

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*Community Action in Conservation*



*Inspiring personal responsibility in conservation  
of the Kingdom's environment since 1987*

# STATEMENT FROM OUR PATRON



ସ୍ଵାଧେନ୍ଦ୍ରନାଥ୍ ଶ୍ରୀନାଥ୍ ରାଜମହାରାଜ୍  
Under the Royal Patronage of HRH the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Bhutan

14/3/14/99

*"The kingdom of Bhutan is blessed with an exceptional and largely intact natural environment. I have joined RSPN in its mission to raise awareness of the challenge that faces us now. We must all accept our individual responsibility to conserve the rich diversity of Bhutan's plant and animal species, for the benefit of both the natural world and our children's future."*

*Jigme Khesar Wangchuck*

His Royal Highness Dasho Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck  
the Crown Prince of Bhutan, Royal Patron of RSPN



5th August, 2013

Statement by Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck  
Queen of Bhutan

*The Kingdom of Bhutan has inherited pristine ecosystems and natural resources. We must, as individuals, personally strive to preserve this endowment through our own sustainable actions. It is our responsibility to ensure that this rich biodiversity abounds for generations to come. I join the RSPN in its efforts of environmental conservation, which remains a pressing concern of our time, and encourage every citizen to embrace the path to a greener future.*

*Jetsun Pema Wangchuck*

Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck  
Queen of Bhutan

*Patron of Royal Society for Protection of Nature*



Zawa Village, Wangdue Phodrang District: A White-bellied Heron nest was first rediscovered at this site in 2003, marking the first confirmed active nest in Bhutan.

# CONTENTS

**01**

**Who we are?  
What we do?**

**02**

**Project Profile  
for 2025**

**03**

**Thematic areas:  
Key achievements**

**04**

**Field Stories**

**05**

**Financial  
Summary 2024**

**06**

**Donors and  
partners**

**07**

**Message from  
Executive Director**

**08**

**Our Team**



*Jarogang villagers harvesting chilies from improved seed varieties.*



*Clean and abundant water supply to schools and villages under the Rural Water Supply Scheme.*



*Balana Youth Group extracting mustard oil using a newly installed oil expeller machine.*



*Samarchu villagers are harvesting an increased vegetable production from the greenhouse facilities.*

*Livelihood initiatives supported in the White-bellied Heron Landscape.*

# WHO WE ARE?

## ABOUT US

Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) was established in 1987 under the Royal Command of His Majesty The Fourth King of Bhutan as a citizen-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) devoted to the conservation of the Kingdom's Natural Heritage. His Majesty was the Royal Patron of RSPN from 1999 to 2012. Her Majesty The Queen of Bhutan is the current Royal Patron. RSPN is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of seven members, and the Executive Director is the head of the organization.

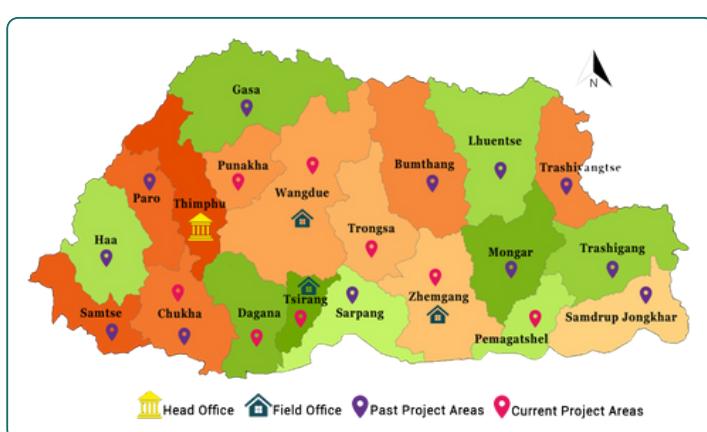
### VISION

To be the Leader in Conservation ensuring future generations of Bhutan live in an Environmentally Sustainable Society.

### MISSION

To inspire personal responsibility and active involvement of people of Bhutan in the conservation of the Kingdom's environment through Education, Community Engagement and Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities.

## WHERE WE ARE

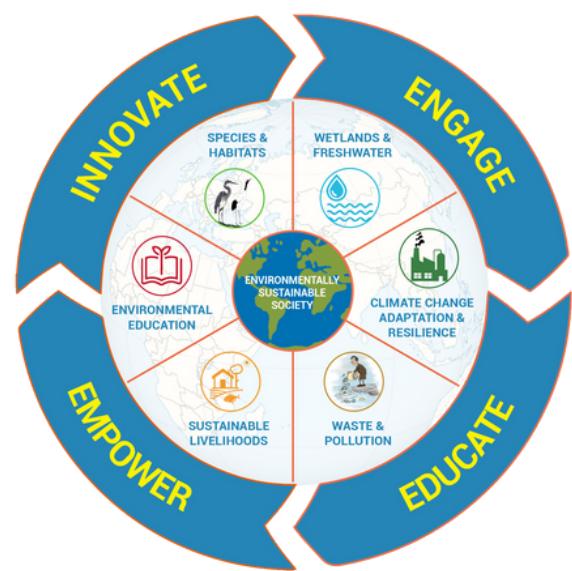


## CORE VALUES

- » Promote innovative technologies and methods.
- » Be proactive towards environmental issues.
- » Be accountable and transparent.
- » Be efficient and effective in delivering programs and services.

## WHAT WE DO?

The mandala represents our systemic approach and efforts, geared to implement sustainable solutions to emerging environmental challenges through, innovation, citizen engagement, education, and empowerment. The six thematic areas are initiated based on national and international priorities that are aligned to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Using this approach, RSPN affirm our belief and commitment to addressing the global issues which are interdependent and connected in nature.



*RSPN's Conservation Mandala*

## THEMATIC AREAS- KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



### SPECIES AND HABITAT

#### 1. BLACK-NECKED CRANE (BNC)



Launched book 'Valley of the Wings: Discovering the Birds of Gangtey-Phobjikha' to commemorate the 70th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty Fourth Druk Gyalpo during the Black-necked Crane Festival.



Organized a Knowledge Sharing Workshop on BNC Conservation with participation from Bhutan, China, India, the International Crane Foundation, the USA, and Nepal to enhance crane conservation efforts in the range countries.



Continued efforts are underway for joint conservation initiatives across the range countries of the BNC Landscape under Sacred Flyway Project. In Bhutan, **30 hectares** of degraded foraging habitat (paddy fields) have been successfully **restored**.



The Annual Black-necked Crane Population Survey **recorded 709** individuals this year, a 4.9% increase from 2024 (676 individuals).



**Initiated** a study to evaluate and track woody plant encroachment in Gangtey-Phobji wetland ecosystem. This study will contribute in managing invasive woody plant to conserve natural wetland ecosystem.



**Co-facilitated** the 27th Annual Black-necked Crane Festival at Gangtey Monastery, which is recognized as one of Bhutan's top tourist destinations.



Royal Society for Protection of Nature

Launched Book 'Valley of the Wings: Discovering the Birds of Gangtey-Phobjikha'.



Participants from the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on BNC Conservation.



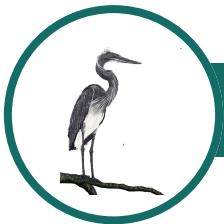
**Restored** critical roosting sites of BNC in Gangtey-Phobjikha valley as part of the annual awareness and habitat restoration program, engaging local communities.



With **29,114 visitors** recorded, the **Black-necked Crane Education Center** in Wangdue Phodrang District remains a vital knowledge hub for WBH conservation.



RSPN and FAO Bhutan collaborated to restore the wetlands of Phobjikha Valley, manage the encroachment of woody plants, and revitalize wetland habitats.



## SPECIES AND HABITAT

### 2. WHITE-BELLIED HERON (WBH)



The Annual White-bellied Heron Population Survey **recorded 29 individuals** this year, a 16% increase from 2024 (25 individuals).

**Launched** the **EarthRanger** tool in Bhutan to monitor WBH and other associated species. The daily observations by Local Conservation Support Group (LCSG) members and Field Foresters are now recorded through the app, improving real-time data collection and species monitoring.



**Restored 12.5 hectares** of degraded WBH habitats along the Punatsangchu and Mangdechu basins through forest plantation, achieving a survival rate of over **85 percent**.



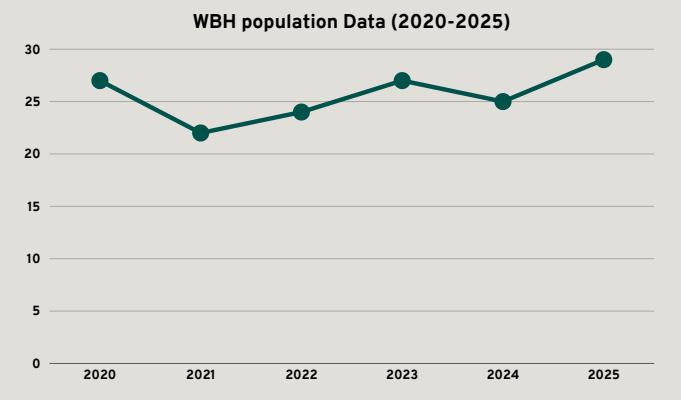
**Recorded four active** WBH nests during the Annual Nest Survey, with two chicks successfully fledging. This suggests potential recruitment of two juveniles into the wild each year.



With **1,615 visitors** recorded, the **White-bellied Heron Conservation Center** in Tsirang District remains a vital knowledge hub for WBH conservation.



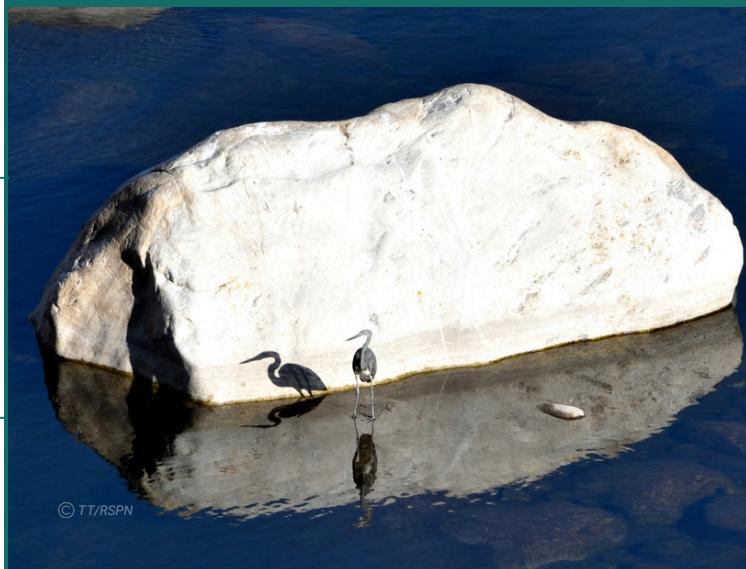
A survey was **conducted** in the KuruGongri River basin of **Eastern Bhutan** to document biodiversity and socio-economic conditions. This survey aimed to map the distribution of waterbirds, otters, and WBH.



Annual Population Survey of WBH for the Past Five Years (2020–2025).



Field Foresters engaged in hands-on training sessions for the EarthRanger App.



© TT/RSPN

Snack time: A White-bellied Heron patiently waiting to catch its next meal.



**Introduced and adopted** drone technology for WBH monitoring. The use of drones to survey the species and its nests was found feasible, enhancing data collection and surveys.



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

**20 schools in Bhutan**, each with a **ASPnet/Nature Club** were provided with the Small study grant opportunity to engage and address local environmental challenges, while promoting nature-based solutions.



**Built capacity of 27 ASPnet/Nature Club Coordinators** (19 Males and 8 Females) on **Climate Change and Environmental Education**.



**Organized** Experience Sharing Visit on Successful and Innovative Business Enterprises Focused on Sustainable Agriculture, Ecotourism, Climate-Smart Practices, and Biodiversity Conservation for **Six District Governors (Dzongdags)** and RSPN staff to Bangkok, Thailand.



**Organized knowledge-sharing visits focused** on Climate Resilient Agriculture, Nature-based Solutions, and Community Learning Centers: to **Nepal** for 12 participants (8 males and 4 females) and to **India** for 6 participants (4 males and 2 females). Participants included local government leaders, Community Learning Center leaders, research center staff, college representatives, and RSPN staff, as part of the HI-REAP Project.



**1,878** individuals, including students, participated in awareness programs focused on **BNC and WBH conservation**.



**Participated** in the **IUCN Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi** and presented Bhutan's White-bellied Heron conservation initiatives, highlighting global collaboration to secure the species' long-term survival.



**Imparted Environmental Education** to over **1,300** youth through internship opportunities, membership programs, and environment-related events.



Teamwork in action at the Capacity Building Workshop: Nature and ASPnet Club Coordinators.



Group photo of participants from the Experience Sharing visit in Bangkok.



A Black-necked Crane artwork created by a student from ECCD.



**Conducted** the Annual National Coordination Meeting, engaging **32** key national stakeholders to review plans and implement projects.



## WASTE AND POLLUTION

**Two ASPnet/Nature Club** schools initiated nature-positive solutions to address the waste problem in their schools. As a result, **5,644 kilograms** of plastic waste have been transformed into “eco-bricks,” which are utilized for construction and road-building materials.



**Initiated** waste management enhancements by upgrading facilities, such as resting areas and waste bins, along the Druk Path Trek as a component of Rinchulum watershed management.



**Completed** a pre-feasibility study on **Waste Management** through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The study assessed current challenges, identified gaps, and evaluated associated environmental and social risks.



**Engaged 330 local participants** in a cleaning campaign within the Gangtey-Phobjikha Valley, as part of the nationwide river cleaning initiative.



*Students in action: Recycling plastic waste into eco-bricks.*



*A cleaner trail ahead: New waste bins installed on the Druk Path Trek.*



*Women in Action: Participants during the Gangtey-Phobjikha Ramsar Cleaning Campaign.*



## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



**Conducted** capacity-building training for farmers and key stakeholders of Gangtey-Phobjikha, and established **two Community Learning Centers** for Climate-Resilient Agriculture under the HI-REAP initiative. 39 local participants (20 males and 19 females) attended the training.



**Trained 28** local government officials on **rural entrepreneurship** from the White-bellied Heron landscape. This training promoted rural-based enterprises in beekeeping, fisheries, and high-value crop cultivation.



Nu 200/kg  
Zawa village  
Nu 500/kg  
Nimshong village

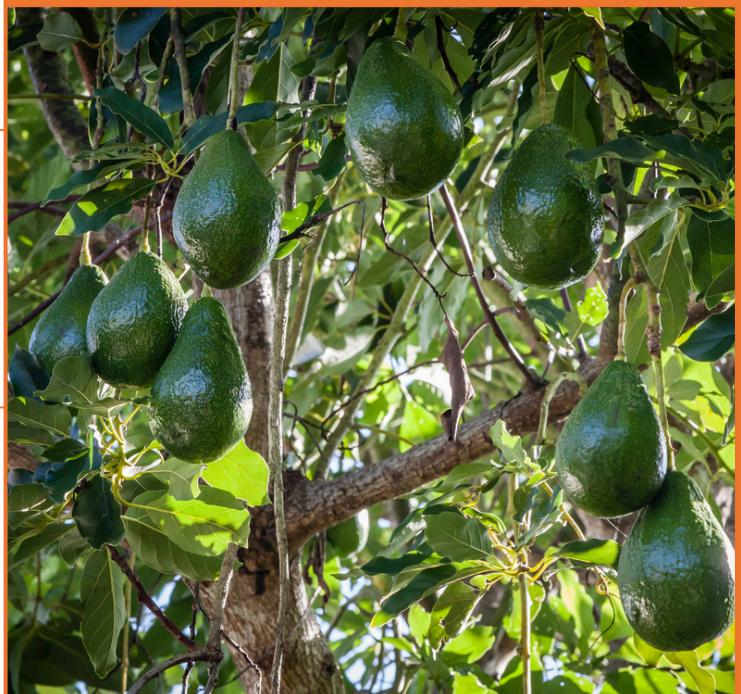
**High-value fruit saplings**, such as avocados and cardamom, which were introduced in 2023 within the Climate-Smart Agriculture landscape, have now **matured and are generating income** for local farmers this year.



Stakeholder meetings were organized to implement **Climate-Smart Agriculture initiatives** and establish a community seed bank in the White-bellied Heron landscape. This resulted in the **signing of MoUs** with local governments to implement initiatives including fisheries and beekeeping.



From seed to bounty: Cardamom harvest in Nimshong village, Trongsa District.



Abundant Avocados: A Rich Harvest from High-Value Fruit Tree Saplings in Wangdue Phodrang District.



The signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Local Governments to implement the CSA initiatives.



Participants of the Rural Entrepreneurship Training in the White-bellied Heron landscape.



Youth Group launched locally produced Mustard Oil.

A community youth group (*Balana Agriculture and Livestock Youth*) **launched locally produced mustard oil** with seed and seedling support and capacity-building programs, empowering community, youth, and women's groups in the diversification of livelihood options.



Developed and published **five ecotourism promotional videos** (Dagana, Tsirang, Punakha-Wangdue, Trongsa and Zhemgang).



**21 village homestays** were **certified** by the Department of Tourism, increasing the total number of **certified homestays to 33.**



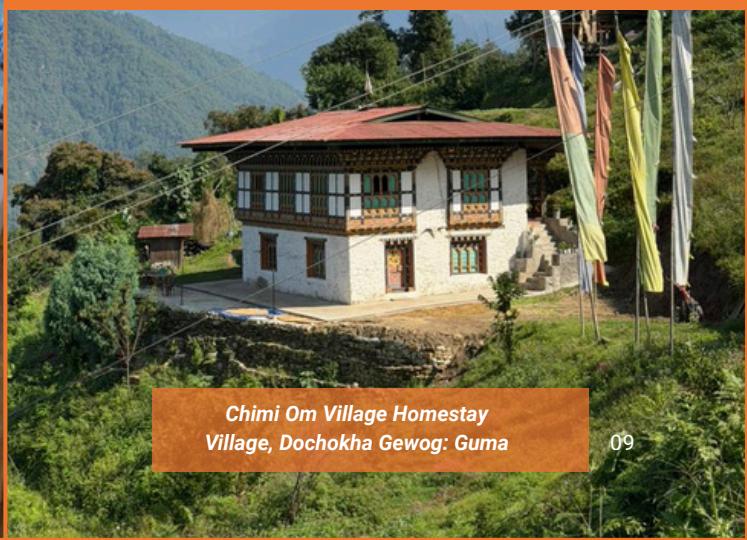
*Kinley Om Village Homestay, Guma Gewog, Punakha District.*



*Local cuisine prepared in Aum Dechen Om Village Homestay, Punakha District.*



*To enhance the guest experience and promote better hygiene and sanitation practices, Village Homestay has upgraded its facilities.*



*Chimi Om Village Homestay  
Village, Dochokha Gewog: Guma*



## WETLAND AND FRESHWATER

**Completed the Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) study** of high-altitude wetland areas in Bhutan to assess biodiversity, hydrological functions, and ecosystem services. The study highlighted the critical role of these wetlands in water security, climate regulation, and habitat conservation.



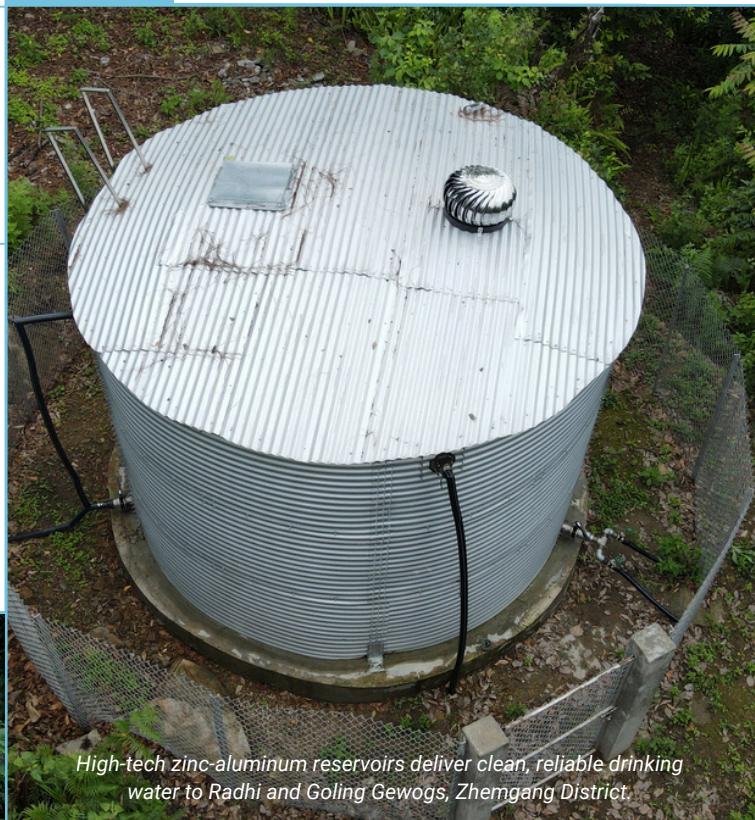
**35 community members** (13 males and 22 females) from Wangduephodrang District were trained to develop RWSS guidelines/by-laws. Currently, local communities are implementing the endorsed RWSS guidelines/by-laws, which are available in both English and Dzongkha versions.



**The 14 Rural Water Supply Schemes (RWSS)** launched in 2024 now provide reliable and safe water to **over 600 households** in the White-bellied Heron landscape.



**Developed and endorsed** the Rinchulum Water Management By-laws following extensive community consultation. This initiative aims to improve the sustainable management of the watershed, benefiting both drinking water and irrigation for Dopshari Gewog, Paro District.



High-tech zinc-aluminum reservoirs deliver clean, reliable drinking water to Radhi and Goling Gewogs, Zhemgang District.

*A sustainable water reservoir using nature-based solutions in Dzomi Gewog, Punakha District.*





## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION



**Developed** the Harmonization of Climate and Environmental Laws in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General. This document ensured that domestic climate and environmental regulations align with international standards, improved legal consistency, and enhanced institutional capacity to tackle emerging environmental issues.



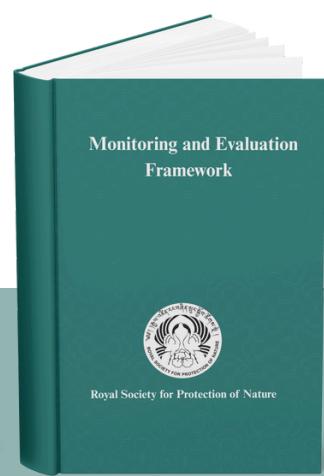
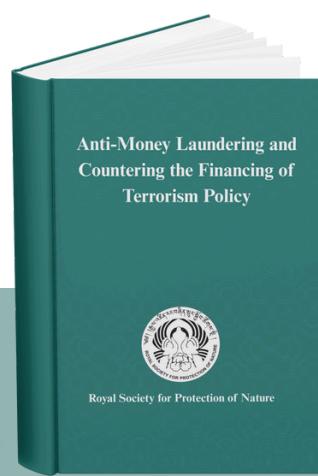
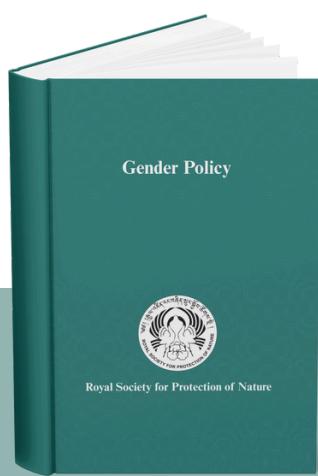
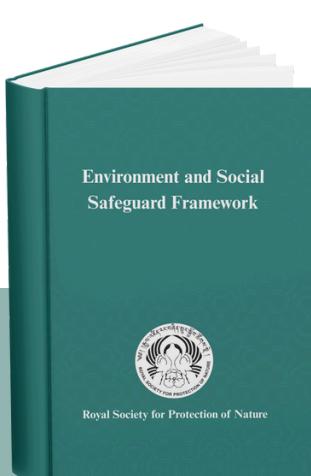
**Developed and institutionalized** strategic policies and frameworks aligned with international standards and national legal frameworks, to strengthen organizational compliance, governance, and accountability. The policies and frameworks include the Environment and Social Safeguard Framework, Gender Policy, Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy, and a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.



*Participants from Ecosystem Services and Resilience Assessment and Mapping (ESRAM) meeting.*



*Participants from the Harmonization of Climate and Environmental Laws Workshop.*



*Institutionalized Policies: Driving Sustainability, Gender Equality, Accountability, and Governance.*

# FIELD STORIES

## Community-based Tourism for Conservation and Livelihoods: Progress from the CBT Programme

Under the project "Develop Ecosystem-based Solutions for Managing Biodiversity Landscape in Bhutan" supported by BMUKN and IKI, RSPN implemented a Community-Based Tourism (CBT) programme across Dagana, Tsirang, Wangdue, Punakha, Trongsa, and Zhemgang key districts within the Puna Tsangchhu and Mangdechu river basins, home to the critically endangered White-bellied Heron (WBH). The programme focused on developing village homestays, community campsites, nature trails, and providing capacity-building training in hospitality, management, and service delivery.

Over the past five-year, CBT programme has shown steady progress in enhancing rural livelihoods while strengthening community stewardship of WBH conservation. A total of 62 households upgraded their homes for village homestays, with 33 achieving certification despite changes in policy and guidelines. Certified homestays have begun generating meaningful income, improving household stability, supporting children's education, and promoting local culture while sharing conservation messages with visitors.



*"Before the homestay initiative, I never imagined that tourists would come to stay in my home. Today, my life has completely changed. I no longer depend on anyone for income, as I now earn a steady livelihood through the homestay. I truly enjoy sharing our culture and way of life with visitors. This opportunity has helped me support my children's education, improve our living conditions, and even lend a helping hand to neighbors in need. I am proud to be an example for others in my community."*

*Ms Kinley Dem, Damchi Village Homestay, Kabesa, Punakha District*

Following the Punatsangchu Basin, in the verdant landscapes of Dagana, CBT is bringing the community together, turning conservation into an opportunity, boosting incomes, and improving livelihoods while fostering a stronger connection to the White-bellied Heron habitat.



*Damchi Village Homestay, Punakha District.*



*"CBT has united our community. We no longer see conservation as a restriction, but as an opportunity. The income earned by the local community has strengthened our appreciation for the White-bellied Heron habitat and the need to protect it. CBT has also improved our livelihoods by promoting cleanliness, better health practices, and overall upliftment of the community's living standards through tourism."*

*Mr Gem Gyelshen, Samarchu Tshogpa, Dagana District*

Youth engagement has been another key achievement, particularly through campsite development in Baragumti, Zomlingthang, and Berti, which are receiving increasing visitor interest. Income from these sites has encouraged youth to remain locally employed, while an emerging campsite in Sunkosh has already strengthened knowledge on CBT and responsible tourism practices. These initiatives have reinforced community pride and demonstrated that livelihood incentives can effectively support conservation outcomes.

While progress is promising, communities would continue to require support in marketing, infrastructure development, service standardization, and managing seasonal visitor fluctuations. Continued collaboration with local leaders will be essential to maintain CBT as a sustainable, conservation-friendly enterprise in the WBH landscape. Beyond economic benefits, CBT has fostered positive social change, with increasing community recognition of conservation as a viable development pathway. Women and youth have taken on leadership roles in tourism and local decision-making. With sustained commitment, CBT will continue to contribute significantly to rural livelihoods and the long-term protection of the White-bellied Heron habitat.



*"Working at the ecolodge/campsite has given me confidence and valuable new skills. I once believed that I had to migrate elsewhere to find employment, but now I am able to earn a living right here in my own village. I feel proud to contribute to the protection of WBH and its habitat while providing quality services to our visitors."*

*Dorji Wangmo, Berti WBH Ecolodge, Zhemgang District*



*"The Divisional Forest Office, Tsirang, has observed substantial positive impacts from this community-based tourism model, particularly in terms of rural income generation and employment creation. In addition, visitors from both nearby and distant areas benefit not only from recreational experiences but also from the associated health and wellness advantages offered by these ecotourism facilities." - Ghimeray, TFD, Tsirang District*

Written by:  
Khachi Wangmo, Senior Project Officer

# From a Fragile Egg to a Ray of Hope: The Story of Our First Artificially Incubated White-bellied Heron's egg at the conservation center

The White-bellied Heron Conservation Centre (WBHCC) has achieved a historic milestone successfully hatching and rearing the first White-bellied Heron chick through artificial incubation in 2024. This marks a major success since the establishment of the captive conservation program, bringing renewed hope for one of the world's rarest birds, with fewer than 60 individuals remaining globally.

The success journey was not easy as every stage demanded careful monitoring and decision making to ensure the survival of this fragile egg. Despite these challenges, the unwavering dedication of our conservation team, combined with the timely guidance and support of international experts, made it possible to overcome the odds. The egg was carefully lifted from a wild nest in Zhemgang after the loss of eggs in the previous year due to monkey predation, therefore the decision to intervene was both urgent and precautionary.

## Artificial Incubator

Inside the gentle warmth of an artificial incubator, a fragile spark of life slowly came alive. After weeks of patience and hope a tiny chick was successfully hatched weighing just 64 grams at birth. We watched this 'precious jewel' take its first breaths, found its voice, and grew its soft down feathers. Each passing day brought something new to celebrate: stronger calls, the flutter of wings, the first sign of a crest, and the shimmering promise of full plumage. Then, at just 69 days old, he spread his wings and took his very first flight, a proud moment and joy for everyone who had worked hard to make it possible.



26.03.2024

## Puppet Feeding of one week old chick

Today, at 614 days old and weighing 3 kg, this young heron has transformed into a magnificent bird. It actively explores the aviary, engages in short flights, forages for food, calls out, and interacts playfully with its female companion. This development brings hope for increasing the global population of the White-bellied Heron. This milestone not only shines a light of optimism for the species but also demonstrates that science and dedication can lead to positive change. This is not just a heron story, it is a story of hope for the entire species. If we protect our rivers, we protect the heron and if we protect the heron, we protect an entire living legacy.

## WBH Growth Stages Captured in WBHCC



15 days old chick



19 days old chick  
(Sun bathing)



Chick being able to stand  
(27 days old)



31 days old Chick



Chick ringed and transferred to outside  
aviary ( 110 days old )



Chick flapping wings for the  
flights



504 days old juvenile / chick with  
twigs

Written by:  
Samten Leki, Veterinary Officer, WBHCC

# PROJECT PROFILE FOR THE YEAR 2025

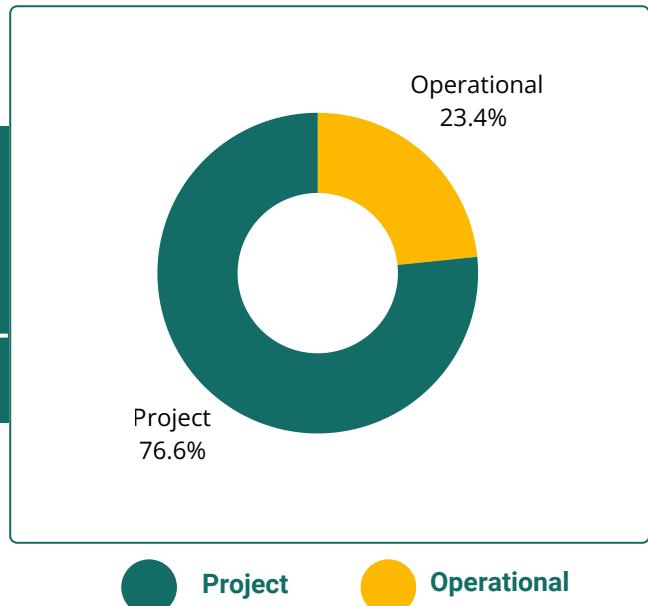
SL NO	PROJECT TITLE	DONOR	TOTAL APPROVED GRANT (USD)	TOTAL APPROVED GRANT (NU)
1	Application for a Grant to support NIE accreditation through the readiness package	Adaptation Fund	150,000.00	12,450,000.00
2	Assess and map new potential habitat of White-bellied Heron in eastern Bhutan, Jomori river basin	ASAP and Global Wildlife Fund	20,000.00	1,660,000.00
3	BNC Conservation Project-Year 3, Gr. VI	International Crane Foundation ,USA	35,000.00	2,796,920.00
4	Developing Ecosystem-based Solutions for Managing Biodiversity Landscapes in Bhutan	BMUKN & IKI,Germany	4,606,894.00	353,460,000.00
5	Enhancing Biodiversity Protection and Building Capacity for Cooperative Research in Bhutan to Address Sustainable Development Goal 15	Cooperation Development Research (KoEF)	50,000.00	4,150,000.00
6	Enhancing Climate and Biodiversity Knowledge in ASPnet Schools of Bhutan Fostering Sustainability	UNESCO	20,000.00	1,660,000.00
7	Mapping and Quantifying Multiple Threats to the Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron and associated waterbird species in Bhutan	Hong kong Bird Watching	2,000.00	166,000.00
8	Operational cost of White-bellied Heron Conservation Center Chachey, Tsirang, Bhutan	MAVA Foundation, Switzerland	272,589.00	22,355,023.89
9	Sacred Flyways: Securing Site Networks for the Black-necked Crane as a Flagship Species for High Altitude Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in the Central Asian Flyway	Fondation Hans Wilsdorf through International Crane Foundation	288,376.00	23,935,208.00
10	Securing White-bellied Heron population in Bhutan	Synchronicity Earth, London	98,662.00	8,188,946.00
11	Strengthening Capacities and Enhancing Climate Data and Services in Bhutan to Scale-up Climate Financing from Multiple Sources	GCF Readiness, South Korea	991,452.00	81,299,064.00
12	Strengthening Capacity to Enhance Knowledge and Skills in Conservation	Foundation Hans Wilsdorf, Switzerland	450,000.00	37,350,000.00
13	WBH Conservation-Conservation Allies Fund	Conservation Allies, USA	2,000.00	166,000.00
14	Innovating Sustainable Community Drinking Water Supply and Distribution System in Gonpawoong Village in Dechheling Gewog, Pema Gatshel	Christopher Hunt (Jebba)	30,000	1,031,125.00
15	Integrated Watershed Management Intervention for Rinchulum Watershed in Dopshari Gewog, Paro Dzongkhag	Ozen Sanctum Retreat Centre	46,992.48	4,000,000.00
16	Piloting and Testing of GESI-Responsive Climate Resilient Solutions as Nature Based Solution, Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP)	ICIMOD	31,977	2,747,783.00
17	Otter Distribution studies in Bhutan	Himalayan otter Network	12,000	996,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>7,107,942.48</b>	<b>558,412,069.9</b>

Exchange rate: USD 1 = Nu 83/-

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2025

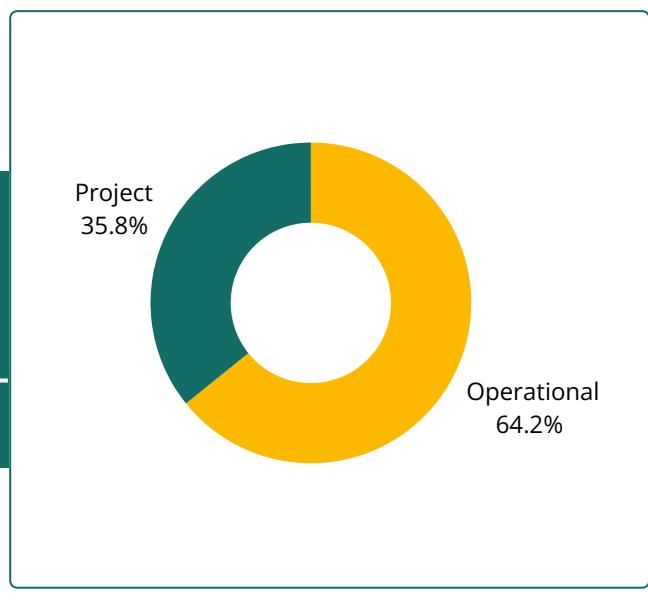
## BUDGET PROPOSED

Operational	Nu 39,960,965.98
Project	Nu 130,969,677.11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Nu 170,930,643.09</b>



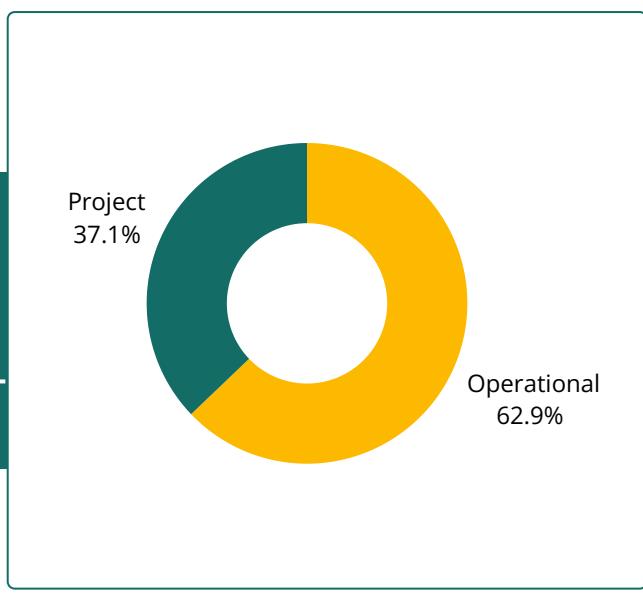
## BUDGET RECEIPT

Operational	Nu 44,706,244.46
Project	Nu 34,917,402.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Nu 79,623,646.93</b>



## EXPENSES

Operational	Nu 34,604,611.04
Project	Nu 20,448,042.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Nu 55,052,653.19</b>



**NOTE:** The above financial summary is unaudited and subject to revision. The remaining balance of funds, representing the difference between the budget received and expenditure incurred, will be carried forward as spillover funds to the next fiscal year.

# OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

## DONORS



Supported by:  
Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety



FONDATION  
HANS WILSDORF



With the support of the Participation Programme



## OUR PARTNERS



Andre Hoffmann  
Hoffman Foundation



Anis Abadi  
Germany



Christopher Hunt,  
USA



Dominic & Han Scriven,  
Vietnam



Dinh Thi Hoa  
Vietnam



Dr. George Archibald  
Co-Founder, ICF, USA



Jonathan Charles Eames,  
OBE, UK



Hishey Tshering (Right)  
Bhutan Birding and Heritage Travels,  
Bhutan



Professor Satoshi Shimano  
Japan

We also acknowledge our **Institutional Members, international and national members**, for graciously supporting our shared mission:

1. All Bhutan Connect Pvt. Ltd.
2. Amen Bhutan Tours & Treks
3. Athang Private Limited.
4. Bank of Bhutan
5. Bhutan Agro Industries Ltd.
6. Bhutan Development Bank Ltd.
7. Bhutan Birding & Heritage Travels
8. Bhutan Eco Lodges
9. Bhutan for Life
10. Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd.
11. Blue Poppy Tours & Treks
12. Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd.
13. Druk Wang Alloys Ltd.
14. Firefox Tours
15. My Bhutan
16. Natural Resources Development Corporation Ltd.
17. Norbu Bhutan Travel Pvt. Ltd.
18. Royal Insurance Corporation of Bhutan Ltd.
19. Royal Thimphu College

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we reflect on 2025, we are inspired by the powerful role played by local communities across Bhutan, who remain steadfast in safeguarding our extraordinary natural heritage. At RSPN, we firmly believe in addressing diverse socio-environmental challenges including mitigation and adaptation, as well as human security concerns such as water and food security and disaster risk reduction aimed at building resilient ecosystems and communities.

The theme of this year's annual report, "**Communities' Conservation Action**," celebrates the dedication, resilience, and leadership of Bhutanese communities in driving conservation efforts at the grassroots level. From habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring to promoting eco-friendly livelihoods and environmental education where communities have been at the forefront of turning knowledge into action.

In addition, RSPN had the privilege of participating in the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) Volunteer Programme, joining fellow Bhutanese citizens in providing zhabtogs services for the upcoming GMC project. Through these meaningful contributions, we work toward a future guided by His Majesty's vision of harmony, unity, and mindful development. We remain deeply grateful for His Majesty The King's far-sighted guidance, which inspires us to uphold our shared responsibility in serving our beloved nation.



I extend my heartfelt gratitude and dedicate ourselves to our Royal Patron's blessing which has been instrumental in RSPN growth and successes and also to all our donors, partners, supporters, and community members for their unwavering trust, commitment, and believing in our mission.

**Tashi Delek!**

**Kinley Tenzin, PhD**  
**Executive Director**



## HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

Together, with your support, the Royal Society for Protection of Nature can create an even greater impact!

International  
Donation



SCAN ME

National  
Donation



SCAN ME



# ROYAL PATRON

Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck

## Board of Directors:

Zimpon Wom Karma Tenzin, Board Director

Mr Karma Tenzin, Board Director

Dr Karma Tshering, Board Director

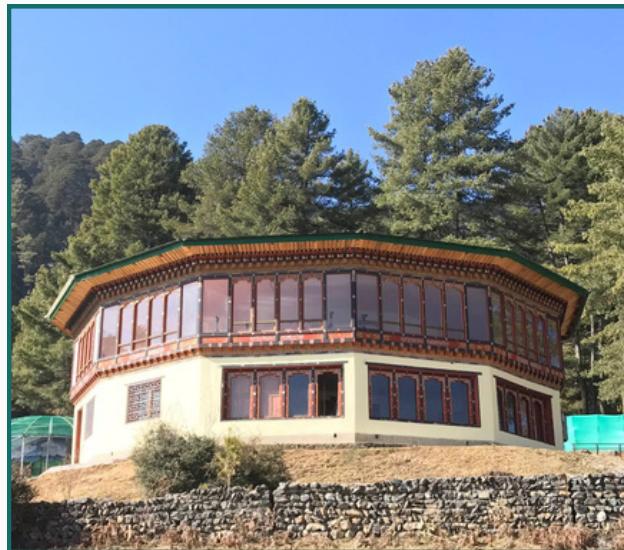
Mr Yonten Gyamtsho, Board Director

## Field Offices:

### 1. Black-necked Crane Education Center, Gangtey - Phobjikha WangduePhodrang

Center In-Charge/Naturalist: Karma Lodhen Wangmo (Ms)

Email: [klodhen@rspnbhutan.org](mailto:klodhen@rspnbhutan.org)



### 2. White-bellied Heron Conservation Center, Chachey Dovan Tsirang

Center In-Charge :Samten Leki (Ms)

Email: [sleki@rspnbhutan.org](mailto:sleki@rspnbhutan.org)



**Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** RSPN has an established Grievance Redressal Mechanism to ensure transparency and accountability in its operations. No grievances were recorded during the year 2025.



*Overview of Bara Gumti Campsite in Dagana District.*

**[www.rspnbhutan.org](http://www.rspnbhutan.org)**

P.O.Box:325, Building No:25 Lhado Lam, Kawajangsa, Thimphu  
11001, Bhutan Tele: +975 2 326130

Fax: +975 2 323189

Email: [rspn@rspnbhutan.org](mailto:rspn@rspnbhutan.org)