



Annual Report

2023



Foundations & Frontiers

Bhutan is a nation full of promise and potential. We have the security and confidence of our own culture and traditions, an unspoiled environment and most importantly, a young population full of dynamism and promise.

His Majesty The King
Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck



Table of Contents

Remembering John Goelet	1
Words From Our Leadership	2
Technology	4
Research.....	8
Public Health.....	12
Social Inclusion.....	14
Environment.....	18
Sustainable Agriculture.....	24
Ecotourism.....	28
Culture.....	32
International Partners.....	36
Local Partners.....	37
Grants.....	38
Financial Summary.....	42
Donors.....	44
Ways to Give.....	51
Our Leadership.....	53
Our Team.....	54
Contact Us.....	55



Monks in Bhutan offering butter lamps
Butter lamps are offered as symbolic gestures of dispelling darkness and invoking wisdom, particularly after one has passed away.



Remembering John Goelet,
Co-founder of the Bhutan Foundation

It is with heavy hearts that we pay tribute to the co-founder of the Bhutan Foundation, John Goelet, who passed away peacefully on January 8th, 2023.

Born in Bordeaux, France, in 1931, John's journey spanned continents, languages, and industries. From his academic pursuits at Harvard, where he cultivated a deep appreciation for the Middle East, to his adventures across the deserts of Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, John lived a life marked by curiosity and the courage to challenge conventions.

Amidst these pursuits, his heart always held a special place for philanthropy. First introduced to Bhutan when his beloved wife Henrietta was a classmate of a Bhutanese woman who would later become the Queen of Bhutan, Ashi Kesang Choeden Wangchuck, they together co-founded the Bhutan Foundation in 1986, solidifying their shared passion and commitment to the Himalayan Kingdom and its people.

John and Henrietta's life-long love and relationship with the Bhutanese people continues, now encompassing three generations of their family. John is survived by his wife, Henrietta; sons Philip and Christopher; their wives Anette and Lucy; and six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

As stewards of the Bhutan Foundation, we're honored to carry forward his vision and pledge to continue the mission he championed.

Words From Our Leadership

I extend my warmest regards and heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support and dedication. As we stand at the threshold of a future abundant with opportunities and challenges, it is paramount that we anchor our efforts in the sturdy foundation of our core values and essential needs. Simultaneously, we must hold a brave vision of new frontiers and actively drive innovation in collaboration with our partners. This year, we have focused on fortifying our fundamentals while embracing technological advancements, a mission outlined prominently in our annual report, *Foundations & Frontiers*.

Sustainable development remains our primary objective, encompassing pivotal sectors. We've fortified public health by collaborating with Moderna, enhanced social inclusion to improve the lives of children with special needs, adopted renewable energy solutions to protect our environment and uplift rural communities, and nurtured future pioneers through substantial investments in STEM infrastructure and capacity building.

Our rich culture, the bedrock of our identity, has been safeguarded through visionary initiatives like the Cultural Heritage Inventory Database System. This groundbreaking project leverages technology to preserve the richness of our history, bridging the gap between modernity and tradition. A beautiful fusion of the old and new was aptly demonstrated in the adaptive reuse of the Wangduechhoeling Palace, showcased during a special preview event in May.

Our unwavering commitment to environmental preservation remains steadfast, with dedicated conservation efforts targeting mountain tigers and snow leopards. The notable increase in their populations this year is a testament to our community-driven strategies, promoting harmonious coexistence with these magnificent creatures. Furthermore, our partnerships under the PEER research grant are driving home-grown solutions to address climate change through studies on sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation. These initiatives set the stage for a self-reliant Bhutan, safeguarding the livelihoods of our highlanders and promoting climate-smart agriculture.

Our diligent efforts in strategizing for the upcoming COP28 have taken the center stage, amplifying Bhutan's voice on global platforms regarding climate change. We have brought together stakeholders from various sectors and are exploring innovative avenues in financing and technology. It is with great joy that I share Bhutan's recent distinction as the first-ever country to receive the esteemed Murie Spirit of Conservation Award. This recognition, previously bestowed upon luminaries such as Dr. Jane Goodall, underscores Bhutan's leadership in global conservation efforts. I am equally honored to receive an award in my name, recognizing my passion for inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders.

As we forge ahead, honoring the foundations that define us while reaching toward the promising frontiers that beckon, we remain profoundly grateful for your unwavering support. Together, we continue to shape a Bhutan that stands tall, a beacon of harmony seamlessly blending the old and the new, the traditional and the modern.



Tseyring Pem Wangchuck
Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Bhutan

Foundations & Frontiers

In the past year, the Bhutan Foundation has embarked on an inspiring journey of progress, hope, and resilience. These remarkable strides are a testament to the power of partnerships with implementing agencies, and the unwavering support from our donors and friends – all of you.

Our commitment to social inclusion remains firm. We've empowered teachers, families, and youth with special needs, fostering confidence and inclusive environments. Our partnerships have also catapulted Bhutan into new frontiers of innovation, exemplified by the Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck Super FabLab which hosted the recent Fab Bhutan '23 conference, uniting global tech innovators in Bhutan for the first time.

In 2023, agriculture, the backbone of Bhutan's economy, faced new challenges. Our efforts are laying the groundwork for sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security for future generations. And while climate change challenges persist, our dedication to harmonious coexistence shines brightly. With over a million high-value trees being planted alongside the implementation of a solar project in Aja Ney that will bring renewable energy to this remote community, we're sowing the seeds of a sustainable future.

We've remained steadfast in our commitment to public health by supporting symposiums, equipping the Royal Center for Disease Control with lab equipment, and pioneering COVID-19 vaccine efficacy research with Moderna. Robust public health research is not just strengthening Bhutan's health sector but forging international partnerships.

The renewal of Wangduechhoeling Palace celebrates our rich heritage, bridging our past and future. Our monuments hold stories worth sharing, and this cultural preservation is a testament to the deeply cherished story of the founding of Bhutan.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, partners, and the resilient people of Bhutan. Together, we've strengthened our foundations while exploring new frontiers. We are confident that our collective efforts will continue to shape a brighter future for Bhutan and its people.

With gratitude,



Daphne Hoch Cunningham
Co-Chair



Tshewang Wangchuk
Executive Director



Technology

In recent years, Bhutan has placed an emphasis on building technology and STEM throughout the country. By facilitating partnerships in these fields, the Bhutan Foundation has enabled the nation to enhance governance, education, cultural preservation, and overall well-being, while preserving a careful and considerate balance, ensuring that technological advancements complement and further its historic values and practices.

Bhutan's Super Fab Lab is championing STEM innovation and education.

Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck Super FabLab (above)
A collaboration between the Bhutan Foundation with Druk Holding and Investment’s InnoTech Department and the Center for Bits & Atoms at MIT, the Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck Super FabLab, third of its kind in the world, offers advanced research and prototyping capabilities.



The first digital fabrication conference in Bhutan brought together global tech innovators.

Fab Bhutan ‘23, held in collaboration with the Fab Foundation, the Center for Bits & Atoms at MIT, and Druk Holding and Investments (DHI), was the 19th annual global Fab Lab Network conference and the first held in Bhutan. The nine-day conference brought government representatives, members of the manufacturing industry and the international Fab Lab Network, artists, teachers, academic researchers, and digital fabrication experts to Bhutan for programming around designing resilient futures.



Technology partnerships are preserving Bhutan’s heritage sites.

A groundbreaking Cultural Heritage Inventory Database System, supported by the U.S Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), and established by the Bhutan Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs’ Department of Culture, will enable the government to give greater consideration to cultural heritage sites when planning infrastructure projects like hydroelectric dams or designating economic zones.

We are digitizing records to safeguard Bhutan’s historic Buddhist artifacts.

Bhutan is home to over 2,000 monasteries, temples, and fortresses. Records of sacred items, traditionally handwritten, are stored by the Central Monastic Body, leaving them vulnerable to theft and fire. With the upcoming AFCP grant, the Bhutan Foundation and the Central Monastic Body will introduce a secure Collection Management System to catalog and safeguard Bhutan’s historic Buddhist artifacts.



Namgyel Dema is Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Officer at the Bhutan Foundation.



Research

Bhutan offers immense research potential in social, cultural, economic, ecological, and other technological and scientific areas. Due to a lack of adequate funding and platforms to share and discuss research findings, research and development in Bhutan is still in its infancy. To bridge this gap, the Bhutan Foundation secured a Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) grant, facilitating collaboration between US and Bhutanese researchers for joint research initiatives in Bhutan.

Bhutanese scholars are partnering with US institutions to carry out joint research projects in Bhutan.

PEER Symposium Bhutan 2023 (above)

From the College of Natural Resources (CNR), Royal University of Bhutan, Dr. Rekha Chhetri and Dr. Sonam Tashi presented their collaborative research on ‘Enhancing food security of smallholder farmers in Bhutan through building capacity in Climate-Smart Agriculture’.



Studies on climate, agriculture, and biodiversity were conducted across 10 districts.



This year, the PEER research program supported six Bhutanese researchers. Their research studies were carried out across 10 of Bhutan's 20 districts. Aligning with the support areas for research on environment, energy, and biodiversity in Bhutan, researchers conducted studies on the impact of climate change on alpine timberline and livelihoods of highlanders, agricultural practices and smart agriculture, harmonious human primate society, mountain spring water, freshwater biodiversity and psychological well-being of Bhutanese living with HIV.



173 trained in research through US-Bhutan partnership.



There was truly an exchange of ideas and capacity building as five of the US partners visited Bhutan for fieldwork, and four of the Bhutanese partners visited the US to meet with their international collaborators. Through this project, 173 students, forest rangers, farmers, and rural youth were trained on data collection, research ethics, climate-smart agriculture, and global positioning system, among other topics. One researcher from the Royal University of Bhutan will also be publishing a book on climate-smart agriculture, which will be released in late 2023.

Research carried out through this program has provided valuable insights into mitigation and adaptation programs supporting studies on species distribution, habitat connectivity, and community-based conservation initiatives, besides enhancing the research capacity of Bhutanese researchers.



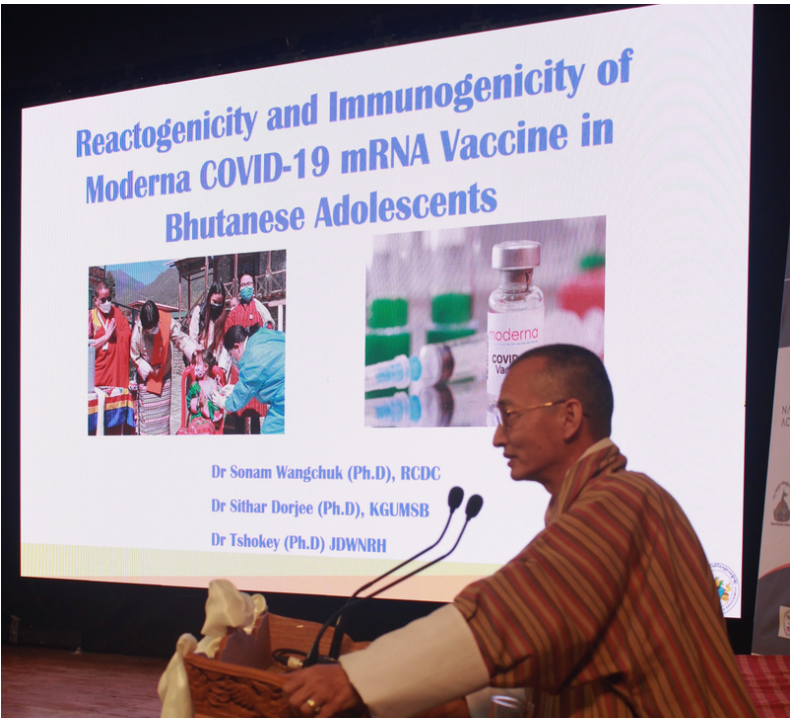
Dawa Sherpa is Director of Programs and Operations at the Bhutan Foundation.

We are building Bhutan’s public health research and laboratory capacity.

This year, the Bhutan Foundation supported symposiums on public health research, and supplied the Royal Center for Disease Control with modern lab equipment and technology. Future plans include providing scholarships for Bhutanese to obtain graduate and Ph.D. degrees in epidemiology and public health from US institutions.

Bhutan's vaccine approach drew Moderna's backing for a pioneering study.

Bhutan's COVID-19 vaccination system, which efficiently tracked vaccine details and adverse effects, combined with valuable clinical data, positioned the nation uniquely for vaccine efficacy studies. The Massachusetts-based biotech firm, Moderna, is supporting the COVID-19 Vaccine Research and Capacity Building program in Bhutan which is set to generate evidence for mix-and-match vaccination.



By laying foundations in robust public health research, we are empowering Bhutan to be at the forefront of innovative solutions and collaborations. This not only directly benefits Bhutanese public health professionals but charts a clear path for future international health partnerships.



Dawa Sherpa is Director of Programs and Operations at the Bhutan Foundation.



Public Health

To drive informed health programs, the Bhutan Foundation champions high-caliber public health research, supporting Bhutanese researchers in their endeavors and facilitating global collaboration opportunities. Initiatives supported this year produced valuable studies on Bhutan’s pressing health challenges and provided essential equipment.



Social Inclusion

For 15 years, the Bhutan Foundation has laid the groundwork with our partners for a nurturing environment for children with special needs. By backing programs that facilitate a smooth transition from early childhood into adulthood and enhance access to and quality of education for children with disabilities, our work ensures they have the support they need to lead meaningful and independent lives.

Inclusive practices in education fundamentally improve how a child with special needs learns.

This year, 34 ECCD¹ teachers from across Bhutan learned how to adapt their centers to create an inclusive environment and to spot developmental concerns in their students. In tandem, resources such as Brigance test sets, Pre-referral Intervention Manuals, and record books were provided to the Department of School Education under the Ministry of Education and Skills Development to ensure teachers have the tools they need to make early intervention a norm rather than an exception.

¹ Early Childhood Care and Development center



Environment

Compared to other countries in the region, Bhutan is blessed with a low human population density. However, as human populations shift toward urban areas due to development, natural habitats are often encroached upon for infrastructure or food. Harmonious co-existence of humans and nature has been the focus of Bhutan’s development trajectory as the country cautiously joins the middle-income group. With the devastating impacts of climate change manifested all around us, this balance has never been more urgent to maintain.

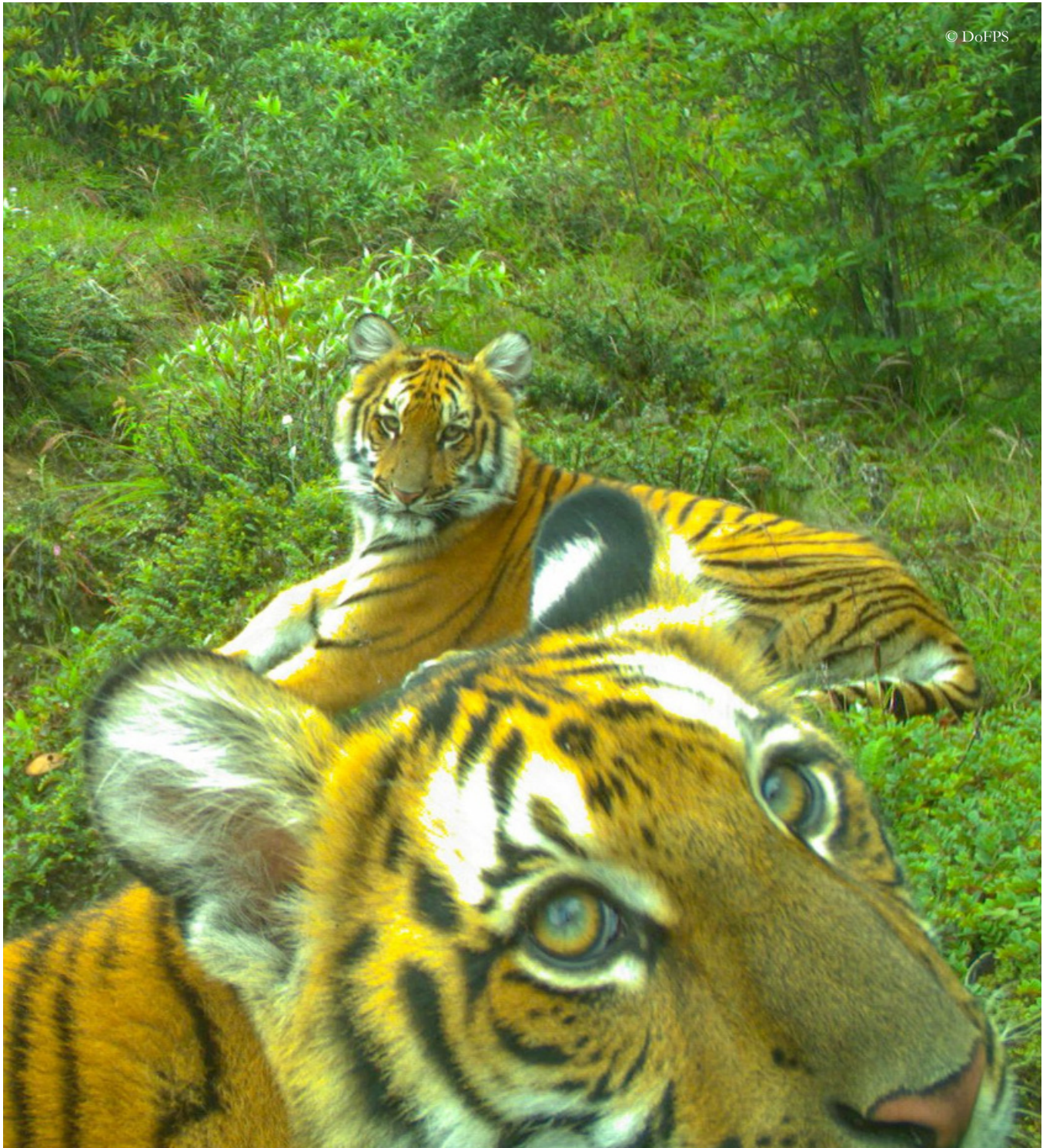
We are promoting liveable, shared spaces in harmony with nature.

Marangdut Sustainable Farm (above)
At Marangdut en route to the River Guides of Panbang, this scene showcases the harmonious blend of sustainable agriculture and ecotourism that we aim to achieve through regenerative initiatives.



One million high-value trees will be planted by 2025,
benefitting over 5,000 smallholder farmers.

The One Million Trees Program, implemented by the Bhutan Ecological Society and partners, will plant and nurture over a million high-value trees covering over 1,214 hectares of fallow lands and rehabilitate over 1,012 hectares of degraded forest land across the country by 2025. This will benefit over 5,000 smallholder farmers and aims to buffer the impact of rapid socio-economic development. This project will soon become a part of the Great People's Forest of Eastern Himalayas, one of the largest reforestation initiatives in South Asia in partnership with Conservation International.



Tiger populations in Bhutan have risen substantially since 2015, a conservation success with consequences.

The 27% increase in Bhutan's tiger population within the last decade is to be lauded as a conservation success. However, this also brings about increased incidents of livestock predation in areas with high tiger density such as in Trongsa, Zhemgang, and Wangduephodrang. Our support to communities in 2023 focused on resolving and alleviating economic burden caused to villagers by predation.



Improved tents are raising living conditions for yak herders.

In the mountains of Jigme Dorji National Park, yak herders live with snow leopards where they also tolerate some loss of livestock to predators. Here, our support includes improving living conditions, especially for yak-herding families as they move about in the mountain pastures. We are providing improved tents that are weatherproof, yet spacious enough to accommodate their daily activities such as making cheese and butter.



Residents of Aja Ney now have access to renewable energy.

Within the core of the Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary, the commissioning of the Aja Ney solar project has now enabled residents to gain access to renewable electricity, setting the foundation for greater health and economic prosperity.



Tshewang Wangchuk is Executive Director at the Bhutan Foundation.

Ultimately, our efforts in promoting renewable energy, safeguarding large cat populations, and advancing carbon capture projects are designed to nurture a harmonious coexistence for communities living within thriving natural ecosystems.



Sustainable Agriculture

Consistently growing as a share of GDP and employing nearly half of the country's workforce, agriculture is the backbone of Bhutan's rural economy. Emerging trends, however, such as a shrinking labor force due to migration and an aging farming population, are a threat to Bhutan's food security. Through its Small Grants Program, the Bhutan Foundation is developing high-impact sustainable agriculture initiatives with affected communities.

Our Small Grants Program is addressing Bhutan's lack of modern infrastructure for sustainable agriculture.

Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative (above)
Farmers at the Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative (SJI) harvest mustard seed for oil extraction. SJI was established in 2010 to achieve food self-sufficiency and enhance opportunities for local youths, which an improved oil expeller from the Bhutan Foundation is actively achieving.



Three fishery ponds will improve food security and boost income for farmers in Panbang.

This year, the Bhutan Foundation worked with the Panbang Youth Cooperative to enhance their integrated agro-livestock farm by introducing fishery farms, an initiative that was selected as part of this year's Small Grants Program.

Three non-functional fishery ponds were concretized to ensure their productivity and now have the capacity of rearing 20,000 fingerlings annually. We project that the cooperative will generate at least Ngultrum 600,000 in revenue per year while improving food security in the region.



Samdrup Jongkhar farmers are profiting from an improved oil expeller.

The Bhutan Foundation collaborated with the Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative to enhance the use of native crops like mustard by setting up essential infrastructure: an oil expeller equipped with filtration and packaging capabilities. With the capacity to process one metric ton of mustard monthly, this initiative not only benefits over 400 households in Samdrup Jongkhar but also ensures they no longer need to cross the border for mustard oil extraction.



A new bio-pesticide unit launched in Tashigang.

While the government is actively promoting organic farming, Bhutan has very few experimental bio-pesticide or bio-fertilizer production plants. The Happy Farmers Group, with support from Bhutan Foundation's Small Grants Program, has installed a bamboo vinegar unit in Bartsham, Trashigang which, once operational, will enrich the lives of 498 families and support a new frontier in sustainable agriculture in Bhutan.



Nima Phuntsho Sherpa is Senior Program Officer at the Bhutan Foundation.



Ecotourism

Sustainable tourism is a win-win for conserving heritage, advancing communities, and preserving Bhutan's environment, making it an excellent venture for rural Bhutanese entrepreneurs. Poor infrastructure and weak private investment, however, are hindering the full realization of ecotourism's potential in Bhutan today.

Our Small Grants Program is powering ecotourism projects to benefit rural communities throughout Bhutan.

**Katsho Eco Camp** (above)

In Haa, Bhutan, when the pandemic halted tourism, nine former tour guides faced sudden unemployment. Turning adversity into opportunity, with local government support, they created the Haa Panoramic Hiking Trail – a six-mile scenic route drawing both locals and international explorers. Building on this success, they envisioned the Katsho Eco-camp in Damto, a village integral to Haa's spiritual and hiking sites. Aligned with Bhutan's focus on ecotourism for sustainable growth, the Katsho Eco Camp was brought to life in 2022 with support from our Small Grants Program.

With grant support in 2023, Katsho Eco Camp has constructed a dining room, purchased a dozen tents, developed a comprehensive business plan, and launched their official website, katshoecocamp.com. Though the campsite is still in its early stages of development, it has provisions for camping, picnicking, hot stone baths, study tours and hiking. Soon, the facility will be equipped with clean, functioning toilets and a kitchen as well.

In 2023, the Bhutan Foundation supported the development of Jigmechu Ecotourism Campsite in Chukha and Katsho Eco Camp in Haa through its Small Grants Program by providing support to create strategic business planning and promotional materials, as well as critical infrastructure like dining spaces, accommodations, and hiking trails, among others. Despite persistent economic challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, these ecotourism projects are quickly attracting customers into their communities thanks to the new amenities.



Nima Phuntsho Sherpa is Senior Program Officer at the Bhutan Foundation.



Culture

The Wangduechhoeling Palace opened its doors to a special preview in May of 2023. As guests toured the grounds, they were able to witness the restorative efforts made to the Palace’s physical structure, as well as temporary exhibits showcasing a glimpse of its rich cultural and historical significance.

The Wangduechhoeling Palace was restored, advancing its transformation into a museum and cultural center.

The Wangduechhoeling Palace’s Special Preview (above)
At the Palace's special preview, the victory banner (gyeltshen) was unveiled alongside inaugural speeches and ceremonies. Additionally, the Palace's official website was launched: www.wcpalace.org.

Wangduechoeling Palace

A New Perspective

The 19th century was a period of enormous flux worldwide and Bhutan was not immune to change amidst an evolving landscape of political uncertainty. The impassioned efforts of Jigme Namgyal (1825-81) prevailed, and the emergence of a unified Bhutan as a political entity was foretold by his prescient vision. This was coterminous with the establishment of the first foundations of Wangduechoeling Palace, a distinct new kind of building that set in motion a movement towards a new form of residential architecture, popularly referred to as palace architecture. A departure from earlier forms of Dzongs (fortresses), monastic religious establishments and temples, the complex was designated as a royal palace after the coronation of the Jigme Namgyal's son and heir, His Majesty Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck (1862-1926), in 1907.

Over the interim century, Wangduechoeling Palace has seen its built form change and expand to adapt to the changing needs of Bhutan. The complex that functioned initially as the primary residence to successive rulers soon also became a key administrative center to run the country's everyday affairs. This was to continue till the reign of the third Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (1929-72). Subsequently passed down to family members in the 1950s, the Palace reverted to once again becoming crown property in 1996-97.

Change came again two decades later, in 2019, when the Palace was designated for renewal and adaptive reuse as a museum and cultural complex that would iterate Wangduechoeling Palace's glorious past. The remarkable sensitivity in the Palace's restoration was tempered with the realization that the building now has to accommodate new kinds of visitors. The care invested in the renewal project is glimpsed as soon as the buildings' edifice comes into sight. From its painted façade to its jewel-like interiors, each room conveys the heft of history. As objects on display animate the functions and purposes of different rooms, the many histories of the people who inhabited these spaces give us a rare glimpse of the past. A drive to revitalize all aspects of the larger complex today allows visitors access to the site's numerous shrines, water-run prayer wheels, archery ground, royal pear orchard, flour mill, and more.

Monuments and their histories are often considered mute reminders of the past. As the Wangduechoeling Palace museum and cultural center nears completion, it promises to be an active reminder of Bhutan's storied recent history. The revitalization, renewal, and rededication of the Palace to Bhutan's future generations underlines the sagacity of patronage that understood the importance of this endeavor.



Pramod Kumar K.G. is the co-founder of Eka Archiving Services, India's first museum advisory firm that provides its services to a range of institutions and collections around the world.



International Partners

Anderson Center for Autism
The Explorers Club
The GEF Small Grants Program
Health Volunteers Overseas
Karuna Foundation
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Moderna
National Academy of Sciences
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
National Geographic Society
Perkins School for the Blind
Rubin Museum of Art
Smithsonian Institution
Snow Leopard Conservancy
Squire Patton Boggs
Tsao & McKown
US Agency for International Development (USAID)
US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation
Venture Well
Yale University

NASA DEVELOP’s Bhutan Project Cohort (center)
Bhutanese students celebrated the conclusion of the NASA DEVELOP Bhutan project where they learned earth observation techniques to analyze agricultural trends for the Royal Government of Bhutan. This project was facilitated by the Bhutan Foundation.



Local Partners

Ability Bhutan Society
Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care
Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs
Bhutan Baseball & Softball Association
Bhutan Cancer Society
Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
Bhutan Ecological Society
Bhutan for Life
Bhutan Nuns Foundation
Bhutan Tiger Centre
Bhutan Youth Development Fund
College of Natural Resources
Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan
Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth
Druk Holdings and Investments
Happy Farmers Group
Jangsa Animal Saving Trust
Jigmechu Ecotourism
Jigme Dorji National Park
Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital
Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
Katsho Eco Camp
Khedrup Foundation
Khengrig Namsum Cooperative
Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences
Lhomon Society
Loden Foundation
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Ministry of Education and Skills Development
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
Panbang Youth Cooperative
PHENSEM Parents Support Group, Bhutan
Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW)
River Guides of Panbang
Royal Government of Bhutan
Royal Society for the Protection of Nature
Royal University of Bhutan
SAARC Business Association of Home Based Workers, Bhutan
Tarayana Foundation
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Forestry Research and Training
Wangdicholing Hospital
Wangsel Institute for the Deaf
World Wildlife Fund – Bhutan

Grants for the Conservation of Bhutan’s Environment

\$100,000 to \$200,000

College of Natural Resources · Ugyen Wangchuck Institute of Conservation and Environmental Research · Sherubtse College · Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan
National Academies of Sciences Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research Research Grant

Bhutan Ecological Society
Million Tree Project

\$50,000 to \$100,000

Department of Energy
Aja Ney Solar Electrification Project

Jomolhari Community
Snow Leopard Conservation Community Program

Bhutan Ecological Society
Sustainable Buildings Initiative, BLISS, and General Support

\$10,000 to \$25,000

Green Bhutan Corporation Ltd
Tree Plantation Project

Ministry of Foreign Affairs · Department of Renewable Energy · Department of Disaster Management · Department of Forest and Park Services · Department of Agriculture
Conference of Parties 27

Panbang Youth Cooperative
Sustainable Agriculture

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Bhutan Tiger Center
Tiger Conservation Program

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Department of Energy
Renewable Energy - IRENA

Solar Panels at Aja Ney (center)
Residents of Aja Ney now have access to renewable energy thanks to a newly implemented distributed solar photovoltaic system.



Grants for Equitable and Sustainable Development

Over \$1,000,000

Ministry of Health · Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences
Moderna-COVID-19 vaccine research and capacity building

\$15,000 to \$50,000

Massachusetts Institute of Technology · Druk Holding and Investments Bhutan
Center for Bits and Atoms Super FabLab Agreement

USAID COVID-19 Response

Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs · Loden Foundation · River Guides of Panbang · Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative · Tarayana Foundation
USAID Covid Support to Bhutan Economic Support Fund

HSI (Human Society International) Bhutan
Community Engagement and Human Behaviour Change to Manage Dog Population in Paro and Thimphu

Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources & the Bumthang Health Association
Nomad Health Camps

Ministry of Education · Aims Multimedia Pvt. Ltd · VTOB Lifelong Learning Institute · PHENSEM Parent Support Group
Special Education Program

\$1,000 to \$15,000

Lingmukha Sanam Detshen
Enhancing Farmers Livelihood Program through Post harvest technology

Bumthang Health Association
Improving Health Care Services Delivery and Nomad Health Camps in Bumthang

Ministry of Health
Improving Emergency Medical Services – BEAR Team

Grants for the Promotion of Good Governance



Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
This year, the newly inaugurated law school saw the addition of a library, funded by the Karuna Foundation.

\$180,000 to \$200,000

Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
Law Library

Bhutan Nuns Foundation
General Support

\$50,000 to \$150,000

Katsho Eco Camp, Happy Farmers Group, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature, Tendruk School, VAST Bhutan, Khemdro Kuenphen Omgi Detshen, Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative, Soe Lanor Cooperative, Panbang Organic Farming Group.
Small Grants Program

Tarayana Foundation
General Support

Khedrup Foundation
General Support

YangYa Foundation
General Support

\$30,000 to \$49,999

Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care
Animal Welfare Awareness Program

\$10,000 to \$29,999

Bhutan Center for Media and Democracy
Project Mikhung, Citizen Engagement, and General Support

Bhutan Baseball and Softball Association
Pitch in for Baseball

RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women)
General Support

\$10,000 to \$29,999 (continued)

RSPN (Royal Society for the Protection of Nature)
RSPN conservation projects.

Bhutan Youth Development Fund
General Support

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Thangka Conservation Centre
General Support

Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth
General Support

Gyalyum Charitable Trust
General Support

Loden Foundation
General Support

\$500 to \$4,999

Civil Society Organizations
Capacity building/training- photography

Disabled Persons Association of Bhutan
General Support

ELC (Early Learning Center) High School
General Support

Ogyen Choling Foundation
General Support

Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative
Lhomon Education



Grants for the Preservation of Bhutan’s Culture

Over \$800,000

Ministry of Home Affairs
Adaptive Reuse and Restoration of Wangduechoeling Palace Project

\$15,000 to \$40,000

Ministry of Home Affairs
Documentation of Cultural Heritage Sites

Ministry of Home Affairs
ICS (Incident Command Course) Training Program

Phajoding Monastery
English Language Education Program

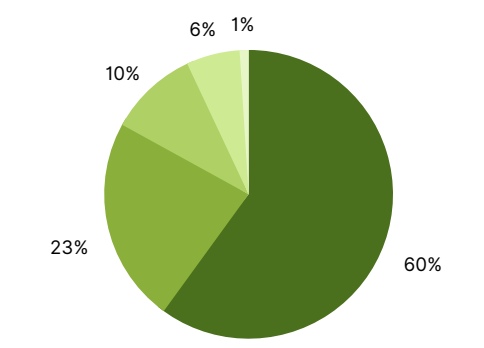
\$2,000 to \$10,000

Rangshikhar Gonpa
Meditation Shelters for Gomchens

RSPCA (Royal Society for the Protection and Care of Animals)
General Support

Wangduechoeling Palace (left)
The Wangduechoeling Palace is becoming a vibrant cultural complex that exemplifies Bhutan’s history, art, craft, and architecture.

Financial Summary
Fiscal Year 2023



FY2023 Revenue: \$4.8M

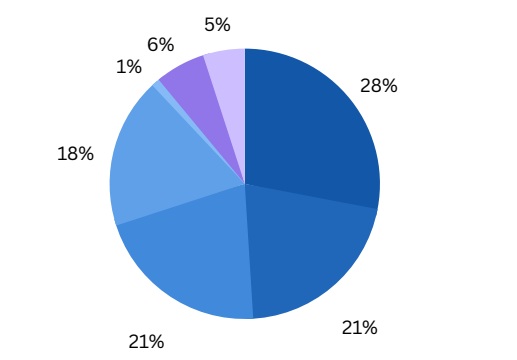
Sources of Funding

- Individuals & Private Foundations **(60%)**
- Corporations **(23%)**
- Government Grants **(10%)**
- Public Organizations **(6%)**
- Investments **(1%)**

Marangdut Farmers' Group (center)
The Bhutan Foundation supported farmers of Marangdut with power tillers and greenhouses.



Financial Summary



FY2023 Expenditure: \$4.9M

Program Expenses

- Equitable & Sustainable Development **(28%)**
- Good Governance **(21%)**
- Preservation of Culture **(21%)**
- Conservation of the Environment **(18%)**
- Events **(1%)**

Supporting Services

- Management and Administration **(6%)**
- Fundraising **(5%)**

We gratefully acknowledge
your generous support.

\$200,000 and Above

The Ajana Foundation
Anonymous
The Late Mrs. Lisina Hoch
Karuna Foundation
Moderna

\$100,000 to \$199,999

Agentives Fund
Anonymous
Daphne and John Cunningham
The William H. Donner Foundation, Inc.
Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts
Guzik Foundation
Donna Marshall
National Academy of Sciences
Tan Teo Charitable Foundation
The United States Agency for International
Development

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick Family
Foundation
Lostand Foundation, Inc.
Mieko Nishimizu
Rosemary Phelan
William Reller
US State Department

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Lucy and Christopher Goelet
Douglas and Tsognie Hamilton
The Humane Society of the United States
Ted and Henry Kaplan
Alix and Ruedi Laager
Henry and Eleanor Lewis
My Bhutan LLC
The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural
Preservation
The United States Forest Service

\$10,000 to \$24,999

The Frances and Benjamin Benenson Foundation
Bhutan Cultural Exchange
Katharine and Bruce Elfstrom
Khan Spire Family Foundation
Adelaide Gomer
Hamill Family Foundation
Steven and Janie Hoch
Karl Theodor Krantz II
Vince and Maria Pérez
William Tacon and Kay Herdeg
Caroline D. Gabel
International Crane Foundation
Colm Lanigan and Sonam Ongmo
Michael J. Mars
Roger Sant and Doris Matsui
Elizabeth Sidamon-Eristoff
Steele Family Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation



\$5,000 to \$9,999

Anis Abadi
John and Frances Allen
Mark and Victoria Collins
David Courtis
The Dillon Fund
Dustin DiPerna and Amanda Solter
The Dillon Fund
Pam Ebsworth
Eric Hoffman
Harald Link
Luminous Awareness Institute
Cyndia and Jeffrey Marcous
Judith Brown Meyers and Michael Meyers
Diane and Richard Price
Shades of Compassion Foundation
Sukey Wagner

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Ronald Baker
Ivana Berendika*
Bethany Betzler
Richard Brown and Mary Jo Ostea
Aneel Chima
Eloise and Will Hackett
Barbara Kelley
Albert Kunstadter Family Foundation
Jennifer Leeds and Hec Delgado
Yin-wah Ma
Elisabeth Meeker
Morley Family Fund
Perkins School for the Blind
Sharon O'Brien
Matthew Oresman
Michael Reynolds
Peggi and Stuart Siegel
Dianne Stern
Traverse Foundation

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Anders and Amy Brag
Betsy and Alan Cohn Foundation, Inc.
Bruce W. Bunting and Jessie A. Brinkley
Clear View Project
Alexander Crary
Benjamin DuPont
Mingzhou Guo
David Hulse
Kenneth and Alyssa Juster
Anne and Doug Keiser
Kathleen Kiefer
Kevin and Katy Kollar
Chiu Lam
MaryAlice Lee
Jeffrey and Tondra Lynford
Ernest and Elaine Nagamatsu
Nebenzahl-Spitz Foundation
James and Catherine Resor
Elizabeth Salt
Stichting Save the Mountain Tigers of Bhutan
Edythe Trevithick Revocable Trust
Lopa Van der Mersch
Van Hengel Family Fund
Sally Williams*
Ron and Monica Wolfe
University of Pennsylvania

\$500 to \$999

George Archibald
V. Joan Campbell
Elaine Cardiel
Curtis Chin
Robert Clark
James De Groot
The Donnelley Foundation
Richard Eberhart
Bright Funds
Jack Gordon
Joy and David Greenway
Hugh and Jean Halbeck
Deidre Harrison
Orrin Heller
William and Pam Hofmann
Roderick Holland*
Judith Justice
Nancy Kelly
Jiah Koh
Albert Kriemler
Ralph and Tashi Kruger
Judy and Noah Liff Foundation
William Liss
Diego Lowenstein
Martha Maguire
Neil and Sayra Meyerhoff
Marc Myers
Kim Orlando
Jim and Mary Ottaway
Laura Pintchik
Naomi Porat
Thomas and Johanna Robinson
Southport Congregational Church
Leigh Talmage
Burton and Harriet Tepfer
Monica Thibodeau
Joan Tobin
Vida and Touraj Touran
Kevin Tracy
Margaret Worden and Steven Sonnenberg
Brenda Yost

\$250 to \$499

Gerald Adelman
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Charity Appell McNabb
Nancy Aronson
Patricia Brundage
Kay Comaford
David Dean and Cathy Bergmann
Chad DeChant
John Fitzgerald
Carol Fleishauer
Patrick Gandarias
Anita Herrick
Christy D. Hobart and Henry P. Shapiro
Nancy Howe Russell
Tamima Itani
The Keller Family Foundation
Melanie and Neil Kirkbride
George and Linda Kolodner
Daniel Koralek*
Ira & Janina Marks Charitable Trust
Linda Marple
Laura McCorkindale
Dan Milquet



\$250 to \$499 (continued)

Diana Myers
Marc Nickles
Dana Polanichka*
Edna Pan
Margarete Rodousakis
Reem Saif
Stephen and Deborah Shefler
Michael Siegel
Dina Sohaili
Skyemar Foundation
Barry Smolin
Maicen Stuart*
Drusilla R. Van Hengel
Ross Wiener
Tshering Yangzom
Elise Zoli

\$249 and Below

Jane Alexander
Amazon Smile Foundation
Seth Ammerman
Diane Anderson
Anonymous
Janet Arastoozadeh and Christian Sabardine
Judy Arthur
James and Nancy Baker
Lauren Barbour
Paige Lee Baron-Schrier
Tila Bhattarai
John Bilar
Barbara Bockbrader
Lesley Boone
Alfred and Therese Brandi
David Bravender
Lytton Brown
Jaime Burke
Mary Cascio
Wilfried Cocquereaux
Patricia Cunningham
Nancy Curriden
Rebecca Davis
John and Judith Day
Anouk De Graaff
Juliana DeSmith
Umberto Dindo
Tim Dodman
Monte Dreben
Terri Ducay
Alena Ebeling-Schuld
Judith Edgar
Holly Eger
Alexander Ercklentz
Brian Ewing
Helen Ford
Kelly Flinn
Daniel Freedman
Elizabeth and Glen Friedman
Mary Anne Gamma
Nancy Gillespie
Barbara Gilmore
Janet Ginsberg
Susan Gladwin
Susan Goodrich
Karen Gowland
Douglas and Deborah Hafford
Sarah Halvorson
Nathan Hara
Scott Hayducsko

\$249 and Below (continued)

Thomas Higgins
Tom Hoffman
Mike and Anne Howard
Shirwin Hu
Ruth Irons
Arthur Jackson
Rodney Jackson and Darla Hillard
Sharon Jonquil
Yesh Kattegummula
Joel Kellman
Pema Khandu
Harold Kim
Keith Kirsch
Kristin Kiser
Jonjo Knott
Ariane Krumholz and Robert Simpson
Carol Lewensohn
Josh Lewis
Ngoc Thu Le
Andres Lopez
Morgan Lyons
Daniel Ma
Elise Mackevich Salchli
Jeremy Marple
Tim Marple
Kala Maxym
Robert McDonald and Karen Deloach
Kate McFarland
Kerry McKenna
Cynthia Moe-Crist
Peter Muncie
Stephanie Newsom
Reginald Owens
Barbara Pampel
Styliani Pastra-Landis
Choying Deki Palmo
Anne Parker
Barbara Phinney
PJ Pictures, Inc.
James Pompy
John Preston
Caroline Quinn
Russell R. Reno, Jr.
Nancy Richler
Kathleen Roche
Sonam Rosberger
Kenneth Ryder
Christine Sakach*
Maryanna Sansone
Riam Sarah
Richard Seifman
Frances and Mortimer Sellers
Alan Senauke
Benjamin Sinclair
Krishankant Singh
Andrew and Nancy Smith
Jill Smolin
Tania W. Stepanian
Ingrid Stockton
Andrew Studer
Kevin Sullivan
Sangay Tenzin
Patrick Tierney
Victoria Tom
Kirsten Trolle-Hansen
Piers Turner
Yeshey and Gary Virgil
Tshewang Wangchuk
Lee Warren

\$249 and Below (continued)

Karen Wegela
Robert and Alexandra Weldon
Mark Winitsky
Douglas Withorne
Deborah Wood
Izabela Wozniak
Amala Wrightson
Nina You
Khyentse Yozer

* Monthly Donors

Gift In-Kind Donors

Lisa Danzig
Eric Hoffman
Michael and Nancy McClelland
Matthew Oresman





Alongside partners,
we’re planting one
million trees by 2025.

The Bhutan Ecological Society is implementing the One Million Trees initiative in collaboration with the Department of Forests and Park Services, Natural Resources Development Corporation, Green Bhutan Corporation Limited, volunteers and private individuals.

See page 21



The Bhutan Foundation has received a platinum rating from charity watchdog Candid and a four-star score from Charity Navigator. These hold the highest standards for evaluating non-profit organizations and advise supporters like you so that you know every dollar is making the largest possible impact.

Ways to Give

Your support of the Bhutan Foundation will help us in our mission of advancing all four pillars of Gross National Happiness in Bhutan: environmental conservation, equitable development, good governance, and cultural preservation. However you choose to donate, know that you have our deepest gratitude.



Donate Online
www.bhutanfound.org/donate/

Donate Cryptocurrency
www.bhutanfound.org/donate-in-cryptocurrency/

Make a Wire Transfer
Please contact the Bhutan Foundation at +1 (202) 609-7363 or info@bhutanfound.org

Make a Stock Gift
Please contact Ms. Tshering Yangzom at +1-202-340-5595 or tshering.yangzom@bhutanfound.org

Mail a Check
The Bhutan Foundation
1050 Connecticut Ave NW #66013
Washington, DC 20035

Leave a Gift in Your Will
There are several ways to make a bequest to the Bhutan Foundation through your will or other estate plans: a residual bequest, a percentage bequest, a specific bequest, or a contingent bequest. Whichever type of bequest you choose, please use the following language:

“I give, devise, and bequeath to the Bhutan Foundation, Inc. (“Foundation”) (EIN: 13-3376290), an Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) organization organized in the State of Delaware, or its lawful successor, the sum of \$ _____ [or a percentage of my estate] to be used exclusively for purposes of promoting the Foundation’s charitable mission (the “Purpose”).”

Tax ID Number: 13-3376290

The Bhutan Foundation is a 501(c)(3) registered charitable organization in the United States. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Our Leadership

Co-Chairs Her Majesty Gyalum Tseyring Pem Wangchuck, The Queen Mother of Bhutan Daphne Hoch Cunningham	Advisory Council Katherine van Hengel (Chairperson) Hon. Brian Baird Hon. Robert O. Blake, Jr Barbara Bowman Hon. Curtis Chin Dechen Dorji Dasho Paljor J. Dorji Peggy Dulany Caroline D. Gabel Eloise Goelet Hackett Jane Hancock Steve Harris Eric Hoffman Hon. Kenneth I. Juster Rudolf Laager Linda Leaming Jeffrey Lynford Michael J. Mars Zack McKown Elisabeth C. Meeker Gouri Mirpuri Katharine Morley Hon. Kunzang C. Namgyel Brent Olson Sonam Ongmo Matthew Oresman Vincent S. Pérez Nina Pfifer Françoise Pommaret Michael Reynolds Sonam Tshering Rosberger Tim Sharpe Gérard A. Tardy Sonam Tobgay Sukey N. Wagner H.E. Lyonpo Dasho Dechen Wangmo Nancy Hamill Winter Elise Zoli
Vice Chair William Tacon	
Secretary Lucy Goelet	
Treasurer Brian J. Menkes	
Board of Directors Lisa Danzig Douglas W. Hamilton David Hulse Theodore N. Kaplan Eric Lemelson Henry Lewis Donna E. Marshall Phuntsho Norbu Rosemary Phelan Michael Philipp Katherine van Hengel Tshewang R. Wangchuk Rebecca D. Winsor	
Directors Emeritus Bruce W. Bunting Henrietta Goelet Hon. Om Pradhan Hon. Frank G. Wisner	

Wangduechoeling Palace Special Preview Event (left)
Her Majesty The Queen Mother addressing guests at the Special Preview event in May, 2023.



Our Team

Thimphu, Bhutan

Norbu Dema
Country Director

Kinga Wangdi
Program Manager

Namgyel Dema
Senior Monitoring and Evaluations Officer

Tshering Choden
Senior Finance Officer

Nima Phuntsho Sherpa
Senior Program Officer

Phenki
Program Officer

Ganesh Gurung
Communications Associate

Sherab Dorji
Office Assistant

Washington, DC

Tshewang Wangchuk
Executive Director

Dawa Sherpa
Director of Programs and Operations

Tshering Yangzom
Director of Partnerships and
Philanthropy

Dana Hock
Development Associate

Jeremy Marple
Communications Officer

Bhutan Foundation Team (above)
From left to right: Kinga Wangdi, Jeremy Marple,
Tshering Choden, Namgyel Dema, Tshewang
Wangchuk, Norbu Dema, Tshering Yangzom, Dawa
Sherpa, Nima Phuntsho Sherpa, Sherab Dorji, Pema
Gyamtsho, and Phenki.



Contact Us

Thimphu, Bhutan

Bhutan Foundation
Nazhoen Pelri Youth Center
P.O. Box 1918, Thimphu, Bhutan

Telephone: +975 02-322751
Email: info@bhutanfound.org

Washington, DC

Bhutan Foundation
1050 Connecticut Ave NW #66013
Washington, DC 20035

Telephone: +1 202 609 7363
Email: info@bhutanfound.org

Stay in Touch

We share updates on all major social
media platforms (@bhutanfdn) and
through our monthly newsletter.



Scan to join our newsletter

Aja Ney Solar Project (left)
The 80 kW Decentralized Distributed Generation of
Solar PV System in Aja Ney was commissioned in
collaboration with the Department of Renewable
Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan For
Life, Bhutan Ecological Society and GEF Small
Grants Programme.