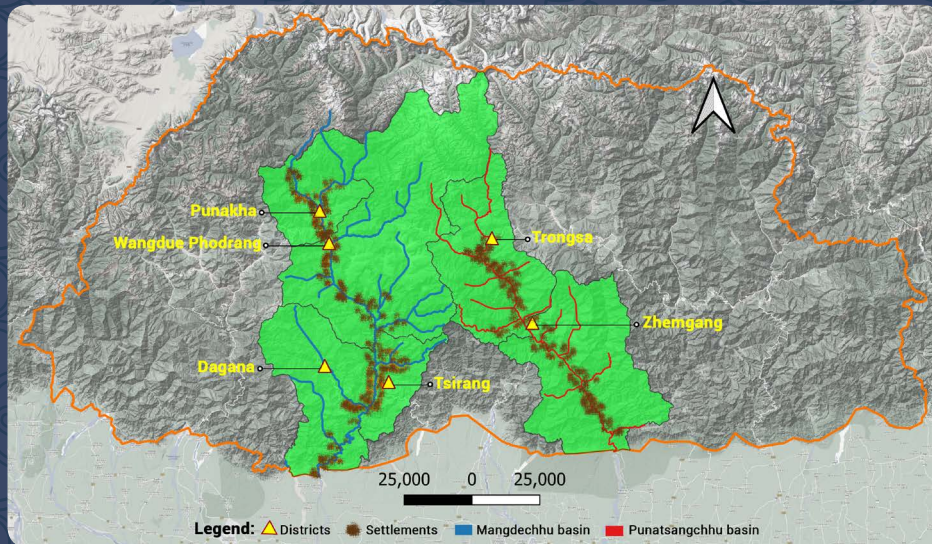


## PROJECT LANDSCAPE



*"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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RSPN Bhutan

## Developing Ecosystem-based Solutions for Managing Biodiversity Landscapes in Bhutan



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Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The objective of the project is to establish approaches and tools for protecting and managing the Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron (WBH) habitats along Punatsangchhu and Mangdechhu basins, central part of Bhutan.

It is funded by the **Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany** through **International Climate Initiative (IKI)** with co-funding from **MAVA Foundation, Switzerland** and the **Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN)**. The project is implemented in collaboration with the **Royal Government of Bhutan** and other stakeholders.

Start Date : **July 1, 2021**  
End Date : **June 30, 2026**  
Project Budget : **EUR 4.11 Million**



## IMPACT

WBH population stable or increasing in Bhutan and other Himalayan countries through ecosystem-based conservation measures.

## MILESTONES ROADMAP

- Training reports on ESRAM and habitat restoration prepared
- Beekeeping and fishery scheme established
- New potential nesting sites surveyed
- Seedlings for tree plantation produced
- Policy brief prepared

2025

- Training reports on ESRAM and habitat restoration prepared
- Degraded WBH habitats identified and mapped
- New potential nesting sites surveyed
- Seedlings for tree plantation produced
- WBH database system established
- Ecotourism feasibility study published
- Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) management group formed
- HWC fund established

2022

- Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) report published
- Biodiversity survey manual published

2021

- Documentary on project results and impacts produced
- National and international WBH conference and meetings organized

2026

- Capacity building on community-based ecotourism
- Training materials for various climate-smart livelihoods activities prepared
- New potential nesting sites surveyed
- Seedlings for tree plantation produced

2024

- Local Conservation Support Group (LCSG) established
- Training on community-based ecotourism conducted
- Agro-ecological farms enterprise established
- New potential nesting sites surveyed
- Seedlings for tree plantation produced

2023



1. Ecosystem-based biodiversity survey and community engagement strategies for WBH conservation based on ESRAM approach, designed and applied.



5. Knowledge base on ecosystem-based biodiversity conservation, WBH habitat and population and climate adaptation, established and disseminated.

## OUTPUTS



2. Degraded and new potential WBH habitats rehabilitated and created (feeding, roosting and nesting).



4. Ecosystem-based adaptation livelihood options in the WBH habitat areas, applied and established.



3. Capacity of all stakeholders on planning and implementation of ESRAM study, ecosystem-based adaptation and livelihood options strengthened.



## OUTCOME

Effective adaptive ecosystem solutions for WBH conservation in Bhutan and other Himalayan countries created through habitat restoration and livelihoods enhancement.

## STAKEHOLDERS

- District Administrations: Dagana, Punakha, Trongsa, Tsirang, Wangdue Phodrang and Zhemgang
- Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
- Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
- Tourism Council of Bhutan
- WWF Bhutan