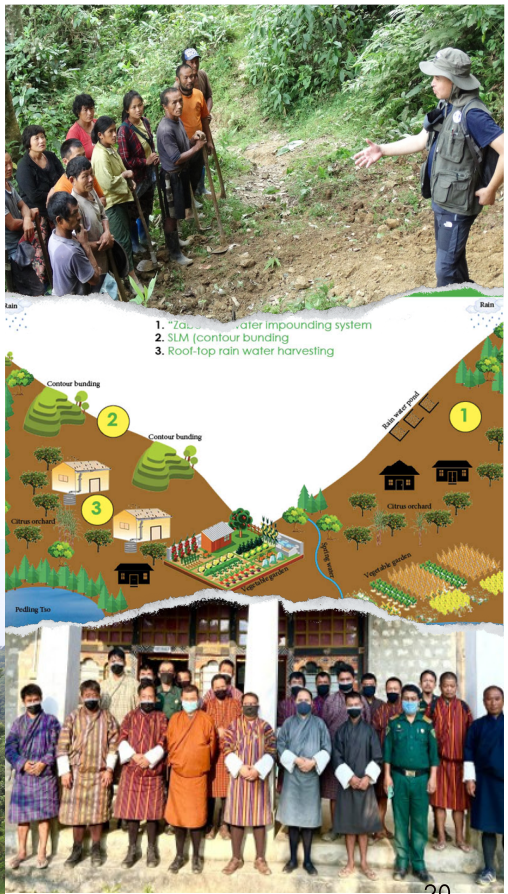
Key activities completed:

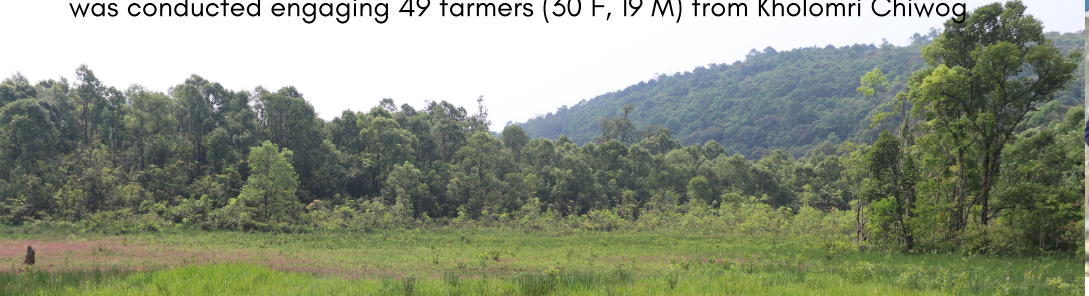
- Dzongkhag Project Advisory Committee **(D-PAC)**, a multi-stakeholder project management committee, chaired by Dasho Dzongda, Zhemgang was instituted.
- At the community level, Community Bamboo Enterprise Group **(C-BEG)** was instituted.
- One acre Government **land** was **acquired** (on lease) for the construction of Community Bamboo Enterprise Unit, in Panbang. The enterprise unit (treatment unit) was 25% complete as of December 2021.
- In partnership with DoFPS, Bamboo Resource Assessment was conducted where 242 communities' people were interviewed. It led to the formation of 14 bamboo group covering 442 households in 4 Gewogs (4 in Ngangla, 2 in Goshing, 4 in Phangkhar, 4 in Trong).
- **Capacity building** for 79 C-BEG members and communities (46 female, 33 male) conducted: a total of 15 days capacity building on bamboo cultivation and harvesting, group management, business planning, and promotion and marketing.
- The project will directly benefit 48 male and 88 female and indirectly benefit 422 households from the biodiversity rich lower Kheng area

Improving Peling wetland and agricultural lands through integrated community-based conservation approaches in Dechhenling, Pema Gatshel

Key activities completed:

- Peling-Tsho **Conservation Group** consisting of 14 members formed in collaboration with gewog administration.
- Socio-economic survey and first **bird survey** was conducted, and report **published**. A total of 48 species of birds recorded in the area.
- Five kilometers educational **walking trail** developed around the lake with three rest benches to promote local tourism.
- In partnership with Watershed Management Division & Pema Gatshel Forest Division, DoFPS and Gewog officials, the project-initiated w**ater discharge measurement** of Peling-chhu from May to December 2021. As per the Water Discharge Measurement Report, the overall discharge volume of the stream is lowest in the month of December, while it is highest in the month of August.
- 26 numbers of low-cost trenches (3.2ft x 3.2ft x 2.0 ft) above the Pelingtsho lake were dug to store rainwater and recharge the ground water.
- Stakeholders' consultation for SLM activities, rain harvesting & ***"Zabo"*** system was conducted engaging 49 farmers (30 F, 19 M) from Kholomri Chiwog





Young Environmental Advocates Initiative for Bhutan

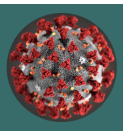
Key activities completed:

- Conducted four rounds of partnership meetings with potential partners and identified RSPN & WWF Bhutan as strategic partner and supporter.
- Disseminated **"I am a Tree Hugger 2.0"** campaign information through social networking sites, mainstream media, radio and regional (South Asia) youth groups meetings. The campaign was designed to keep youths engaged during challenging times of COVID-19 .
- The campaign video & poster reached 8,000 and 40,000 **virtual audience** respectively.
- Two youth icons **popularized** the campaign through social media handle and blog.
- More than 120 individuals submitted entries for the **"I am a Tree Hugger"** campaign
- In partnership with WWF Bhutan, developed a **hybrid Design Thinking Toolkit** for Local Eco-Action Initiative which is a self-empowerment program.
- From the 10 participating colleges of Royal University of Bhutan, six team successfully **implemented** their local action namely kitchen waste composting, cloth waste up-cycling (products) and zero food waste campaign.
- Monthly **environmental justice series** conducted with youths from July-December 2021
- Built project management and communication **skills** of six YAN-B volunteers.
- 184 youth (101 female and 83 male) directly befitted from project until December 2021.









Community-Based Aquaponic Agriculture, Virtual Tourism & Community Awareness, Zhemgang

Key activities completed:

- BES partnered with River Guides of Panbang (RGP), a certified White-Water Rescue Technicians, for the **aquaponic** project due to their proximity to the highly biodiverse Royal Manas National Park & the area's vulnerability due to the impacts of COVID-19. The RGP was **affected** by the pandemic since their main source of income was from the rafting services provided to tourists.
- A model small-scale aquaponics system was first **built & tested** at BES office in Thimphu in mid-2021. Aquaponics combines aquaculture (growing fish) with hydroponics (growing plants without soil).
- Site identified & construction of aquaponics **facility** started in November 2021.
- A three-member **core aquaponics team** was formed within RGP that works closely with BES.
- Following two weeks of running the system with water, fish (common carp *Cyprinio carpio*), sourced from the National Research and Development Center for Aquaculture, Gelephu, was **introduced** in December 2021.
- The hardy fish is a good choice and will allow RGP team to learn how to care for fish with low risk of mortality.
- **Virtual tourism** concept was developed, & Virtual Reality (VR) headset procured.
- The first filming, in Ngangla Gewog, was done in mid-2021 & draft virtual reality tour was developed and showcased at the Climate Action Week exhibition on 26-27 October 2021

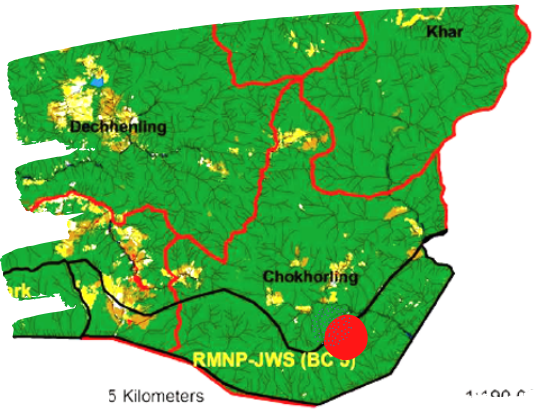




PROJECTS APPROVED DURING Q3-2021

Socially inclusive rehabilitation of fallow land for sustainable agriculture & farming in Dawami, Pema Gatshel

Grantee: Dawami Norjuenmai Sanam Detshen (CBO)



Key activities:

- The project aims to improve **community-led** biodiversity friendly practices and approaches.
- Improve livelihood of people through diversification of **food production & marketing** (value-chain).
- In partnership with Nganglam Dungkhag, works to convert 86 acres of **fallow land** into sustainable agriculture farming land at Dawami, Kilhorthang Gewog.
- Procurement of HDPE pipes for irrigation of 86 acres of farmland to enhance farming completed.
- **Capacity building** of 50 farmers through hands on training on sloping agricultural land technology **(SALT)** & farming (orchard & crops) planned.

Soil and land management to enhance farmland in Labar and Bongman, Pema Gatshel

Grantee: **Shingming Thenkhe (CBO)**

Key activities:

- The project will implement **SLM practice**s in 80 acres of farmland in collaboration with Gewog.
- Focus on development of existing **fruit orchard** by enhancing soil fertility and improving workability.
- Work towards reducing the number of households practicing **shifting cultivation** from 48 to 10 households
- Interventions are targeted at **increasing soil fertility** and developing fruit orchard benefitting 48 households



Developing climate resilient communities through appropriate adaptation and mitigation interventions at Yagyur and Khengzor, Pema Gatshel



Grantee: Tarayana Foundation (CSO)

Key activities:

- The project will implement appropriate interventions at potential s**pring recharge areas** in collaboration with Pema Gatshel Forest Division and Gewog.
- One-day each community mobilization meeting at Yagyur and Khengzor village conducted to introduce the project and its activities, and the role of communities in the project.
- Capacity building will be conducted on construction of **low-cost bamboo and log check dams**.
- With in-kind co-financing from the communities, **reservoir tanks and water supply** pipes will be installed to ensure continued supply.
- **Solar electric fencings** will be installed to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, thereby contributing to food security, and enhancing livelihoods.
- A total of 204 people (130 male and 74 female) will benefit from the project.

Promotion of agro-forestry to reduce slash and burn practices for livelihood diversification, Pema Gatshel

Grantee:
Bangyul Vegetable Group (CBO)



Key activities:

- The project aims at enhancing **community-based biodiversity** friendly practices that contributes towards enhancing ecological & social resilience.
- It will improve **community livelihood**s through sustainable food production and value chain practices.
- 60 acres of fallow land will be revitalized for **agro-forestry** in Mekuri and Bangyul village, Dungmaed Gewog
- Low-cost **SLM interventions** on steep farmlands will be adopted by 60 farmers.
- **Climate resilient & premium-priced fruits** (Dragon fruits, mango & avocado) will be grown in fallow lands.
- 60 fallow landowners (17 women and 43 men) will be benefitted.
- The project aims to **reduce slash and burn** by 50% and increase agro - forestry coverage by 30 acres.

Community-based eco-friendly production of plates and cups from areca nut palm leaf for women's livelihood in Menchu Chiwog, Pema Gatshel

Key activities:

- The project aims to provide an **alternative to plastic plates & cups, reduce plastic use,** & **build entrepreneurial skills** of women & youths in Menchu Chiwog in Norbugnag.
- Four winter vegetable groups under Menchu chiwog comprising of **22 women members** will lead the project.
- A**reca nut leaf eco cups & plates** production unit site will be identified, & infrastructure built.
- Areca nut leaf eco cups & plates production equipment will be procured based on the experiences from Tarayana Foundation & other private firms.
- Youth and women to be trained on production of plates and cups from areca nut leaf, promotion, and marketing.

Grantee: Menchu Penden Tshogpa (CBO)



Promoting nature-based solutions & alternative livelihoods through introduction of bamboo handicrafts for Norbugang NWFP Group, Pema Gatshel

Grantee: Shingman Group (CBO)



Key activities:

- The project aims to **conserve** *Neomicrocalamus andropogonifolius* bamboo species through community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches.
- Norbugang Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) Management Group with 28 members from Norbugang chiwog, Nganglam Dungkhag will be benefitted.
- Community people living in the peripherals of Biological Corridor No. 5 (biodiversity rich area with species such as tiger and Asian elephant) will be equipped with **skills** to weave bamboo products, which will help supplement their income and enhance community's capacity to formulate and implement projects
- South-south learning exchange program will be conducted with visits to Pongchula in Phangkhar gewog and Bjoka in Bjoka gewog known for bamboo crafts,
- Illegal harvesting of NWFPs from 15 collection sites with a total area of 238.13 hectares will be **reduced** through this initiative.

Community-based clean & renewable energy for Aja community in Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary, Mongar

Grantee: Bhutan Ecological Society (CSO)

Key activities:

- BES in partnership with Department of Renewable Energy that's installing a solar PV plant to supply electricity at Aja (Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary), will support **internal-wiring** and energy-efficient **electric appliances** for 34 households and institutions on cost sharing basis.
- The project will supplement the Aja Ney solar project (implemented by government with support from Bhutan For Life and Bhutan Foundation) to ensure the solar PV system is fully functional & utilized by the community.
- Ensure **long term sustainability** of the installed systems through community participation.
- Strengthen national (government and non-government) expertise in **renewable energy** deployment
- A **policy paper** on community-based renewable energy deployment will be drafted in consultation with government and stakeholders.



Celebrating 200th Project Milestone



SGP celebrated the 200th project milestone during 2021 Annual Review and Planning workshop. The table below represents the snapshot of GEF SGP UNDP and ROGB supported projects from 1999-2021

GEF Focal Area Distribution	No. of Projects	Grant amount in USD	Distribution in %
Biodiversity	82	2,281,097.5	39
Land Degradation	45	1,383,552.72	24
Climate Change	53	1,585,840.30	27
International waters	9	249,756.47	4
Multifocal Area	6	177,183.46	3
Capacity Development	4	112,860.00	2
Chemicals and Waste	1	38,100.00	3
Total	**200**	**5,828,390.20**	**100**

Type of Grantee	No.
Civil Society Organization (CSO)	14
Community-based Organization(CBO)	153
Academic Institutions	5
Religious Institutions	5
Total	**177**

EVENTS TIMELINE-2021

06 January



Seventh Steering Committee(SC) Meeting

10 February



Memorandum of Agreement signing with grantees

20 February



Call for Proposals

10-11 March



Sensitization workshop for Steering Committee (SC) members

21 June



Review & Planning Workshop-I

25 June



Eighth SC meeting

20 July



National Policy Dialogue

29 July



Launch of Tiger Coffee Table Book

30 July



Fourth TC meeting

6 August



Ninth SC meeting

16-19 November



2021 Review and Planning Workshop

31 December



Year-end SC & TC gathering

LIST OF PROJECTS-COMPLETED

Project title	Grantee	Project Location	Grant Amount in USD	Start & end date	Project led by Youth & Women
Sustainable Land Management for improved land productivity and community livelihood in Thangrong, Mongar	Thangrong Phazhing Sungjab Tshogpa, CBO	Thangrong, Mongar	34,500	20/12/2018 31/12/2020	
Leveraging Cultural and Scientific Knowledge and Practices for Environmental Conservation in Tali	Loden Foundation, CSO	Tali, Zhemgang	33,550	01/09/2019 30/06/2021	✓
Building Climate Resilient Community through Sustainable land and forest management in Thasa village	Tarayana Foudation, CSO	Thasa, Dagana	32,000	07/12/2018 30/11/2020	✓
Gender and social inclusive access to clean and renewable energy technology at Ugyen Gatshel nunnery	Ranjung Foudnation, Religious Institution	Doh-rangthang Nunnery	37,200	20/12/2018 31/12/2020	✓
Innovative community-based sustainable bamboo enterprise development to reduce pressure on forest resources in Lower Zhemgang	Handicraft Association of Bhutan, CSO	Zhemgang	44,900	20/12/2018 31/12/2021	
Building community resilience through youth-based small-scale beekeeping for sustainable rural livelihood and ecosystem enhancement	Budasi Beekeepers, CBO	Zhemgang	30,100	13/12/2018 31/05/2021	✓
Promotion of Biogas cooking in rural homes of Chimmong to reduce GHG emissions and enhance health of women	Chimmong Gonor Thenked Gongphel Tshogpa, CBO	Chimmong, Pema Gatshel	38,300	23/01/2019 30/06/2021	
Floriculture to improve livelihoods of women and girls in difficult circumstances in Gawaling, Thimphu	RENEW, CSO	Gawailing Happy Home, Thimphu	41,500	01/07/2019 28/02/2022	✓
Community-based integrated approach for tiger conservation in Dangchu	Chubar Dendupcholing Community Forest Group, CBO	Dangchu, Wangdue Phodrang	50,000	09/0/2019 30/09/2021	
Conservation of tigers through compassion and alternative livelihood interventions in Buffer Zone of RMNP	Bhutan Ecological Society, CSO	Norbugang, Pema Gatshel	50,000	09/07/2019 31/02/2022	

LIST OF PROJECTS-COMPLETED & ONGOING

Project title	Grantee	Project Location	Grant Amount in USD	Start & end date	Project led by Youth & Women
Fostering Community Participation in Snow Leopard Conservation in Jomolhari Landscape	Soe, Yaksa, Lingzhi Snow Leopard Conservation Committee, CBO	Jomolhari Landscape	50,000	09/07/2019 30/04/2022	
Community-based conservation of Tigers and its habitat outside the Protected areas in Zhemgang	Community Forest Networking Group, CBO	Zhemgang	50,000	09/07/2019 28/2/2022	
Attaining food self-sufficiency for women through Organic farming during COVID-19 situation in Chubjekha	Chubjekha Women Group, CBO	Chubjekha, Paro	34,900	01/02/2021 31/01/2023	✓
Capacity building for citizen science and ecological restoration of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Bhutan	Bhutan Birdlife Society, CBO	Thimphu and IBAs	30,600	01/02/2021 30/4/2022	
Water catchment management to provide 24x7 water supply for community vitality at Jagathang	Chithuen Tshogpa, CBO	Jagathang, Paro	8,670	01/02/2021 31/01/2022	
Nature for all - an inclusive nature garden for persons with disabilities (PWDs)	Zhenphen Group, CBO	Thimphu	30,380	01/02/2021 31/08/2022	✓
Fishery Development for rural livelihood and conservation of fish species in Sarphu	Sarphu Fishery Farm, CBO	Sarphu, Chhukha	24,770	01/02/2021 31/01/2022	
Watershed Management of Tamshing Chhu through Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) to enhance ecosystem services	Pema Lingpa Foundation, CBO	Tamshing, Bumtahng	27,700	01/02/2021 31/07/2022	
National policy dialogue(s) regarding the sustainability and upscaling of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLs) conservation approach	Bhutan Ecological Society, CSO	Thimphu	33,000	01/02/2021 15/07/2021	✓
Community-Based Aquaponic Agriculture, Virtual Tourism and Community Awareness	Bhutan Ecological Society, CSO	Thimphu	45,000	01/1/2021 31/12/2021	✓

LIST OF PROJECTS-ONGOING

Project title	Grantee	Project Location	Grant Amount in USD	Start & end date	Project led by Youth & Women
Improving Peling wetland and agricultural lands through integrated community-based conservation approaches in Dechhenling	Royal Society for Protection of Nature, CSO	Dechenling, Pema Gatshel	38,500	01/02/2021 31/01/2023	
Reverting Degraded Fallow Land into Climate Smart Agriculture in Thrimshing	Dripla Hazzey Sonam Deytshen, CBO	Thrimshing, Tashigang	37,280	01/02/2021 31/01/2023	
Young Environmental Advocates Initiative for Bhutan	Youth Advocacy Network Bhutan. CBO	Thimphu and RUB colleges	17,200	01/02/2021 31/03/2022	
Soil and land management to enhance farmland in Labar and Bongman	Shingming Thenkhe	Khar, Pema Gatshel	24,000	01/10/2021 30/05/2023	
Developing climate resilient communities through appropriate adaptation and mitigation interventions at Yagyur and Khengzor	Tarayana Foundation, CSO	Khar, Pema Gatshel	45,900	01/10/2021 30/09/2023	✓
Promotion of agro-forestry to reduce slash and burn practices for livelihood diversification	Bangyul Vegetable Group, CBO	Dungmin, Pema Gatshel	22,900	01/10/2021 30/09/2022	
Community-based eco-friendly production of plates and cups from areca nut palm leaf for women's livelihood in Menchu Chiwog	Menchu Penden Tshogpa, CBO	Norbugang, Pema Gatshel	30,400	01/10/2021 30/9/2022	
Promoting nature-based solutions and alternative livelihoods through introduction of bamboo handicrafts for Norbugang NWFP Group	Shingman Group, CBO	Norbugang, Pema Gatshel	27,000	01/10/2021 30/03/2023	
Community-based clean and renewable energy for Aja community in Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary	Bhutan Ecological Society, BES	Aja, Mongar	50,000	01/10/2021 30/09/2022	✓
Socially inclusive rehabilitation of fallow land for sustainable agriculture and farming in Dawami	Dawami Norjuenmai Sanam Detshen, CBO	Chokorling, Pema Gatshel	49,800	01/10/2021 30/09/2023	

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Impact video on Egg Tray project
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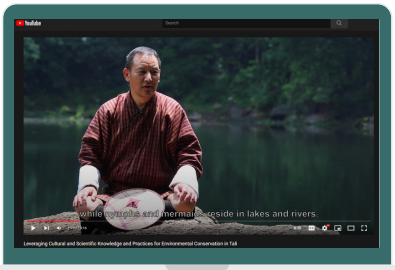

Tali **Lake conservation** project
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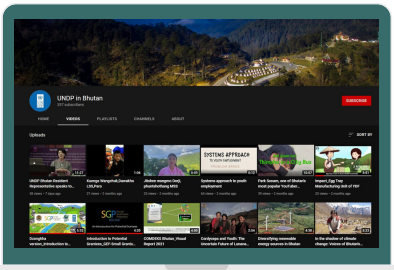

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