



# LAUNCH & INCEPTION WORKSHOP 2020

LIVING LANDSCAPES - Securing High Conservation Value  
(HCV) in South-Western Bhutan



Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

## WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

## IKI

International Climate Initiative (IKI) is one of the most important instruments of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for the international financing of climate change mitigation and biodiversity. IKI operates within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), financing climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation in developing, emerging and transition countries. Since 2008 to 2019, IKI approved more than 730 climate and biodiversity projects with a total funding volume of EUR 3.9 billion in more than 60 countries.

The partner countries are supported with IKI funding to help them implement and ambitiously develop their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) anchored in the Paris Agreement. The NDCs include measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change and increase resilience to its unavoidable impacts. In the field of biodiversity, IKI supports partner countries in achieving the goals of the CBD to counteract the dramatic global loss of natural resources. The activities of IKI also contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Bhutan ranks among the countries with the highest species richness per unit area in continental Asia. Outside Bhutan's extensive protected areas network threats for nature and wildlife are increasing due to interests for economic development. The programme will secure biodiversity and ecosystem services in South-Western Bhutan outside the protected area system. It supports the government at national and sub-national level in identifying High Conservation Values (HCVs) in the programme landscape and promotes their integration in official land use plans. The programme increases the institutional and technical capacity of nine Divisional Forest Offices through the development of new holistic management plans, the provision of technical equipment and trainings. It addresses two key challenges for the livelihoods of local communities: Securing water resources/ water supply and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts. In cooperation with the private sector it initiates business cases for improved market access and commercialization of agricultural and forest products.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme aims to ensure a network of biodiversity hotspots and high conservation value landscapes covering nine Territorial Forest Divisions (DFOs) and 9 Dzongkhags located in the south-western Bhutan. Through sustainable management of these landscapes, the project aims to secure human well-being, biodiversity conservation and increase climate resilience of communities living within these landscapes.

### The project seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Institutionalize integrated land use planning that adequately considers data on High Conservation Values (HCV) at the national level.
- Institutionalize holistic land use management plans that integrate HCVs at the District Forest Office levels through improved capacities.
- Local communities in the landscape benefit from environmentally friendly livelihood strategies promoted through pilots.

### Programme Outputs and Work Packages

**Output I:** Institutional land use planning at the national level. The Government uses an integrated planning approach. The different sectors adequately consider data on High Conservation Values (HCV) and thereby integrate HCV data in land use planning.

This output focuses on establishment of an HCV framework or Bhutan and its integration into national planning process. The project support to this output will include establishment of a sound national monitoring system for HCV and improving institutional capacities and intersectoral coordination so that HCV framework can be mainstreamed into the national and local level planning process.

**Output II:** Divisional Forest Offices establish and use holistic management plans. In these plans HCVs are integrated. The management capacities of the Forest Service are improved.

This output focuses on identification of HCV sites in areas that fall within the jurisdiction of the programme landscape. Holistic and climate-smart management plans will be established in the programme landscape including HCV sites. The project support will include building staff capacities for implementing the holistic and climate-smart management plans and practical measures for biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation. Through this output, a number of HCV sites will be identified and appropriate measures adopted to manage the HCV sites upon approval of their holistic and climate smart management plans by DOFPS.

**Output III:** Local communities in the landscape benefit from environmentally friendly livelihood strategies promoted through pilots.

This output focuses on promoting environment friendly livelihood opportunities to local communities including interventions related to human wildlife coexistence, securing water resources for local communities, development and implementation environment friendly livelihood strategies together with communities and on creating environment friendly community-based business cases for alternative incomes. It will bring about a number of community-based PES schemes, community implemented environment friendly livelihood strategies such as SAFE systems, fresh water harvesting schemes, and community-based environment friendly business enterprises within the landscape.

# KEY MESSAGES ON THE LAUNCH OF LIVING LANDSCAPES PROJECT



“Living Landscape project will bring about integration of conservation and livelihood through the approach of HCV and its an opportunity to take up enterprise development and water resource related activities, which will contribute towards the government’s flagship programs on enterprise development and water.”

*H.E. Yeshey Penjor, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF), Bhutan*

“Bhutan’s reputation as a champion of environmental conservation is felt the minute one enters the airspace and airport of Bhutan. Environmental policy of Bhutan is outstanding and unique. For e.g. control and low use of fertilizers, low overland electricity cables providing minimum threats to birds.”

*H.E. Walter J Lindner, Ambassador, Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany*



“We must be humble to nature and consider nature more than simply things which surround us. Bhutan is very far ahead than most countries in recognizing and acknowledging the importance of the environment, and for its outstanding conservation policy.”

*Christoph Heinrich, Chief Conservation Officer, WWF Germany*



# LAUNCH OF LIVING LANDSCAPES: SECURING HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES IN SOUTH-WESTERN BHUTAN PROJECT

WWF Bhutan, Tarayana Foundation and Royal Government of Bhutan launched the Living Landscapes: Securing High Conservation Values in South-Western Bhutan project to help biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.



© Tashi Phuntsho / WWF Bhutan

The Project was formally launched by Hon'ble Minister, Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan in presence of H. E. Walter J. Lindner, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi, Mr. Christoff Heinrich, Chief Conservation Officer, WWF Germany, who joined virtually and other national partners.

Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor conveyed his gratitude to the Ambassador and Chief Conservation Officer and also other participants from Germany and Bhutan. In his opening remarks, H.E said, "I am grateful to the German Government for funding this project. The support is another testimony to the bilateral relations of the two countries."

The project stands testament to the growing partnership between Germany and Bhutan, and the shared concern about nature and people. H.E. Walter J. Lindner emphasized on the importance of the project by stating that it is the first bilateral project between Germany and Bhutan in the field of biodiversity and climate protection within the framework of International Climate Initiative (IKI).

Stressing on the uniqueness of the project Mr. Christoff Heinrich said, "Bhutan is very far ahead in its recognition of the importance of the environment and its outstanding conservation policy. This project is unique and inspiring in its conservation effort outside the Protected Areas, which used to be the main focus of the conservation efforts."

Lyonpo also expressed satisfaction that Tarayana Foundation, a proven CSO who works with the communities, is an implementing partner in this project. Aum Chime P. Wangdi, Secretary General Tarayana Foundation shared her gratitude to WWF, German Government and all agencies for this important project and for making Tarayana Foundation an implementing partner.

The Living Landscape project worth EUR 10.00 million is funded by IKI under the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany with WWF and Tarayana Foundation as the implementing partners. The Department of Forests and Park Services under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat and the National Land Commission Secretariat (NLCS) are the political partners for the project.

Exhibiting the excitement, Mr. Lobzang Dorji, Director, Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS), MoAF, Bhutan shared, “Bhutan so far had support from the donors only for the conservation efforts in protected areas and in the context of species-specific whildlife conservation. This project is unique and important in its scope to work outside the protected areas in the nine districts in the south-western Bhutan. Through this project, there are chances of discovering new species which is very exciting.”

Mr. Galey Norbu, Director, NLCS, Bhutan provided an update on the project by stating that the National Land Used Zoning (NLUZ) guideline has been already adopted after formulation through multi-stakeholder consultation and that some capacity building has already been undertaken.

In his closing statement Mr. Tashi Jamtsho, Country Representative, WWF Bhutan thanked the German government for supporting the project, and expressed gratitude to our monarchs for their conservation legacy and to all the agencies for their conservation efforts. He added that those who work in the fields are the real heroes.

The launch was followed by the day-long inception workshop involving the implementing partners and the stakeholder.



*“This project is unique and important in its scope to work outside the protected areas in the nine districts in the south-western Bhutan.”*

Lobzang Dorji  
Director, DoFPS



*“... those who work in the fields are the real heroes.”*

Tashi Jamtsho  
Country Representative, WWF Bhuan



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# KEY OUTCOMES

1. Officially Launched the Living Landscapes project by H.E. Mr. Yeshey Penjor, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan
2. Agreed and endorsed the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2020 (AWPB 2020).
3. Agreed on the institution of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC).



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