Developing Ecosystem-based Solutions for Managing Biodiversity Landscapes in Bhutan
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

**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

**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
- 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
- Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) management group formed
- HWC fund established
- Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) report published
- Biodiversity survey manual published

**OUTPUTS**

1. Ecosystem-based biodiversity survey and community engagement strategies for WBH conservation based on ESRAM approach, designed and applied.
2. Degraded and new potential WBH habitats rehabilitated and created (feeding, roosting and nesting).
3. Capacity building on community-based ecotourism
4. Ecosystem-based adaptation livelihood options in the WBH habitat areas, applied and established.
5. Knowledge base on ecosystem-based biodiversity conservation, WBH habitat and population and climate adaptation, established and disseminated.

**OUTCOME**

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