

## Message from the Chair

I express my heartfelt appreciation and admiration for the exceptional program and the remarkable impact that BFL program has made not just on the environmental conservation but also on the livelihoods in the communities. The unwavering dedication and commitment from the team to these causes have exceeded all expectations, and I am truly grateful to be a part of this journey.

I am confident that progress will continue in 2023, driven by strong leadership and dedicated teams from BFL-FS, BFL-PCU and Implementing Partners. Despite the unknowns, we can count on improving in terms of accelerating our conservation effort complementing national goals and priorities.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude for an exceptional work and for allowing me to be a part of this extraordinary journey. Together, let us continue to create a lasting legacy that will benefit generations to come in Bhutan and the world at large.

With sincere appreciation.



The preservation of our planet's biodiversity and the protection of endangered species are matters close to my heart, and it fills me with immense pride to see the significant strides BFL program has made in this regard.

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Mr. Michale Phillips Chairperson Board of Trustees Bhutan for Life Fund



Celebrating the
Remarkable Impact of BFL
Program on Livelihood,
Nature Conservation,
Climate Change Mitigation
and Adaptation and Habitat
Management.

As we venture into the new year of BFL implementation, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have embarked upon and the significant impact our program has made this far. The dedication and hard work of each and every one of you have been instrumental in driving this success, and I cannot express my gratitude enough.

# Message from the Executive Director

There is no question that 2022 has been an extraordinary year for the world as we adapt to the new-normal due to COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic brought much of the world to a halt, it also accelerated some of the changes that were already underway for BFL.

As we reflect on our achievements, it is important to acknowledge that our journey is far from over. The challenges we face but unwavering may evolve, our commitment to our mission remains constant. Together, we will continue to push boundaries, innovate, and drive positive change. I have no doubt that with the dedication, expertise, and passion that each of you brings to the table, we will achieve even greater milestones in the future.

Thank you once again for your extraordinary efforts in making this program a resounding success. Your commitment to our shared vision is inspiring, and I am honored to lead such a remarkable team.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Pema Wangda Executive Director

Bhutan for Life Fund Secretariat

### **IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2022**



12.5

million tons of Carbon equivalent sequestered



2711

hectares of degraded land brought under Climate Smart Reforestation



18

Parks and BCs implementing SMART



6157

Households adopted Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation measures



10

critical watershed management plans developed



**NTS & NSLS** 

National Tiger Survey and National Snow Leopard Survey completed



#### 10317

households engaged Conservation Initiatives



#### 675

competent full time PAN staff engaged



#### 217

Households employed in Naturebased Enterprises



#### 2

Climate Smart
Species
Conservation Plan
Developed



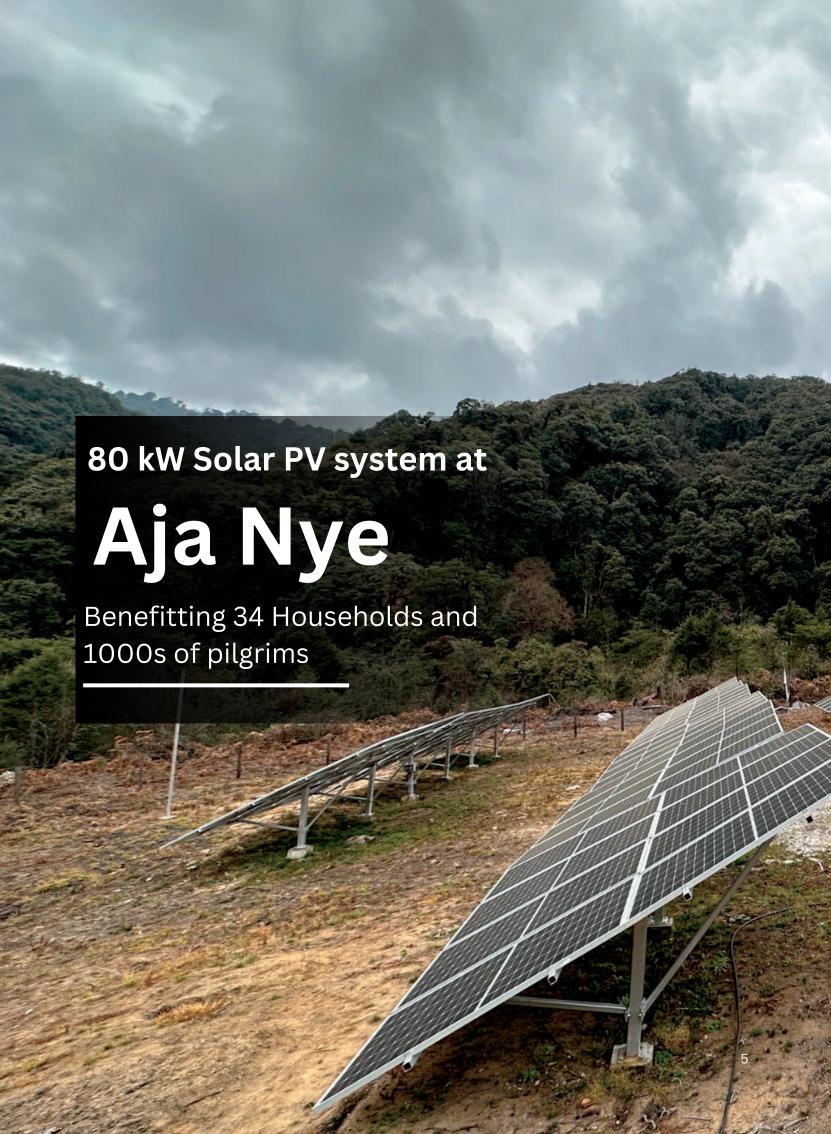
#### 1069

hectares of key biodiversity habitats brought under improved management

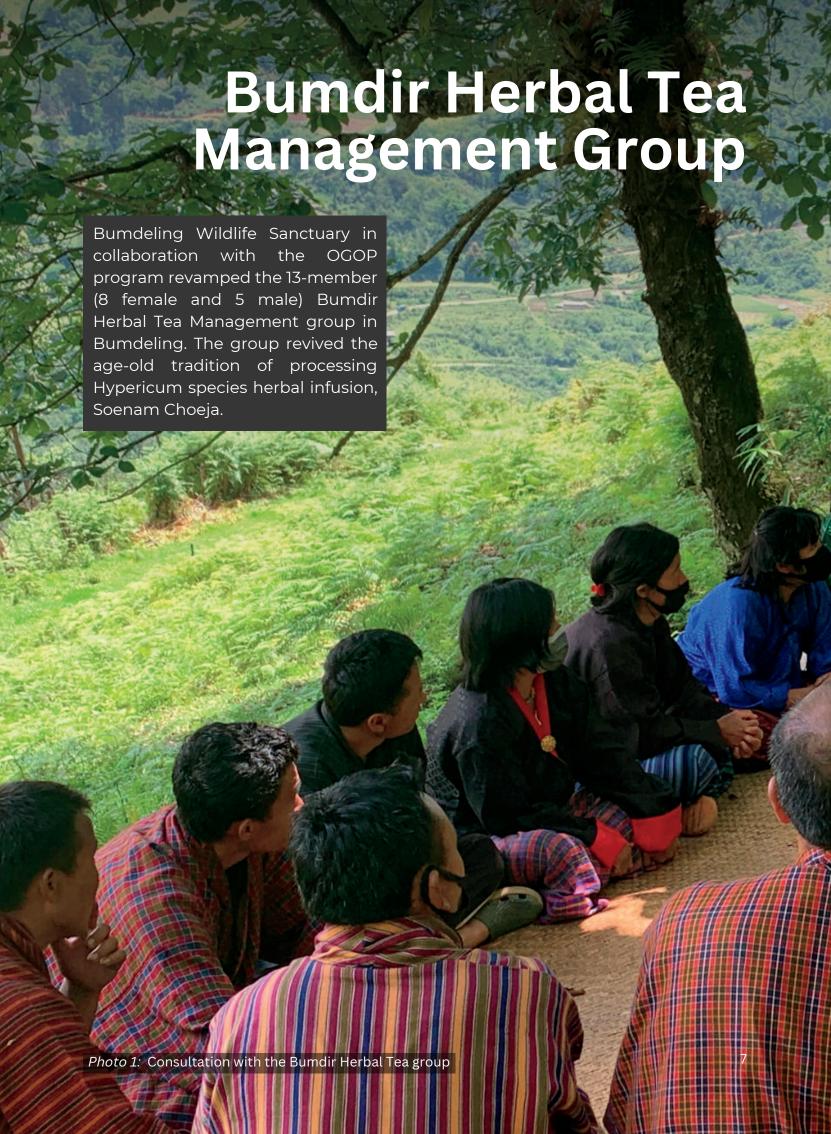
## Nu

Nu. 324.69

million disbursed in the year 2021 & 2022







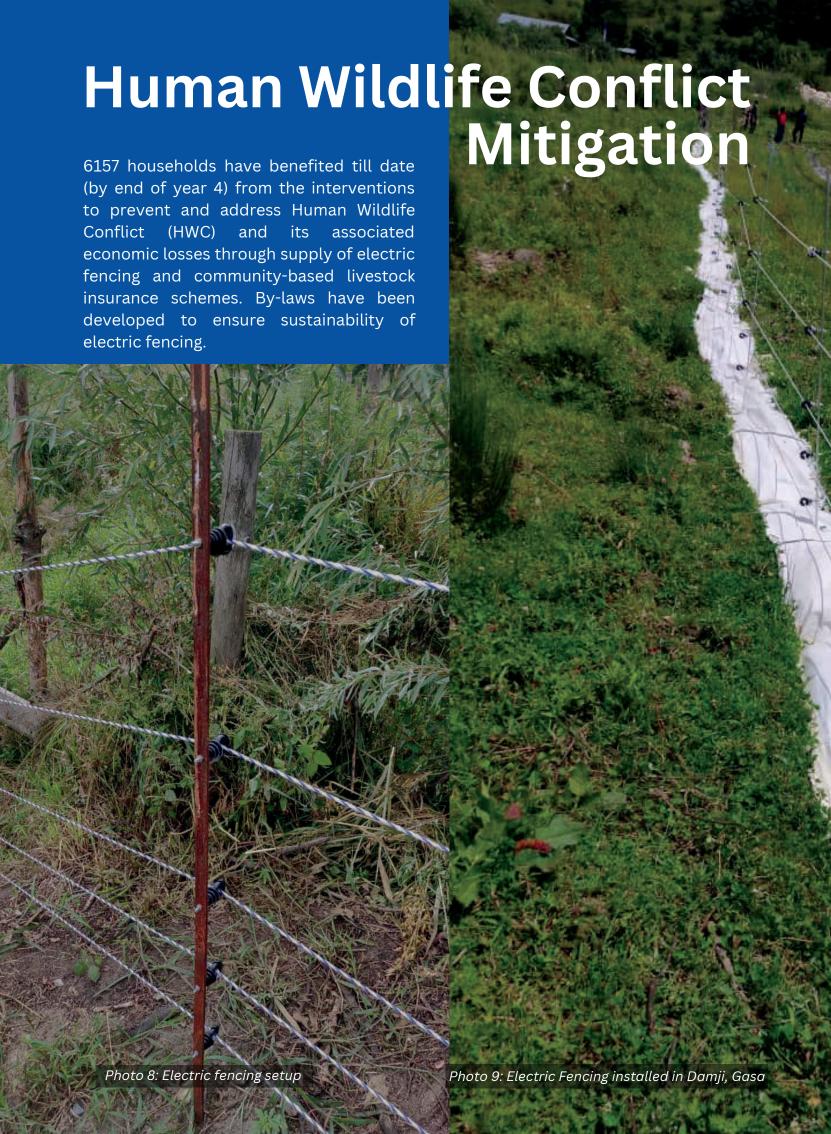














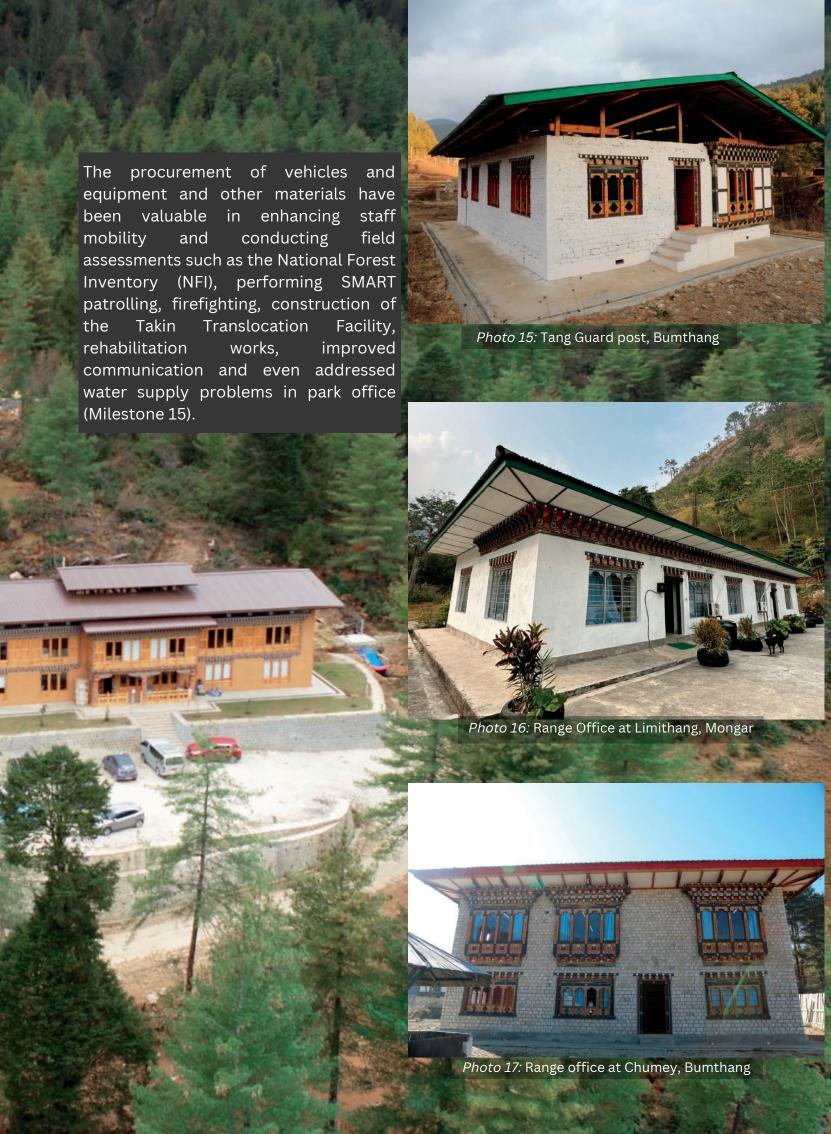




# Infrastructure and Technology

The Project has significantly contributed towards office establishment and provisioning of office and field equipment. The completion of the two Park Offices/headquarters as well as additional infrastructure such as guard posts, staff quarters, ranger offices and visitor information centers, etc., have further established the PA/BCs as functional on the ground entities.





## Renewable Energy



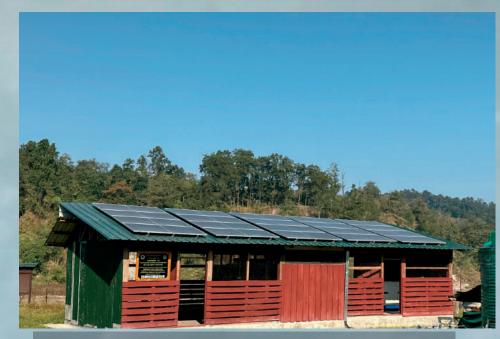


Photo 18: Solar Panel installed at Phibsoo Outpost Forest camp

Furthermore, a 10 kW Hybrid PV solar system was installed at Phibsoo Wildlife sanctuary outpost benefitting more than 30 forestry officials. PWS outpost forest camp remained without grid connectivity and forest officials had to work in hot and humid conditions in the southern belt and often remained disconnected from the rest of world without power and internet.



An Innovative Funding Solution

Innovative | Sustainable | Long-term











20







## Restoration of Degraded Land

In order to bring the degraded lands climate under smart restoration mechanisms to enhance carbon stock, preliminary assessments of identifying degraded and barren areas have been mapped out. Revalidation of the initial assessment of degraded lands planned has been completed. A total of 7,684 Ha has been identified as degraded land all over the country. Of this, a total of 1,339 Ha of area has been mapped as degraded areas within the protected area network system. In year sustainable land management (SLM) and bioengineering works were implemented with the financial support from the Royal Government of Bhutan and UNDP-GEF.

Under this activity, a total of 30.34 Ha of area have been restored benefitting 72 households. A total of 1119.4 ha of degraded land have been brought under climate smart restoration in year 4 through Royal Government of Bhutan support. Altogether, 738 Ha of land was brought under climate smart restoration in 2019 and an additional 357.68 ha in 2020 and 465.82 ha in 2021 and 1149.74 ha in 2022 with a cumulative total of 2711.29 ha for year 1, 2, 3 and 4.





## Climate Smart Species Conservation Plan

A 10-year climate smart species conservation plan of two high profile species namely golden masheer and ladies' slipper orchid have been completed.

Photo 25: Water buffalo at RMNP

Golden Mahseer Conservation Action Plan for Bhutan (2022-2032)

Securing "Tigers of the Rivers"



NATURE CONSERVATION DIVISION Department of Forests and Park Services Ministry of Agriculture and Forests Royal Government of Bhutan

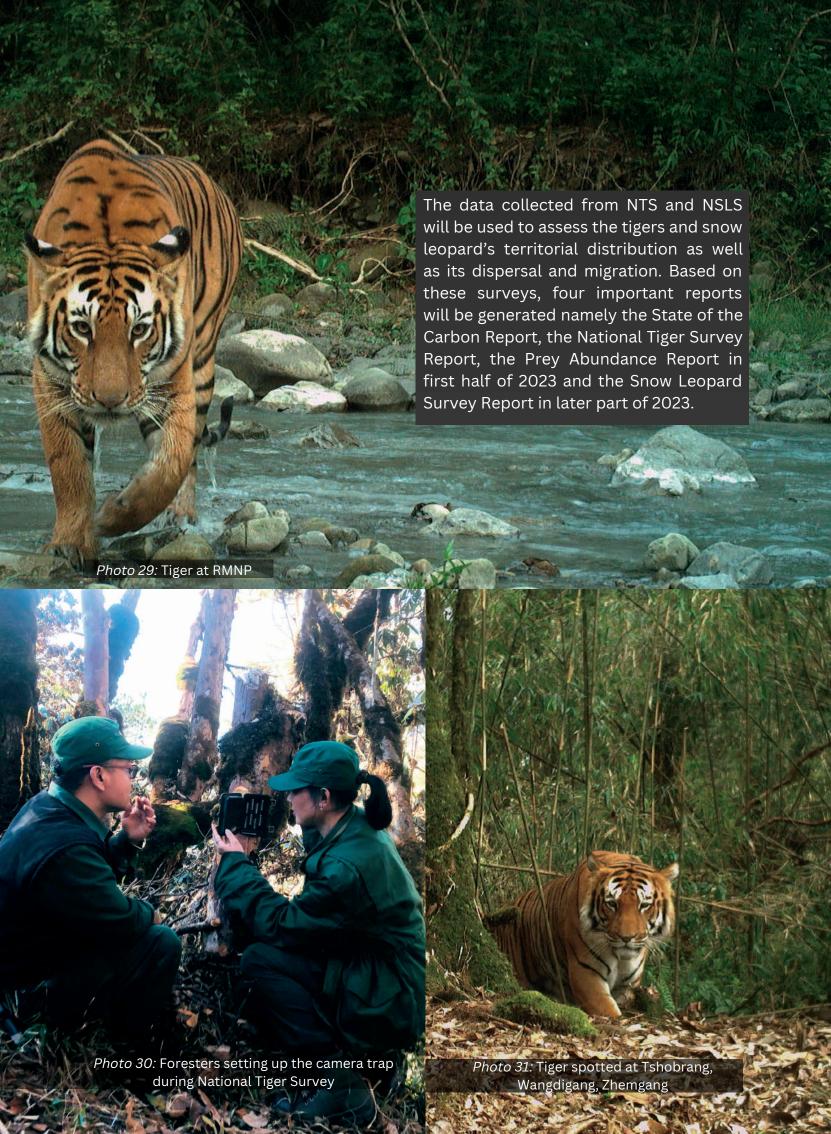


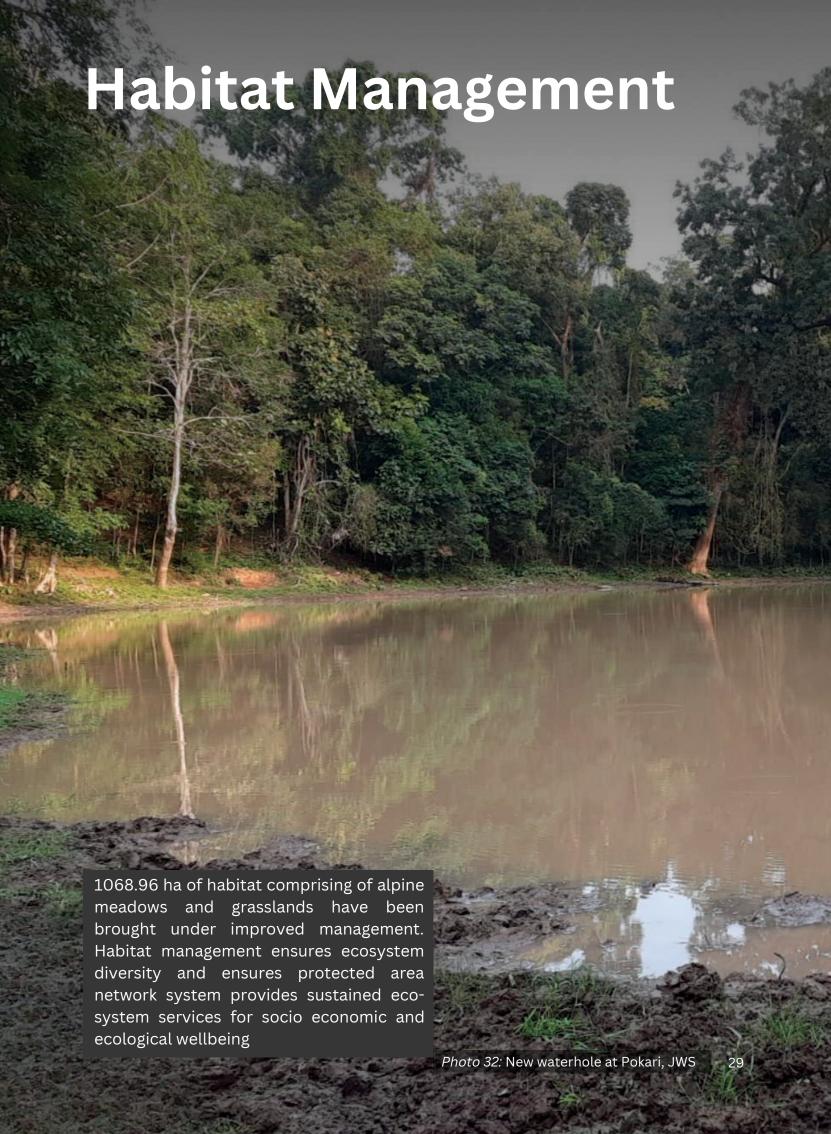
## **Three Important Surveys**

Beyond the Protected Area (PA) system, the contribution of nationwide inventories and surveys will significantly augment the knowledge base and allow spatial and temporal trends to be linked to climate change, and the much-needed inputs into research will allow the country to better embrace and adapt to climate change. Three major activities have been completed in the reporting period namely the National Forest Inventory (NFI), National Tiger Survey (NTS) and National Snow Leopard Survey (NSLS).















## Safeguards

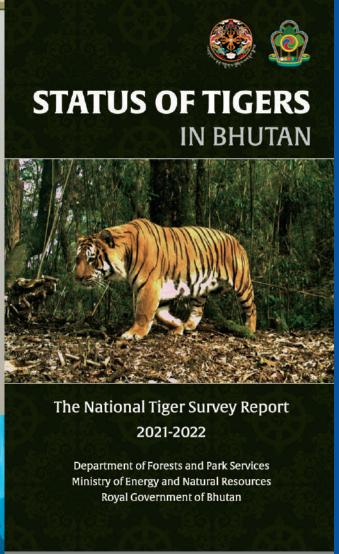
The project has overcome the initial struggles with the ESS processes. Environmental and Social Management System procedures have now been instituted through a rigorous and intense process of presentations, meetings, awareness-raising, training, and capacity building.

It was instituted over the last three and half years by both the Secretariat and PCU and with support from the AE. ESMP related documents are now disclosed and accessible on the BFL website and a communication strategy has been developed.



### **Publications**





Bhutan for Life carried out National Tiger Survey and the report will be launched on the International Tiger Day in 2023.

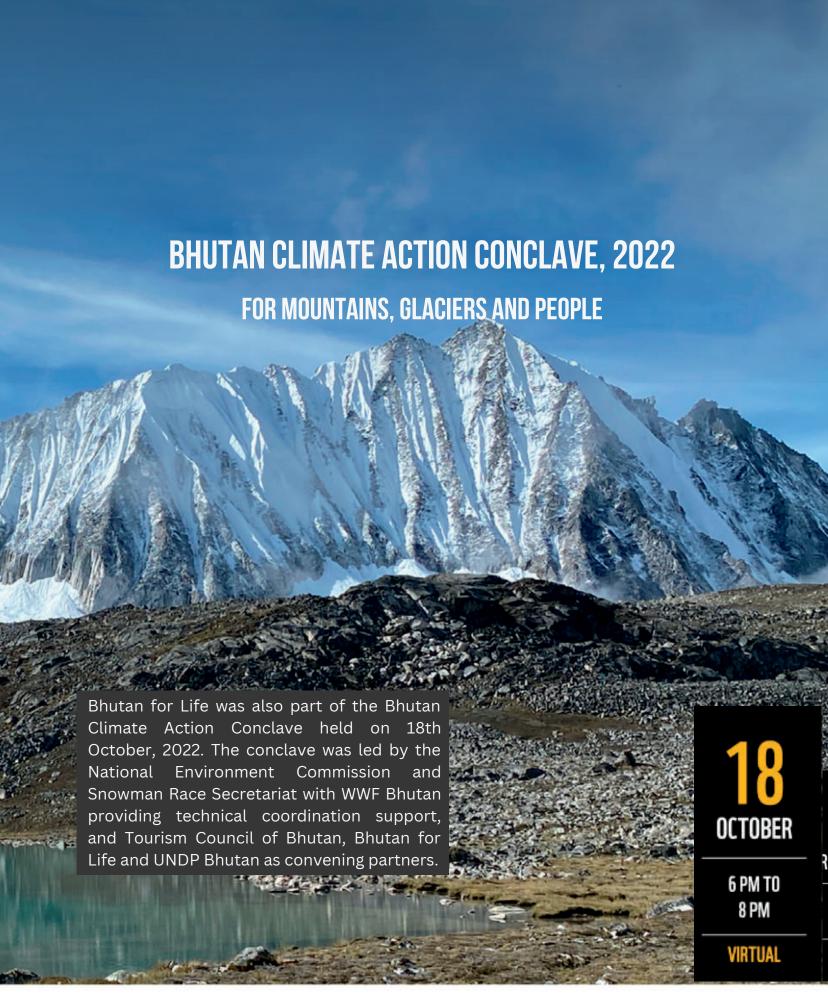
The Bhutan for Life also supported in systematic documentation of the diversity of Moth in the country and the publication of complete life cycle study of national butterfly (Bhutanitis ludlowi) and wrote a manuscript titled "Biology of Bhutanitis ludlowi Gabriel, 1942 (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae) Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhutan" for publication.

## Partnership

works **BFLFS** closely with other conservation agencies like WWF-Bhutan, RSPN. BTFEC. to collaborate and synergize our conservation goals and objectives. International days such as Environment Day, World Tiger Day, World Rangers are celebrated together Day encourage cross learning, collaboration show solidarity towards conservation efforts. In addition, BFL is a part of the environmental consortium (BFL, WWF, RSPN, BTFEC, BES).

Further, BFL has partnered with Bhutan Foundation and Bhutan Ecological Society for the Solar Energy project at Aja ney under Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary. BFL is a co-financing partner to GEF-7 Ecotourism project and also future collaboration and partnerships are being explored with ICIMOD to build on the Knowledge management aspects of the project. The project and identified, engaged assigned activities to various appropriate implementing partners (Department of Renewable Energy, Queen's project Office, national Mushroom National Environment Commission etc) and stakeholders for implementation and is still working on engaging more relevant partners





















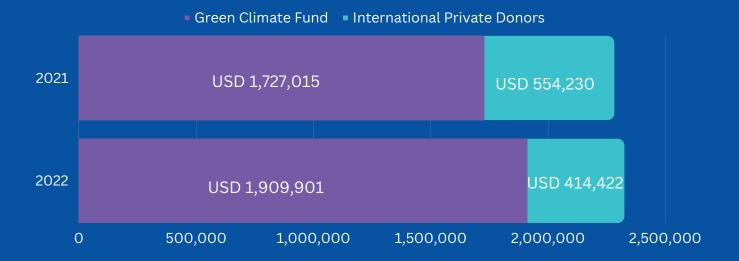
## **Financial Summary**

#### **Fund Transfer from WWF-US to BFLFS (USD)**



The funds released for the GCF was mainly to finance the planed BFL activities for year three and year four. The Private Donor Funds was released by the WWF US to the Secretariat based on the agreed disbursement schedule. The total fund transferred from WWF-US to BFLFS is USD 4.83 million in the year 2021 & 2022

#### Fund released to Ministry of Finance (USD)



The BFLFS released a sum of USD 4.60 million to Ministry of Finance in the year 2021 & 2022 for the implementation of the BFL program.

## **Audited Financial Statements**

**Bhutan For Life Fund Secretariat** Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Fund For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

(Amount in USD)

		(Amount in USD)					
Particulars	Notes	GCF	PVT.	2022	2021		
Income From:		D.	-11/4				
Grants	1	2,945,250	690,317	3,635,567	1,197,262		
Other Income	1	-	13,592	13,592			
Interest	2	11,626	430,333	441,959	471,828		
Total Income		2,956,876	1,134,242	4,091,117	1,669,090		
Expenditure on:		1 - 20					
Program Activity	3	2,123,739	691,904	2,815,642	1,697,758		
Program PCU	4	115,985	32,710	148,695	83,048		
Employee Benefits	5	78,449	59,211	137,661	115,675		
Oher administrative cost	6	67,413	48,139	115,553	78,877		
Total Expenditure		2,385,586	831,965	3,217,551	1,975,358		
Exchange difference on translating from BTN to USD		148,972	(771,270)	(622,299)	39,581		
Net Income (Expenditure)		720,261	(468,993)	251,268	(266,686)		
Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit) Fund Transfer between GCF and PVT Fund Foreign Currency Exchange Reserve		778,490	8,267,303	9,045,793	9,312,480		
Surplus/(Deficit) Fund at the End of Year		1,498,751	7,798,310	9,297,061	9,045,794		

Notes on Financial Statements forms integral part of Accounts.

For Rinzing Financial Private Limited: Firm License 1036380

For Bhutan For Life Fund Secretariat:

Kunzang Pasa Tenzin Audit Partner

CPA License No. 10534147 Date: Way 30, 2023 Place: Thimphu, Bhutan

**Executive Director** 

Finance & Administration Manager

#### **Bhutan For Life Fund Secretariat** Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2022

(Amount in USD)

Particulars	Notes	GCF	PVT.	2022	2021
ASSETS	Notes	GCI	54-54-54-54-54-54-54-54-54-54-54-54-54-5		
Current Assets					
	9	869,813	2,180,735	3,050,547	467,073
Cash and Cash Equivalents Fixed Deposits	12	000,013	4,987,775	4,987,775	6,886,472
Trade and Other Receivables	7	3,320	627,435	630,755	404,615
Fund Balances with Executing	8	625,618	2,365	627,984	1,287,634
Partners	0	023,010	2,505	02.7.0	
Sub-total Current Assets	1	1,498,751	7,798,310	9,297,061	9,045,794
Non-Current Assets Deferred Gratuity Receivable from RICB	10A	11,621	8,767	20,387	13,624
Total Non-Current Assets	Air No.	11,621	8,767	20,387	13,624
Total Assets		1,510,372	7,807,077	9,317,448	9,059,418
Non-Current Liabilities Deferred Gratuity Receivable to Staff	10B	11,621	8,767	20,387	13,624
Sub-total Non-Current Liabilities		11,621	8,767	20,387	13,624
Total Liabilities	. B	11,621	8,767	20,387	13,624
Total Net Assets or Liabilities	100	1,498,751	7,798,310	9,297,061	9,045,794
Surplus/(Deficit) Funds Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit) Fund		778,490	8,267,303	9,045,793	9,312,480
Surplus/(Deficit) Fund - Current Year		571,289	302,277	873,567	(306,268)
Foreign Currency Exchange Reserve		148,972	(771,270)	(622,299)	39,581
Total Accumulated Funds	I Gent	1,498,751	7,798,310	9,297,061	9,045,794

Notes to Financial Statements forms integral part of Accounts.

For Rinzing Financial Private Limited: Firm License 1036380

Kunzang Pasa Tenzin

Audit Partner

CPA License No. 10534147 Date: Way 30, 2023 Place: Thimphu, Bhutan

For Bhutan For Life Fund Secretariat:

Dr. Pema Wangda **Executive Director** 

Finance & Administration Manager

#### **Bhutan For Life Fund Secretariat** Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

(Amount in USD)

Particulars	GCF	PVT.	2022	2021
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		HISTORIAL COLO		
Surplus/Deficit	720,261	(468,993)	251,268	(266,686)
Cash Generated from Operations before working capital	720,261	(468,993)	251,268	(266,686
Decrease in fund balance with partner	363,788	295,863	659,651	(481,988)
Decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,591)	(224,549)	(226,140)	(402,464)
Decrease in deferred gratuity receivable from RICB	(3,855)	(2,908)	(6,763)	(5,551)
Increase in deferred gratuity payable to staff	3,855	2,908	6,763	5,551
Cash Generated from Operations	1,082,458	(397,679)	684,779	(1,151,138
Cash Flows from Investing Activities Purchases of Property, Plant & Equipment		1,000,007	1 909 / 07	16 996 479
Fixed Deposit  Net Cash used in Investing Activities	-	1,898,697 1,898,697	1,898,697	(6,886,472
Net Cush used in Moesting Actionies		2,030,031	2,030,037	(0,000,1.1
Net Cash from Financing Activities	-	-	10002	
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,082,458	1,501,018	2,583,476	(8,037,610
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at Beginning of Year	19,750	447,322	467,072	8,504,68
Transfer between GCF and PVT Fund	(232,395)	232,395		
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at End of Year	869,813	2,180,735	3,050,548	467,07

For Rinzing Financial Private Limited: Firm License 1036380

Kunzang Pasa Tenzin Audit Partner

CPA License No. 10534147 Date: Way 30, 2023 Place: Thimphu, Bhutan

For Bhutan For Life Fund Secretariat:

sign for Life

**Executive Director** 

Finance & Administration Manager



#### THE GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM FOR BHUTAN FOR LIFE (PCU)



The GRM for Bhutan for Life seeks to address any grievances arising from the implementation of BFL activities, on grievances related to loss of community resources, non-performance of project obligations including safeguards, violations of law and/or corruption, project governance and implementation, fair access and benefit sharing, stakeholder engagement, labor-related issues and incidents, gender related issues and others.

#### WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR COMPLAINT?

The complaint will be investigated by responsible authorities following the logical steps for grievance resolution process within 12 working days. If further investigation is required, the complainant will be informed accordingly and a final response will be provided after an additional period of 8 working days.

If you did not prefer to remain anonymous,

If you did not prefer to remain anonymous, you will be notified regarding the complaint resolution once the investigation is completed.



#### VISIT US

Bhutan For Life, Project Coordination Unit,
Department of Forests and Park Services,
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources,
Royal Government of Bhutan

#### Logical steps for Grievance Resolution Process



#### Mode of communication





#### YOU CAN FILE YOUR COMPLAINTS THROUGH THE BFL PROJECT COORDINATION UNIT IN THIMPHU:

Name: Norbu Yangdon Phone:17987200

Email address: norbuyangdon@moaf.gov.bt Mailing(postal) address: Nature Conservation Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Energy and Natural

Resources, Taba, Thimphu

#### COMPLAINTS MAY ALSO BE FILED WITH BHUTAN FOR LIFE FUND SECRETARIAT:

Name: Kuenzang Tobgay Phone: 17750414

Email address: kuenzangtobgay@bfl.org.bt Mailing(postal) address: Bhutan For Life Fund Secretariat, Royal Textile Academy, Thimphu.

#### Each grievance will be registered with the following information:

- i) Name of the complainant.
- ii) Date of the grievance
- iii) Nature of the grievance and location,
- iv) Number of persons involved,
- v) Tracking no. and
- vi) Potential solutions

IF THE NATIONAL PROCESS OF GRM IS UNABLE TO RESOLVE THE GRIEVANCE, COMPLAINTS MAY ALSO BE FILED WITH WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF):

Email:SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org.

Mailing address: Project Complaints Officer Safeguards Complaints, World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street NW, Washington, DC 20037



COMPLAINTS MAY ALSO BE FILED WITH GCF INDEPENDENT REDRESS MECHANISM (IRM) OPTION . COMPLAINT CAN BE FILED BY:

- 1. Sending it by mail or email at irm@gcfund.org
- 2. Sending a voice or video recording;
- 3. Filling out the online complaints form available at

https://gcf.i-

sight.com/external/case/new/group=Complaint

#### A complaint for IRM should generally include:

- 1. Name, address and contact information.
- A description of the programme (caused adverse impacts to the complainant)
- A description of how the complainants have been/maybe adversely impacted by the project/programme;
- Whether confidentiality is being requested and the reasons for it.



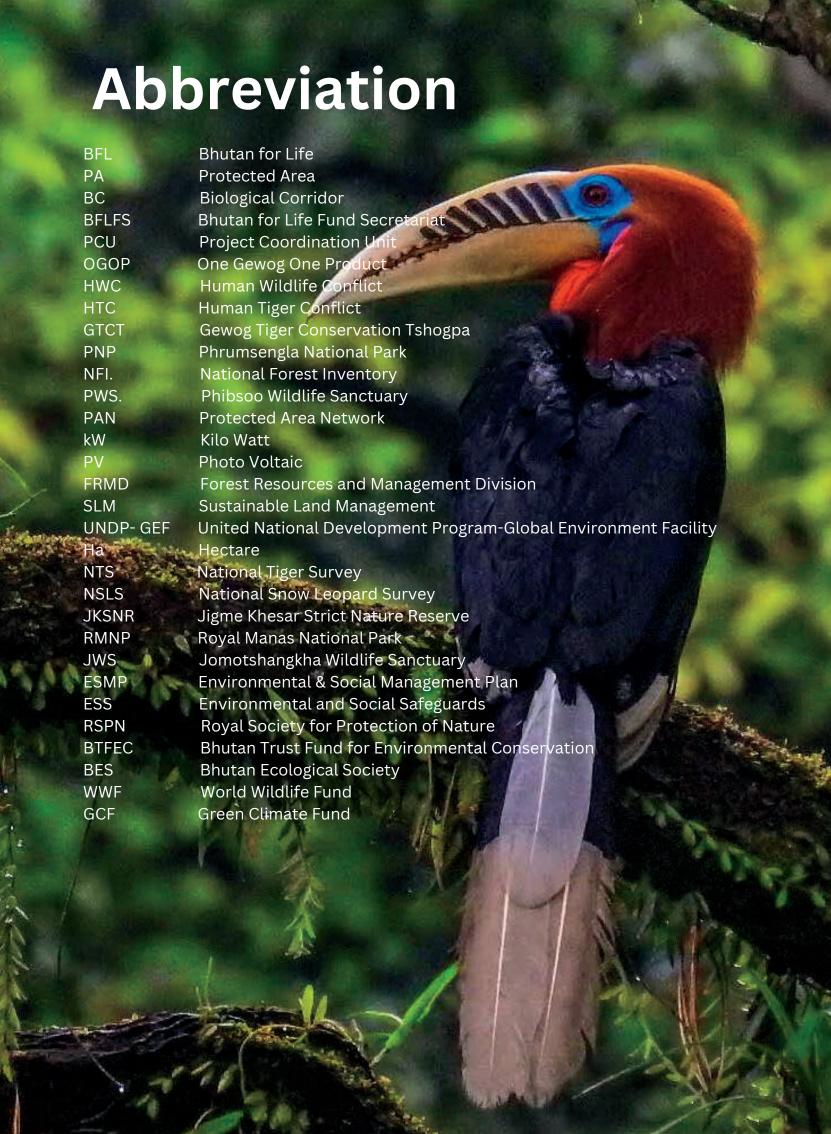
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If you did not prefer to remain anonymous, you will be notified regarding the complaint resolution once the investigation is completed.

IF YOU ARE UNSATISFIED WITH THE COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCESS, YOU CAN APPEAL TO:

GRM Appeal Committee, Bhutan For Life Project, DoFPS, Thimphu, Bhutan.













#### **Bhutan for Life Fund Secretariat**

Royal Textile Academy, Suit 202, Chubachu, Thimphu, Bhutan

#### Contact

+975-02-330978 bhutanforlife@bfl.org.bt bflfs@bfl.org.bt

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Blyth's tragopan at Jomolhari © Tshering T Dorji, Bhutan