Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agriculture Landscape and Community Livelihoods in Bhutan-NAPA III Project GEF / LDCF (2017-2023): *Experiences from Local Led Adaptation to climate change Impacts*

Adaptation and Resilience Dialogues: Insights from Bhutan and Lao PDR
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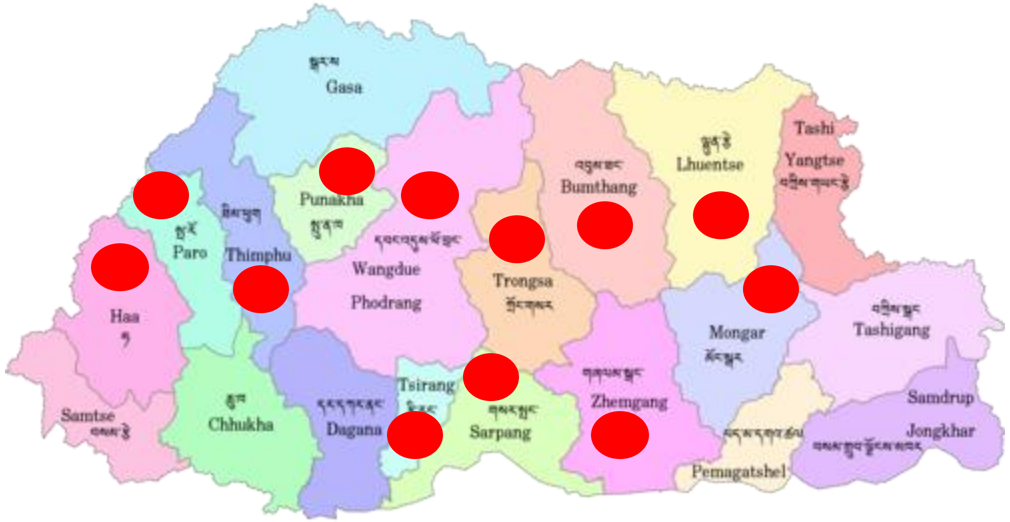
Bhutan Context



- Agriculture, forest and Biodiversity in Bhutan are vulnerable to climate change impacts (erratic rainfall, drought, frost, hailstorms, windstorms and related land degradation)
- To respond, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB) adopted an integrated landscape approach through strengthening of biological corridors, sustainable forest and agricultural systems, and build climate resilience of community livelihoods.
- RGOB through MoF, technically supported by UNDP
- NAPA III project covered 12 Districts and 38 sub-districts.
- Total Project investment US $ 56,597,424 (**GEF**-3,467,124, **LDCF**-10,500,000; **UNDP** Cofinancing - 1,080,300 and **RGoB** Cofinancing - 41,550,000)
- ***This partnership model was key to translating climate finance into Local Action***

Adaptive Actions to Enhance Climate Resilience and Results

1. Strengthening **Biological Corridors** contributed to Tiger Conservation through enhanced **partnership** with multiple agencies and projects. Bhutan today is home to 131 tiger (2.3 % world tiger pop), increase by 27 %

2. Support to **Climate resilient agriculture practices** such as **Sustainable Land Management and agriculture production practices** has enabled increase in food availability by 84 % in the project sites

3. Support to **Market Access** (32 Kms climate resilient Roads) enabled travel time reduction by 50 % and **Market Infrastructure development** has enhanced market access in 4 major production Districts

4. Pilot Crop Insurance leads to catalytic **innovative financing** solutions. Crop Insurance scheme piloted in NAPA 3 is now full scheme under implemntation

5. In **policy and strategy**, the project contributed in HWC Management strategy (2018-2028); HWC management review and action plan 2021 and Mapping of HWC hotspot 2021. **Human-Wild conflict** is given high priority in Agriculture development
Pilot organic fam development enabled adoption of **Landscape based approach** in Organic farming currently adopted by the MoAL

Partnership at a Glance

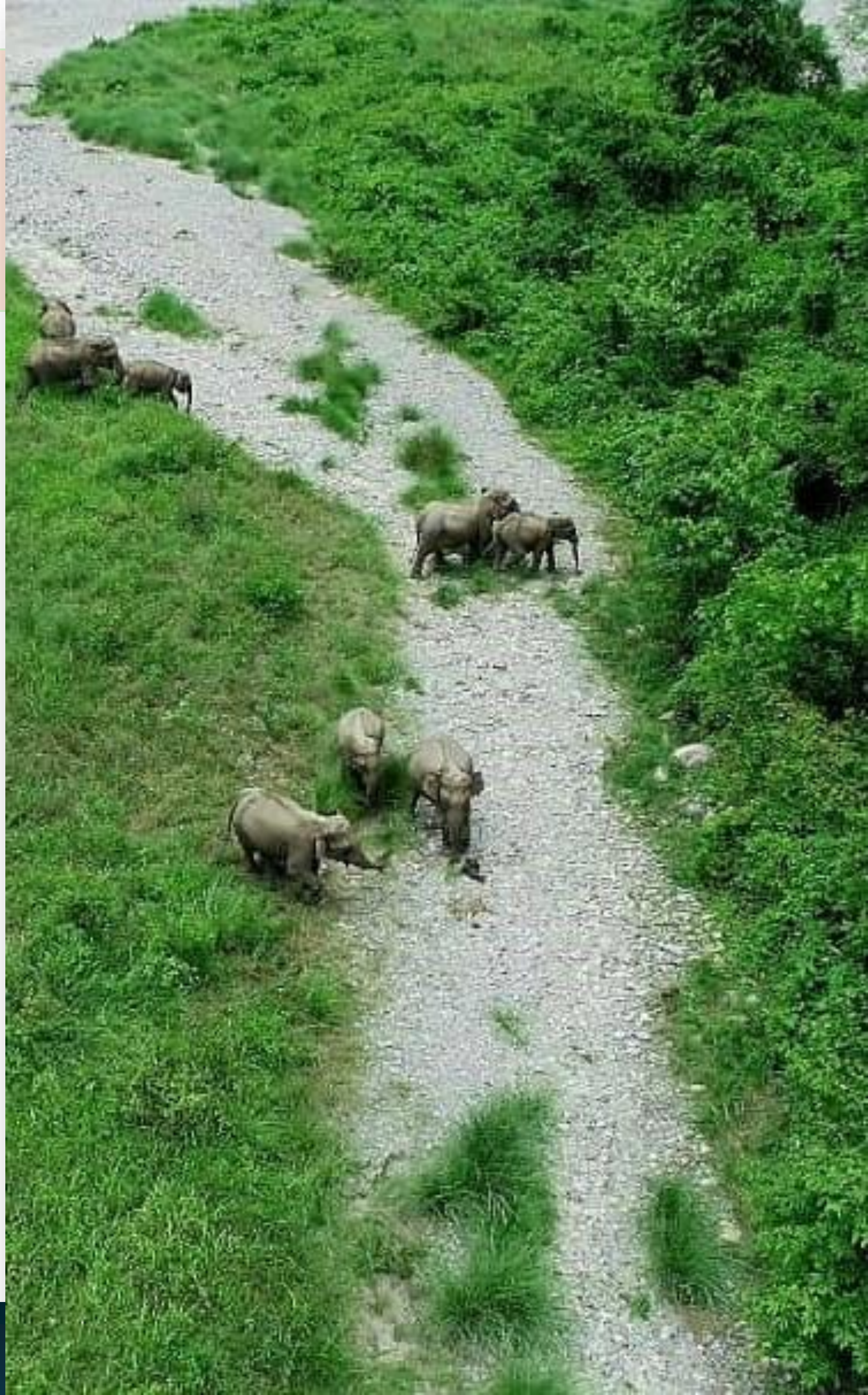
1. Collaborated with UNCDF, GCF-NAP, and BFL to develop an **Innovative Finance Strategy** for Protected Areas.
2. Partnered with **BFL** and **REDD+** under DoFPS to complete **National Water Source Mapping**.
3. Worked with **UNEP's "Vanishing Treasures"** project to establish **9 Gewog Tiger Conservation Committees (GTCCs)** in tiger hotspots.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Revived 2 dried Lakes

Mainstreaming NAPA III Lessons into Development Planning & Policy

1. Lessons from NAPA III resulted in formulation **Crop and Livestock Insurance Scheme**, now successfully under implementation.
2. Bhutan Organic Village development piloting has resulted in Development of the **Bhutan Organic Certification Guidelines** and an integrated landscape approach for agriculture.
3. Lessons from the NAPA III provided inputs to development of the Bhutan Tourism Master Plan positioning Bhutan for a ***Regenerative Tourism Policy.***
4. Implementation of **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)** strengthened locally led sustainable financing and protection of water sources.



Enhancing Locally Led Adaptation Actions

1. **Private Sector & FDI Engagement:** Mobilizing private investment and FDI through blended finance and PPP models. e.g., the MAF Solar Power Project showcasing private participation in clean energy and resilience.
2. **Integrating Adaptation in Local Planning:** Embedding climate priorities in Gewog and Dzongkhag development plans to empower locally led adaptation actions.
3. **Scaling Sustainable Land Management:** Expanding climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable land practices to enhance food security and ecosystem health.
4. **Strong National Commitment:** Bhutan invests 3.2% of its GDP in biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.
5. **Leveraging Global and Domestic Finance:** Blending global climate finance with national resources, capitalizing on Bhutan's carbon-negative status to attract innovative green investments and partnerships.


THANK YOU