



# ANNUAL REPORT TARAYANA FOUNDATION 2025



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TARAYANA FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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*Cover page: Shenki from Banyul Village, Pemagatshel*

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## ABOUT TARAYANA FOUNDATION

The Foundation is a Civil Society Organization (a Public Benefit Organization) registered under the Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors and advised & supported by an Executive Committee. The Secretariat plans, coordinates, and rolls out all interventions through a network of programme and field officers.

Tarayana Foundation was founded by Her Majesty The Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck and was formally launched by His Majesty The King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the then Crown Prince, on 4th May 2003.

## VISION

A Happy and Prosperous Bhutan

## MISSION

To help the vulnerable and the disadvantaged help themselves

## MOTTO

Service from the Heart

## CORE VALUES

Compassion: We will be guided by the spirit of compassion from which the Foundation derives its name.

Dignity: We will act with dignity in our work and seek to respect the dignity of those we serve.

Integrity: We will follow the highest ethical standards.



## Message from the Founding President

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The year 2025 has been one of reflection, renewal, and meaningful progress for the Tarayana Foundation as we have continued our commitment to serving vulnerable last-mile communities across Bhutan through the guiding principles of compassion, service, and Gross National Happiness. Throughout the year, we remained focused on strengthening rural resilience, improving livelihoods, and supporting community-centred development amid growing social, economic, and climate-related challenges.

A major milestone of the year was the generous USD one million in support from the Karuna Foundation, that supports the construction of climate-resilient homes for vulnerable families. Housing remains one of Tarayana's most transformative interventions, providing not only shelter but also dignity, security, and a stronger foundation for health, livelihoods, and long-term resilience.

During monitoring visits to Chukha and Zhemgang Districts, I witnessed firsthand the impact of our integrated development approach. In Chukha, community engagements highlighted the growing importance of water security, housing support, and youth empowerment through Tarayana Clubs. In Zhemgang, sustained investments in water supply, smart agriculture, bamboo enterprises, renewable energy, financial inclusion, and livelihood initiatives are significantly strengthening community resilience and improving rural incomes.

I remain deeply inspired by our Tarayana Club members, whose dedication and compassion nurture a strong culture of volunteerism and service among Bhutan's youth. Their commitment reflects the belief that sustainable development is most meaningful when rooted in local ownership, empathy, and collective responsibility.

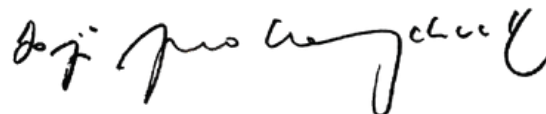
Across our programmes in social development, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment, Tarayana continues to make steady progress in expanding access to clean water, sanitation, housing, education, and livelihood opportunities.

In addition, interventions through Tarayana Micro Finance, Tarayana Rural Crafts, the Tarayana Centre for Research & Development (TCRD),

the Folk Heritage Museum, and the TSHAR Institute are strengthening rural resilience by expanding access to credit, promoting traditional skills and innovation, enhancing market opportunities, and supporting community-led entrepreneurship. Collectively, these initiatives are helping preserve Bhutan's cultural heritage while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities across the country.

As we look to the future, I remain hopeful and firmly committed to Tarayana's mission of serving the most vulnerable with humility, compassion, strength and integrity. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, donors, government agencies, staff, volunteers, and communities whose trust and dedication continue to make this journey possible.

May we continue to work together with kindness, resilience, and a shared commitment to the well-being of all.



Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck  
*Honourable Founding President*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As we present the Tarayana Foundation Annual Report, I am pleased to share a year of meaningful progress in advancing inclusive and sustainable development initiatives across Bhutan. The achievements outlined in this report reflect the collective efforts of communities, partners, government agencies, donors, and the dedicated Tarayana team working together toward a shared vision of improving the well-being of vulnerable communities.

During the year, the Foundation continued implementing interventions across its key programme areas of social and economic development, environment and climate resilience, and research and advocacy. Guided by the understanding that development challenges are multidimensional and interconnected, our efforts focused on strengthening livelihoods, improving food and nutrition security, enhancing access to water and basic services, promoting climate adaptation, and strengthening local capacities and institutions.

Notable progress was achieved in nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture through community capacity-building initiatives, nutrition model gardens, and increased engagement of women and youth groups. Economic development interventions strengthened rural enterprises and local value chains through skills development, product innovation, enterprise support, and market facilitation. The TSHAR Institute further strengthened its role as a national hub for bamboo innovation, sustainable enterprise development, and skills enhancement.

The Foundation also continued to advance environmental sustainability and climate resilience through interventions in water security, springshed management, sustainable land use, ecosystem conservation, and community-based adaptation measures. These initiatives contributed to strengthening both environmental stewardship and community resilience in vulnerable areas.

Recognizing the importance of evidence-based programming and enabling policy environments, Tarayana expanded its engagement in research, advocacy, and strategic partnerships at national, regional, and international levels. Through action research, knowledge generation, and participation in collaborative platforms, the Foundation contributed to broader discussions on community resilience, inclusive development, and well-being-centered approaches.

This report further highlights the contributions of Tarayana's subsidiary and affiliated institutions in preserving cultural heritage, promoting community enterprises, and expanding opportunities for rural producers and artisans. Initiatives such as the Tarayana Fair continued to serve as important platforms for strengthening market linkages, promoting local products, and increasing community visibility.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening partnerships, promoting innovation, and ensuring that communities continue to remain central to development processes. Guided by our enduring principle of *Service from the Heart*, we will continue working toward resilient, inclusive, and empowered communities.

On behalf of the entire Tarayana team, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to our Hon'ble Founding President, Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, whose vision, compassion, and unwavering guidance continue to inspire and shape the Foundation's journey. I also extend sincere appreciation to our partners, supporters, and communities for their trust and continued collaboration.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sonam Pem'.

**Sonam Pem**  
Executive Director

# Organizational Structure



Chime P. Wangdi  
*Secretary General*



Sonam Pem  
*Executive Director*



Chhimi Dorji  
*Director (TCRD)*



Sangay Dorji (PhD)  
*Technical Director*

## Programme Department



Roseleen Gurung  
*Director of Programmes*



Palden Ongmo  
*Sr. Programme Officer*



Karma Uden  
*Sr. Programme Officer*



Tulasi Ghalley  
*Programme Officer*



Tashi Tshering  
*Programme Officer*



Bhuwan Kafley  
*Asst. Programme Officer*

## Administration & Finance Department



Sonam Jamtsho B  
*Head, AFD*



Pema Lhendrup  
*Sr. Adm & HR Officer*



Tashi Pem  
*Sr. Accounts Officer*



Tashi Choden  
*Asst. Accounts Officer*



Ram Bdr Ghalley  
*Office Assitant/Driver*



Ugyen Wangchuk  
*Driver*



Tsheten  
*Night Guard*



Ganga Maya Gurung  
*Cleaner*

## Communication & Monitoring Department



Sherub Wangmo  
*Communications & Documentation officer*



Namgay Pem  
*Monitoring & Evaluation Officer*



Ramesh Subba  
*Asst. Communications & Documentation Officer*

## Field Officers



Passang Tobgay  
*Sr. Field Officer*



Namgay  
*Sr. Field Officer*



Sonam Jamtsho  
*Sr. Field Officer*



Thinley Bidha  
*Sr. Field Officer*



Ugyen Tshomo  
*Sr. Field Officer*



Jigme Wangchuk  
*Sr. Field Officer*



Tashi Tshering Doya  
*Sr. Field Officer*



Som Bahadur Rai  
*Field Officer*



Dorji Tshegang  
*Field Officer*



Sonam Gyeltshen  
*Manager*  
*(Bhutan TSHAR Institute)*



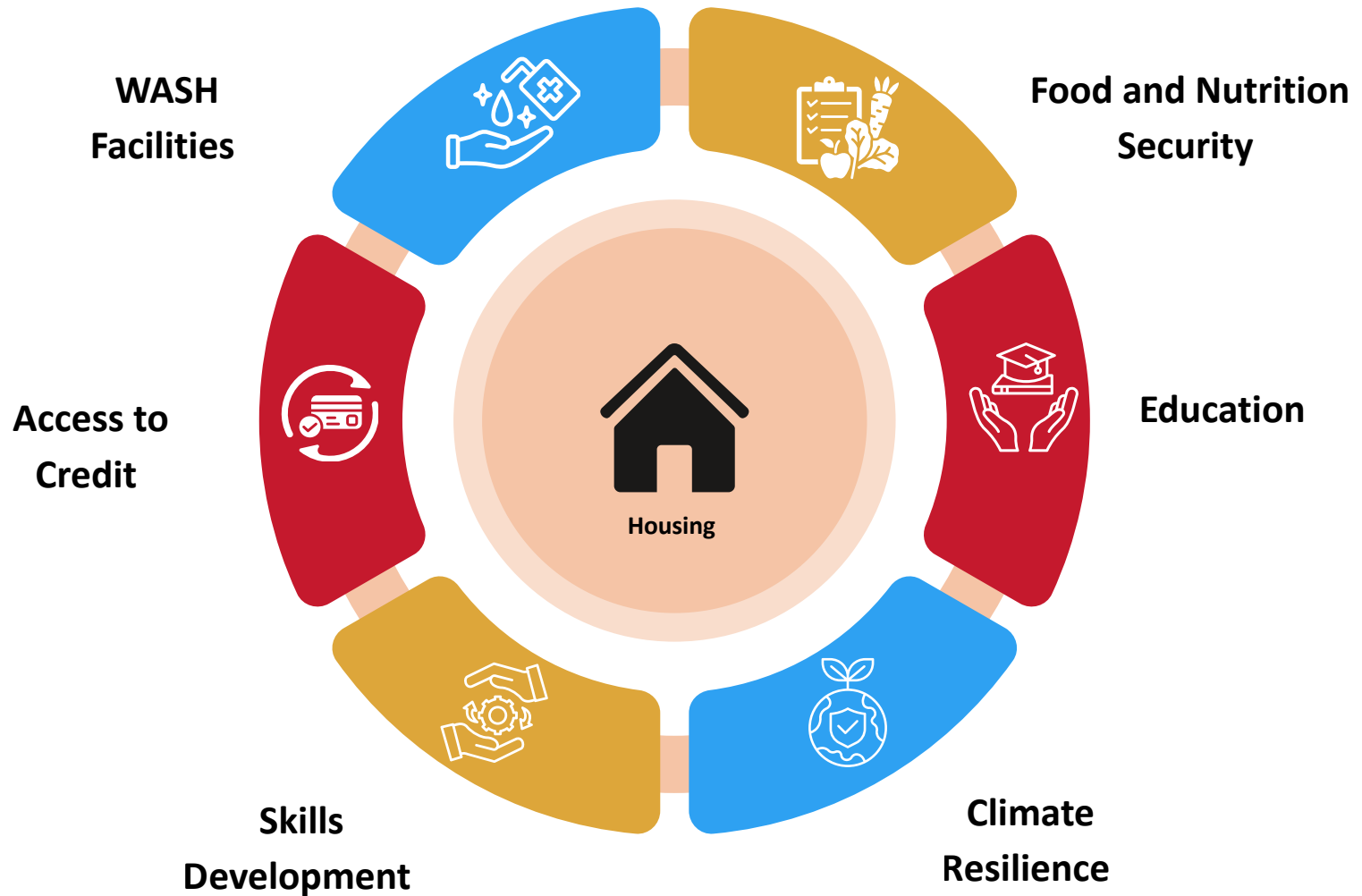
Neten Tshering  
*Trainer Asst.*  
*(Bhutan TSHAR Institute)*

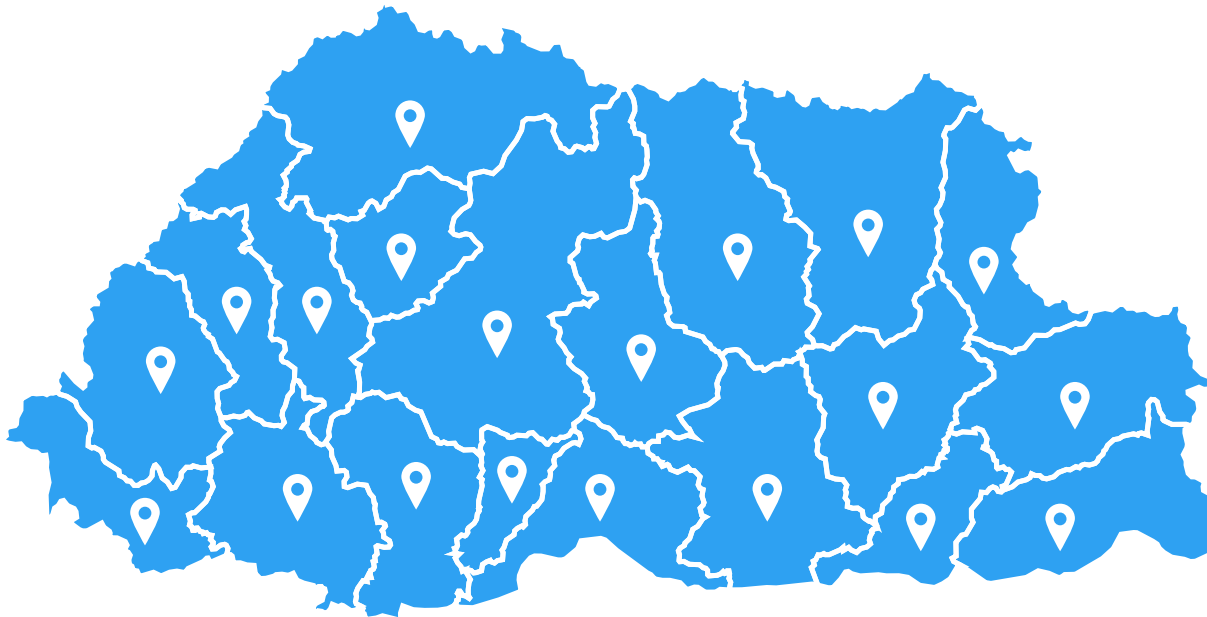


Namgay Tshering Doya  
*Trainer Asst.*  
*(Bhutan TSHAR Institute)*

# HOLISTIC

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL





# OUR REACH

Tarayana Foundation has strategically organized its initiatives into four programmatic categories:

- i) Social Development,**
- ii) Economic Development,**
- iii) Environment and Climate, and**
- iv) Research, Advocacy, and Networks.**

20

DZONGKHAGS

108

GEWOGS

995

VILLAGES

350000+

OF POPULATION

Each project undertaken by the Foundation is aligned with one of these overarching thematic areas. Notable among the Foundation's efforts are flagship initiatives such as the Housing Improvement Programme, the Annual Green Technology Challenge, the Annual Pilgrimage Programme, and the Scholarship and Learning Opportunities Programme, all of which form integral components of the Social Development Programme.



These efforts are largely carried out by Tarayana's dedicated field staff, supported by a strong network of volunteers, embodying the true spirit of service and volunteerism that defines Bhutan.

The Social Development Programme is one of the key initiatives of Tarayana Foundation, aimed at reducing vulnerabilities in critical areas such as housing, food and nutrition security, water & sanitation facilities, social inclusion, and the promotion of green technologies in the most remote corners of Bhutan.

01 ■■■

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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Tarayana Foundation's commitment to a prosperous Bhutan has enabled the provision of essential services and the delivery of goods in some of the most remote and hard-to-reach parts of the country.

Through a range of innovative social development programmes, the Foundation has worked to reduce community vulnerabilities and enhance well-being.

*Sustainable Development Goals 2030  
Alignment:*

*This programme contributes towards fulfilling many targets under SDGs, specifically SDG 1. and targets 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services, including microfinance.*



## CLIMATE & DISASTER RESILIENT HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Disaster Resilient Housing Programme achieved a key milestone with the successful construction of two prototype houses, one in Mongar and the other in Paro. Designed in alignment with local traditions and architectural practices, the Mongar prototype incorporated a stone foundation, while the Paro prototype featured hemp wall plastering.

A capacity-building workshop was conducted for the faculty members and technicians from the College of Science and Technology, focusing on climate-resilient housing technologies.

**2652**

**Total Houses  
Constructed**

**50,000+**

**Community Members  
Trained**

In 2021, World Habitat, an international charity organization, awarded the Silver Award to the Tarayana Foundation's Integrated Community Development Services for Poverty Reduction, specializing in housing programmes.



The training emphasized the use of sustainable natural materials such as hempcrete and bamboo, integrating traditional Bhutanese knowledge with modern construction practices to strengthen rural housing resilience. The Hemp Building Workshop was held at Ka-Ja Throm, Thimphu, under the ReBuilt project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and Bauhaus Earth. Participants participated in practical sessions on producing hemp-based building blocks using lime and earth binders.

A total of 20 hemp blocks were produced with different mixtures, demonstrating the potential of hemp for sustainable construction in Bhutan.



*Students from College of Science and Technology during Exposure visit at Bhutan TSHAR Institute*



*Tarayana Club of Paro College of Education participated in the construction of the hemp prototype house in Paro*



*Prototype house construction at Kalapang, Mongar*

# Holistic Community Development for Enhanced Housing, Nutrition, and Economic Security to Strengthen Social Protection in Rural Bhutan



**Funded by:** Government of India (GoI),  
Cabinet Secretariat (GoI-PTA Project)

**Sites:** Tshogoenpa Village, Lumang Gewog,  
Trashigang Dzongkhag and Tashithang,  
Sergithang, Samdenjong, Norbuthang,  
Serthang Village, Sergithang Gewog, under  
Tsirang Dzongkhag

**Objective:** Facilitate holistic development  
through improved housing conditions,  
improved food and nutrition security,  
income generation and economic  
empowerment, and water and sanitation  
improvement.



The Holistic Community Development Project made notable progress in 2025, focusing on improving housing conditions, nutrition, and economic security in rural Bhutan.

➤ **Housing Readiness**

- Approvals for land and timber permits, initiated for Tsirang and Trashigang
- Land surveys and demarcation completed

➤ **Livelihood & Food Security**

- Surplus agricultural production identified
- Strong potential for integrating food security with housing support

➤ **Community Engagement**

- Community mobilization completed
- Committees formed and transparent beneficiary selection completed
- Door-to-door survey completed

➤ **Value Addition & Support Areas**

- Processing bamboo/carpentry facilities identified
- Market linkages and livelihood diversification explored



## The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) at Chiyuel and Phuetsa, Getana Gewog, Chukha

**Funded by:** Join Together Society (JTS), South Korea

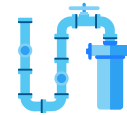
**Sites:** Getana Gewog, Chukha

**Objective:** Improve water access, sanitation and capacity building

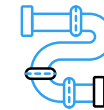
### Outputs



8 reservoirs built



4 filtration systems



18 km pipelines



4 Water User Groups formed



Improved access, hygiene & community ownership

## Annual Pilgrimage



Trongsa & Zhemgang → Bodhgaya

31 Dec 2025 – 5 Jan 2026

9 senior citizens

2 coordinators

15

PILGRIMAGES SINCE 2004

150

SENIOR CITIZENS

### ➤ Sacred sites visited:

Nalanda  
Varanasi  
Dra Ge Phungpo  
Shawa Regi Draphu

➤ A cherished initiative since 2008, commemorating the Coronation of His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

➤ Providing rural elders a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual journey with full support

## Scholarships & Learning Opportunities



In 2025, the Tarayana Foundation supported students in pursuing their studies at Regents International School in Thailand, Maharishi Markandeshwar in India, Norbuling Rigter College, and the Royal Thimphu College in Bhutan.

**27**

ENROLLED STUDENTS

**7**

GRADUDATED IN 2025

## Testimony



**Neten Chogyel**

*BA DzoEng 2nd year,  
Norbuling Rigter College, Paro*

*I am truly grateful for the opportunity to study at NRC with the support of the 50% Tarayana Scholarship. This assistance has significantly reduced my family's financial burden and allowed me to focus more on my studies and personal growth.*

*Through this scholarship, I have been able to access quality education, develop new skills, and gain confidence in pursuing my academic goals. It has motivated me to work harder and make the most of every learning opportunity.*

*I am deeply thankful to the Tarayana Foundation for their generosity and belief in students like me. Their support inspires me to work hard and give back to society in the future.*



💧 Theme: *Water Resilience & Nature-based Solutions*

⚙️ 6 Prototypes Developed

🏆 Top Innovations:

- Grey Water Treatment
- Spring Recharge Filtration
- Solar IoT Water Pump

## Annual Green Technology Challenge

The 12th Annual Green Technology Challenge at the College of Science and Technology focused on “Innovating for Water Resilience: Technology and Nature-based Solutions for Rural Bhutan.” Coordinated by the Water Resources Engineering programme, the event brought together multidisciplinary teams of students from Civil, Electrical, and Water Engineering to address water challenges in rural Bhutan. Six innovative prototypes were showcased, offering practical, low-cost solutions, including water filtration systems and IoT-based smart technologies powered by renewable energy.

Prototypes were evaluated on relevance, affordability, scalability, and feasibility, aligning with the Tarayana Foundation’s mission of sustainable rural development.



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## ■ Internships



Tashi Chopel, Royal Thimphu College

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Every year, the Foundation receives interns from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Employment. The Foundation also receives internship applications from domestic and international students. The interns were placed in various programmes based on their interests and academic backgrounds. They were also given the opportunity to visit project sites, interact with community members, and gain firsthand insights into the socio-economic challenges faced by disadvantaged communities.

### ■ Testimony ■

*During my month-long internship with the Tarayana Foundation in July 2025, I had the unique opportunity to trek to the remote highland community of Naro Gewog in Thimphu Dzongkhag. My primary role was to serve as a bridge between the field and the office by documenting the implementation activities of the “Protecting fragile mountain systems and enhancing the sustainable livelihoods of High-Land Communities in Naro Gewog under Thimphu Dzongkhag” project.*

*Beyond just taking photos, I also worked on video editing and post-production, creating content that highlights the community’s vision to transform their water source into a climate-resilient one, while also supporting their community branding efforts. This experience helped my understanding of rural development and the power of visual storytelling in advocacy.*



## Tarayana Clubs



### Focus Areas and Activities:

- Community service and environmental stewardship
- Support for vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Youth leadership development focusing on empathy, responsibility, and civic engagement

# 143

TARAYANA CLUBS

# 6,126

CLUB MEMBERS

## 25 New Clubs Registered

Two members of the Tarayana Club, Ms. Karma Sonam Zangmo from Jigme Sherubling Central School and Mr. Ugyen Dorji from Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, participated in the Asia Student Leadership Conference (ASLC) 2025 held in Singapore from 12–13 July. Under the theme “Lead, Learn, Love,” the participants joined youth leaders from more than 20 countries, engaging in discussions on compassionate and effective leadership. The programme provided a platform for cross-cultural exchange, allowing Bhutanese youth to share their values and cultural heritage while building international friendships and networks.

## Spotlight: Kuenphen Project



Kuenphen Project, the flagship project of Paro College of Education Tarayana Club, connects students with opportunities to assist faculty members with various tasks while earning pocket money. The project fosters collaboration, dignity of work, and a stronger sense of community within the college.

The initiative supports student welfare by improving communication, offering voluntary help, and creating income opportunities for those in need. It has led to greater member accountability, positive community feedback, increased youth engagement, and improved leadership and teamwork skills.

## Testimony



Courtesy: Tarayana Club, Paro College of Education

*Sangay Nima, Tarayana Club Memeber*

*Honestly, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo inspires me the most, as his selfless service and concern for the well-being of the people motivate me to dedicate myself fully. Likewise, I am inspired by our Tarayana Club coordinator, Kinley Tshering, who graduated last year. His guidance, commitment, and example encouraged me to stay active in the club. Similarly, my own inspiration comes from within, which is the mindset to create a difference in society, even if it is not something big. I believe that even small contributions can bring positive change.*

## Honourable Founding President Visits Tarayana Club of Paro College Education



“Teachers shape both minds and hearts.” – Her Majesty

256 members

(72 Male | 184 Female)



On 26 May, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited the Tarayana Club at Paro College of Education. During the visit, Her Majesty awarded certificates to the Club and its 90 graduating members in recognition of their commitment and service.

In Her address to the trainee teachers, Her Majesty emphasized the values of compassion, discipline, and service, and reminded them of their important role in shaping young people's lives. She highlighted the lasting influence of a teacher's words, actions, and character, and encouraged the trainees to lead by example, teach with patience, and nurture their students' minds and hearts. Her Majesty also noted that, as His Majesty the King continues to work selflessly for the future of the nation, future educators share a profound responsibility in shaping the values and aspirations of the next generation.

Following lunch, Her Majesty visited the College's Heritage Education and Professional Development Centre, as well as the Inner Science Education and Research Library.



## FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

## 2 ZERO HUNGER

SDG TARGETS: 2.1,  
2.2, 2.3

Tarayana Foundation promotes food and nutrition security as an essential component of its holistic rural development model. Since the Foundation's inception, its officers have provided support, guidance, and facilitation to encourage the establishment of backyard gardens in every household across project sites. Aimed at achieving food self-sufficiency nutrition goals in villages, this initiative complements the significant efforts of the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Support is provided through input supply, capacity building, and market facilitation.



## Building Resilient Commercial Smallholder Agriculture (BRECSA)

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**Funded by:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Sites:** 37 Gewogs of Trongsa, Zhemgang, Tsirang and Sarpang

**Objective:** Transform smallholder agriculture into inclusive and resilient agri-food systems that are increasingly profitable and food and nutrition secure



*Intensive community mobilization training to the Sanam Japchorpas(SJs)-36 including FOs*



*Community consultation meetings-186 chiwogs*



*District level training for Agri. and Livestock Extension Officers – 120 including FOs and SJs*



*Qualitative Behavioural Research*



*Establishment of Nutrition Model Garden (NMG)*



*Farmers' training – 185 Farmers trained on smart agriculture, smart livestock practices and mushroom cultivation*



## Capacity Building & Training

Farmers trained on smart agriculture and livestock production across four districts

Nutrition education and awareness delivered to 164 women groups and 105 youth groups

## Nutrition Model Gardens

25 Nutrition Model Gardens established in Zhemgang, Trongsa, Tsirang, and Sarpang

The BRECSA project made steady progress in strengthening nutrition-sensitive agriculture and community resilience across targeted gewogs. The project strengthened **nutrition awareness, institutional capacity, and climate-smart agriculture practices**, while expanding model gardens and preparing for large-scale household-level implementation in the next phase.



## **SASI-SPI (Sustainable Agrifood System Intelligence - Science-Policy Interface) project in Bhutan**

**Funded by:** FAO through CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)

**Sites:** Shaba and Dogar Gewog under Paro Dzongkhag and Ngangla and Trong Gewog under Zhemgang Dzongkhag

**Objective:** To catalyze the transition to sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems by developing new reference frameworks (from global to sub-national), facilitating collective problem-solving processes through participatory action-research and the co-construction of transition pathways, strengthening cross and trans-sectoral policies and institutions, fostering new alliances and investments.



This project is a newly initiated effort to address a key transition challenge: *unlocking the constraints faced by the Bhutanese agrifood system to make it economically and socially attractive to youth*. The initiative seeks to generate evidence and strategies that will encourage greater youth engagement in agriculture by enhancing its viability, innovation, and appeal.

In October 2025, a mission team from CIRAD, Ms. Isabelle Vagneron and Mr. Hasnaoui Amri Nabil, visited Bhutan and facilitated a three-day Project Orientation Workshop. The workshop brought together the Foundation’s project team and the initially identified research partner, the College of Natural Resources (CNR), to introduce the project objectives, refine the scope, and align expectations among stakeholders.



## Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities of Local Stakeholders to Strengthen Policy Environments Enabling Agroecology in the Himalayas

**Funded:** Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Sites:** Dagana and Chukha

**Objective:** Strengthen agroecology and sustainable food systems in Bhutan by building shared knowledge and policy understanding, empowering stakeholders in science policy processes, and enhancing coordinated support and effective project management.

Under this project, a Technical Working Group (TWG) and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) were formed, comprising representatives from relevant government agencies to guide the process. Extensive stakeholder engagement were undertaken through community consultations, including Dzongkhag-level discussions, to gather inputs from local stakeholders. Based on these consultations, the draft Food System Roadmap was developed with technical guidance and support from TAG members. The draft roadmap was further reviewed and validated through a series of district-level and national-level consultations, ensuring alignment with stakeholder priorities and national objectives. A final writeshop was conducted to comprehensively review and refine the document.

The roadmap is now in its final stage, with the official launch and handover to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock remaining as the final step.



Supporting rural communities across Bhutan in securing a better future through sustainable livelihoods and improved access to financial services has been a primary objective of the Foundation. Recognizing that empowering communities to become self-reliant requires a robust economic framework, the Foundation has developed and implemented a comprehensive Economic Development Programme.

02 ■■■

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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This programme encompasses a range of activities from skills development and promotion of income-generating activities to market facilitation for rural products, all aimed at building resilient local economies and enhancing community well-being.

*This programme contributes to targets 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and 8.6: By 2030, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training under SDG 8.*



# Bhutan TSHAR Institute



Inaugurated in October 2023 by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the Bhutan TSHAR Institute is a national hub for bamboo innovation and skills development. It promotes bamboo as a sustainable resource by providing training, fostering innovation, improving product design, and supporting knowledge exchange to strengthen Bhutan’s role in the global bamboo industry.

Alongside the Bhutan TSHAR Institute, the Bhutan TSHAR Enterprise operates a social enterprise arm that sustains the Institute. It complements the Institute’s mission by serving as the commercial wing focused on marketing and distribution of bamboo products, both locally and internationally.

2025 marked a significant year for the Bhutan TSHAR Institute with progress in infrastructure development, skills training, institutional visibility, and bamboo-based innovation, reinforcing its position as a national hub for sustainable construction and bamboo enterprise development.



To know more about TSHAR showroom and TSHAR Products please contact Mr. Sonam Gyaltshen, Manager (Bhutan TSHAR Institute)



+975 17739621

or visit our TSHAR showroom



Tarayana Centre, Chubachu, Thimphu

**3.9M**

NGULTRUM  
GENERATED FOR  
COMMUNITIES

**150**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
SUPPORTED

**63**

STALLS

**17**

DZONGKHAGS  
REPRESENTED

## Institutional Activities & Coordination

- Hosted the Annual Review Meeting of Tarayana Foundation
- Hosted multiple official visits, including the Dasho Dzongdas of Trashigang and Trashiyangtse, forest ecopreneurs, and the Loden Foundation team
- Participated in the Food Fair (Aug 20-24) organized by BCCI and HRAB
- Supported preparations for the Royal Highland Festival (Sept 3-28)

## Capacity Building & Training

- Organized Bamboo Handicraft & Furniture Training (March 17-30)
- Conducted Design Thinking Workshop (April 2-5)
- Delivered capacity-building workshops for College of Science and Technology faculty and students on hempcrete and bamboo-based climate-resilient housing (April & July)



*Scan this QR Code to view the Bhutan TSHAR Product Catalogue.*

## Partnerships & Engagement

- Hosted a visit for the Karuna Foundation Executive Director and team (February)
- Strengthened collaboration with government, academic institutions, and development partners through joint trainings and events

## Human Resources & Staffing

- Recruited nine staff members
- Recruited four male artisans in August following staff resignations

## Infrastructure Development

- Completed construction of workers' quarters (Nov–Dec 2025), with staff now fully relocated
- Constructed bamboo stalls for the Tarayana Annual Fair
- Supported bamboo works for the Tarayana courtyard showroom and café
- Inaugurated the Bhutan TSHAR Bamboo Showroom (Oct 2025) at Tarayana Centre



## Training in Cane and Bamboo Development and Management, Ecotourism Product Exhibition

**Funded:** GEF Ecotourism (Department of Tourism)

**Sites:** Mongar, Trashigang, and Zhemgang

**Objective:** Enhance bamboo product development skills, improve income through market facilitation, and strengthen product quality through research, development, and certification.



### Market Facilitation

In terms of market promotion, bamboo products were showcased at the Tarayana Annual Fair 2025, where 70 newly developed product designs were introduced, strengthening market exposure and opportunities for artisans.

Additionally, progress was made in product development and documentation through the preparation and printing of a catalog for the Bhutan TSHAR Institute, featuring 108 identified bamboo products. These initiatives have enhanced skills, promoted innovation, and expanded market access for bamboo-based livelihoods.



The project focused on strengthening skills development, promoting inclusive participation, and enhancing market linkages in the bamboo sector. Capacity-building trainings were conducted across the project sites.

BAMBOO LIFESTYLE PRODUCT TRAINING	Mongar 13 male   7 female
SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH	Mongar & Trashigang 6 Male   4 female
LIFESTYLE AND FURNITURE TRAINING	Mewangang 11 male   4 female
HANDICRAFT AND LIFESTYLE TRAINING	Trashigang 10 male   8 female

**1**  
Product Catalogue developed



The BFL Project Management Team from Tarayana also participated in the WWF-US supervision mission workshop held on 25th September in Thimphu, contributing to overall project learning and knowledge sharing.

## Nettle Enterprise Development

**Funded by:** Bhutan for Life

**Sites:** Trashigang, Lhuentse, Mongar, Punakha, Trongsa, Zhemgang, and Dagana

**Objective:** Value chain development of nettle fiber

The project has been successfully completed, achieving key milestones in infrastructure development, capacity building, and institutional strengthening over the 18-month implementation period.

### Outputs

- Two low-cost bamboo worksheds were constructed at Gangzur in Lhuentse and Lumang in Trashigang
- Women beneficiaries were trained to operate the equipment
- Signboards for both the worksheds were installed
- Administrative tools; record books, bill books, and stickers, were distributed to support effective marketing and operational management



## Agroforestry for Adaptation (ACCA) Climate Change

**Funded by:** Stiftung Drittes, Third Millennium Foundation, Tarayana Micro Finance Pvt. Ltd.

**Sites:** Trashigang, Trashiyangtse and Dagana

**Objective:** Promote climate-resilient farming, strengthen community seed banking, and improve farmers' access to credit and financial services to support sustainable livelihoods.

The project focused on improving community water access and strengthening financial inclusion.

### The water management initiative in Tshogoenpa, Lumang, Trashigang

Improved access to safe drinking water for more than 70 households, enhancing public health and overall well-being.

### Support of the credit access component

A final tranche was disbursed to Tarayana Microfinance Bank in line with the project agreement, ensuring continued access to financial services for target beneficiaries.

Total of 56 active loan clients (agricultural machineries, small business, diary etc.) have been recorded as of September across Dagana and Trashigang, reflecting continued efforts to strengthen financial inclusion and improve access to credit for target communities.



## Empowering Rural Communities through Agri-product Innovation and Local Enterprise Development

**Funded by:** Bhutan Foundation

**Sites:** Mongar and Trashigang

**Objective:** Sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and climate-adapted agriculture for food systems and nutrition security.

Key milestones were achieved in strengthening community enterprise development and market infrastructure in Lumang Gewog, Trashigang, through this project.

A food processing and bookkeeping training was conducted with technical support from private women entrepreneurs (Dru Na Ghu), Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), and sub Post-Harvest Centre Shumar in Pemagatshel, benefiting more than 50 community participants and enhancing their skills in value addition and financial management.



The marketing and processing shed in Riserboo, Wamrong, Trashigang was completed and inaugurated in July 2025. The facility has been formally handed over to the community and supports improved processing, storage, and marketing of local products.

To strengthen governance and operational sustainability, group bylaws were developed and formally endorsed by all members, providing a clear framework for management and accountability.





In response, the Foundation implements holistic and context-specific interventions to strengthen community resilience. By building local capacities, promoting climate-smart practices, and enhancing adaptive strategies, Tarayana empowers rural communities to better respond to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

## 03 ■■■ ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

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Tarayana Foundation works with some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities in Bhutan, many of whom face high levels of poverty and limited capacity to cope with climate-induced risks. These communities often live in areas of high climate variability, making them more susceptible to hazards such as water scarcity, increasing pests and crop diseases, declining agricultural yields, and human-wildlife conflict, further exacerbating food insecurity and livelihood challenges.

*Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Alignment:*

*This programme contributes to SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13, and SDG 15 specifically Target 15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits essential for sustainable development.*



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## Living Landscape: Securing High Conservation Values (HCVs) in Southwestern Bhutan (IKI)

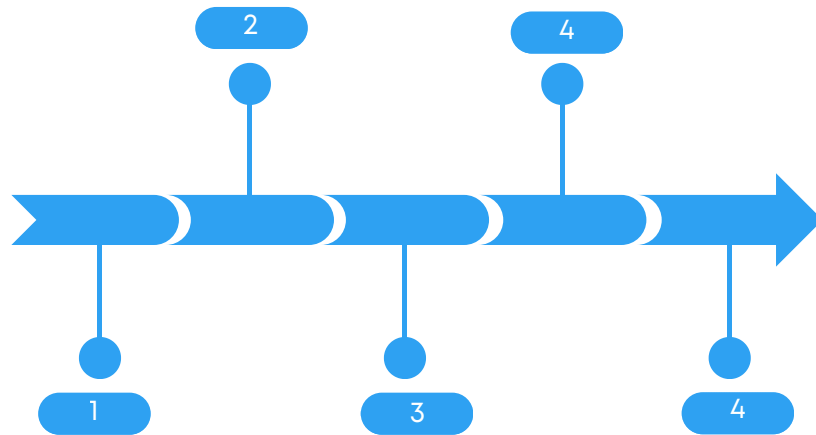
**Funded by:** Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the International Climate Initiative

**Sites:** Paro, Haa, Tsirang, Samtse, Sarpang, Zhemgang, Dagana, Chhukha and Thimphu

In 2025, the project achieved substantial progress in strengthening climate resilience, improving livelihoods, and promoting sustainable natural resource management across multiple Dzongkhags.

To ensure sustainable management of natural resources based on scientific management principles in the areas outside the protected areas network system by developing integrated climate-smart management plans for nine divisional forest offices in the project landscape

By 2028, the population of indicator species in the project landscapes is secured

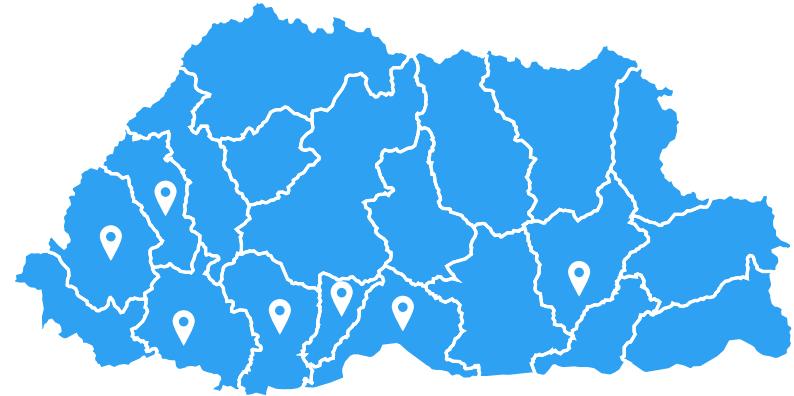


To integrate the approach of HCVs into the national land use and planning systems to ensure conservation of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs) in the areas without legal protection

By 2028, at least nine HCVA are put under management regime

By 2028, the average annual household income of the target communities has increased by 60 percent

## Geographic Coverage



## Key Achievements at a Glance

Land & Agriculture	Total
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Land Management (SLM) &amp; Agriculture Land Development interventions</li> </ul>	180.57 acres
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Households supported</li> </ul>	242
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land degradation mitigation implemented in high-risk areas</li> </ul>	189.19 acres
Water & Springshed Management	Total
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Springs revived</li> </ul>	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land treated under springshed management</li> </ul>	128.22 acres
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beneficiaries</li> </ul>	675 households + 250 monks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HOBO data logger installed at Tshaluna, Thimphu</li> </ul>	

## Capacity Building & Training

- Vermicomposting training
- Plumbing Training
- Business Management Training
- Basic Entrepreneurship Training completed (Jan 2026)
- International exposure visit (Nepal) for technical learning

## Total

In 2 Gewogs  
4F, 37M  
15 days  
6F & 13M  
5F& 6M

## Infrastructures & Equipments

- Pool vehicles deployed for field operations
- Laptops for project management
- Plumbing toolkits distributed
- Field gear and monitoring equipments upgraded

## Total

2  
11  
35

## Livelihoods & Economic Development

- Business plans developed
- Ecotourism sites identified
- Community lodge constructed in Samtse

## Total

In 4 Dzongkhags  
3 ( Tsirang, Haa and Thimphu)  
1 in Samtse

## Ecosystem & Sustainability Initiatives

- Payment for Environmental Service Agreement signed for Omchhu Watershed (Feb 2026)
- Recharge interventions (trenches) improving groundwater systems
- Regular SLM monitoring across multiple districts

## Partnerships & Engagement

- Field visit by WWF Germany Project Manager
- Leadership monitoring and infrastructure inauguration conducted



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## Protecting Fragile Mountain Systems and Enhancing the Sustainable Livelihoods of High-Land Communities in Naro Gewog under Thimphu Dzongkhag



**Funded by :** Small Grants Programme (SGP)- UNDP  
**Sites:** Naro Gewog under Thimphu  
**Objective:** Strengthening resilience in remote highlands



The project achieved key milestones in water security, livelihood enhancement, and community capacity building in Naro Gewog.

## Outputs



- Constructed 23,328-litre reservoir tank
- Installation of filtration units and water troughs
- Renovation of existing reservoirs
- Pipe network improvements
- Protection of water sources through extensive barbed wire fencing



Livelihood support was strengthened through the provision of a Saang (incense) processing machine, benefiting all households in the Gewog. Skills development and market exposure were enhanced through participation in the Royal Highland Festival 2025 and a 10-day training program in natural soap-making and felting for the Naro Women Self Help Group.

Overall, the project made significant progress in improving water access, strengthening rural livelihoods, and building community resilience.



## Integrated Climate Adaptation Solution for the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region



**Funded by:** Global Affair Canada (GAC) through International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

**Sites:** Tili Village in Shaba Gewog under Paro and Yebisa Village in Chubu Gewog under Punakha

**Objective:** Promote gender-responsive integrated adaptation solutions combining springshed management and solar irrigation to enhance agriculture and agrobiodiversity, while strengthening institutions, policies, and financing for inclusive and scalable climate resilience.



The HI-CAS project, initiated in 2025, progressed through its inception phase by strengthening partnerships, finalizing agreements, and preparing for implementation. Additionally, the project contributed to governance and coordination by participating in the Country Advisory Committee Meeting, thereby strengthening stakeholder engagement and implementation readiness.

### Key milestones included



- Inception workshops and meetings in ICIMOD Headquarters Kathmandu
- Signing of the Letter of Agreement
- Alignment of project objectives among partners
- Selection of two pilot sites
- Conducted consultations on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and environmental safeguards
- Capacity building training for Project Finance Officers
- Baseline assessments were conducted in target communities
- Conducted technical evaluations of solar lift irrigation systems

# Climate-resilient Water Management in Rural Bhutan



**Funded by:** City of Vienna

**Sites:** Lichibi Village, Goshing Gewog, Zhemgang

**Objective:** Promote climate-resilient water management by strengthening springshed-based governance and improving access to clean water to enhance water sustainability, health, and sanitation.



## Outputs

Four pour-flush toilets constructed

Five water reservoir tanks were constructed

Girls' toilet was constructed at Goshing Primary School

A springshed assessment was conducted for the Chiling spring in Lichibi village.

The project has been successfully completed, delivering key water, sanitation, and infrastructure improvements in Lichibi village, the surrounding areas, and Goshing Primary school.



## Testimony

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**Rinchen Lhazom**  
Matron (Goshing Primary School)

*“Every morning, I used to wake up worrying about the 30 girls under my care. As their matron, I wanted them to begin each day with dignity and comfort, but for a long time, that was difficult to achieve.*

*We had only two toilets, one for the girls and one for me, but both had to be shared by everyone. Mornings were especially challenging, with long lines and little privacy. Water shortages made hygiene difficult, and without proper bathrooms, the girls had to bathe in crowded toilets with wet and slippery floors. There were even times when some students had no choice but to use the surrounding areas because of a lack of facilities.*

*Watching the girls struggle every day was heartbreaking. Things changed when the Tarayana Foundation supported the construction of new toilets and bathrooms. The new facilities are cleaner, safer, and spacious enough for all the girls.*

*Now, the girls no longer worry about waiting in long queues or struggle to maintain hygiene. They can bathe safely, prepare for the day with confidence, and enjoy a cleaner and more comfortable environment.*

*For me, this transformation is about more than infrastructure. It has restored dignity, comfort, and confidence in the girls' lives. Seeing their smiles and improved well-being fills me with gratitude for everyone who made this possible.”*

# 04 RESEARCH, ADVOCACY, AND NETWORK

The Foundation champions action research and advocacy as vital tools to drive meaningful community change and sustainable development. By collaborating with stakeholders at all levels from grassroots to global, the Foundation advocates for transformative solutions to address rural challenges.

Its advocacy programme focuses on raising awareness and influencing policy on critical rural issues, striving to create an enabling environment that fosters strategic partnerships, amplifies community voices, and promotes participatory decision-making.



Key advocacy areas include gender equality and inclusivity, environmental and social justice, ending violence against children (EVAC), youth development, nutrition and well-being, Gross National Happiness, and climate change resilience.



## South Asian Women's Conference



The South Asian Women's Conference 2025, a tribute to Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck's 70th Birth Anniversary, was held over three days, from May 8th to 10th, at the Namgay Heritage Hotel in Thimphu. The conference brought together changemakers from Bhutan, India, and Nepal under the theme, *Women's Economic Empowerment in Rural South Asia: Sustainable Pathways*.

Inaugurated by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the Founding President of the Tarayana Foundation, the conference highlighted the transformative role of women in rural tourism through a series of insightful panels and discussions.

Key panels explored the importance of financial inclusion and policy strategies to support women-led tourism ventures, along with showcasing successful grassroots experiences from Bhutan, India, and Nepal that highlight rural tourism as a catalyst for empowerment and sustainability. Presentations also covered Bhutan's vision for a sustainable, inclusive city through the Gelephu Mindfulness City project, the importance of climate resilience and gender-equitable policies in ensuring long-term tourism sustainability, and the transformative potential of technology in rural tourism.

Additionally, the conference addressed the need for harmonized, inclusive cross-border tourism policies, particularly those led by women, emphasizing the critical role of collaboration in fostering regional development.



As part of the Conference, the team conducted a field visit to Punakha and visited Aum Toeb Zam's Homestay, managed by Pema Tshomo, a local woman entrepreneur. During the homestay visit, the participants were able to immerse themselves in Bhutanese culture and gain insight into Bhutan's tourism landscape.



The Conference also paid tribute to the late Ambica Shrestha, a founding member of the South Asian Women's Network. The Conference concluded with inspiring remarks from Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, leaving participants deeply motivated and committed to collaborative, women-centered rural development across South Asia.



# Conference on Operationalising in Bhutan & Beyond GNH

Dungkar Dzong, Paro Bhutan



The Conference on Operationalising Gross National Happiness (GNH) in Bhutan & Beyond, a tribute to the 70th Birth Anniversaries of His Holiness the Je Khenpo and His Majesty the Great Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, was held over two days from 19th to 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, at Dungkar Dzong, Pangbisa, Paro.

The event took place under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck and was co-organised by the Tarayana Foundation in partnership with the Georgetown Institute of Open and Advanced Studies (GIOAS), the Centre for Bhutan and GNH Studies, and DHI Innotech.

The conference convened policymakers, researchers, technologists, spiritual leaders, and development practitioners from Bhutan and around the world to explore practical approaches for translating Bhutan's Gross National Happiness philosophy into actionable frameworks for application within Bhutan and in other national and community contexts.

4

Keynote Speakers



10

Presentations



10

Pannel Discussions



200+

Participants



50

Speakers



Key sessions addressed the challenges and opportunities of operationalising the GNH paradigm, including strategies for integrating well-being into governance, education, technology, finance, and climate resilience. The conference highlighted the importance of bridging philosophical principles with practical applications, and fostered dialogue on how GNH-informed approaches might offer global alternatives to conventional development metrics.

Participants also engaged in collaborative exchanges on innovation, data tools, and inclusive policy design to strengthen community-led development and advance the practical implementation of GNH principles beyond Bhutan's borders. The event contributed to growing international interest in well-being-centred development paradigms and served as a platform for strengthening global partnerships.





## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Tarayana Fair

In 2025 the Tarayana Foundation commemorated the 19th Annual Tarayana Fair and the 22nd Foundation Day under the theme, “Celebrating Rural Prosperity: Strengthening Community, Sustaining Futures.” The occasion held added significance as it also marked the 70th Birth Anniversary of the Foundation’s Hon’ble Founding President, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck.

The event was marked by a blend of celebration, reflection, and tribute. A particularly memorable moment was the recitation of The Green Tara, a poem composed by His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigme Jigten Wangchuk in honour of his grandmother, Her Majesty the Queen Mother. The fair also featured the launch of the photobook “The Walking Queen”, dedicated to Her Majesty’s journey of compassion, service and connection with Bhutan’s remotest communities.

The occasion further recognised the dedication of the Foundation’s long-serving staff and included heartfelt recollections shared by Her Majesty’s companions from her early visits to rural communities. Cultural performances by Tarayana Clubs and community representatives from across Bhutan added vibrancy to the celebration, while the fairgrounds showcased rural crafts, traditional cuisine, and the spirit of unity and shared purpose.



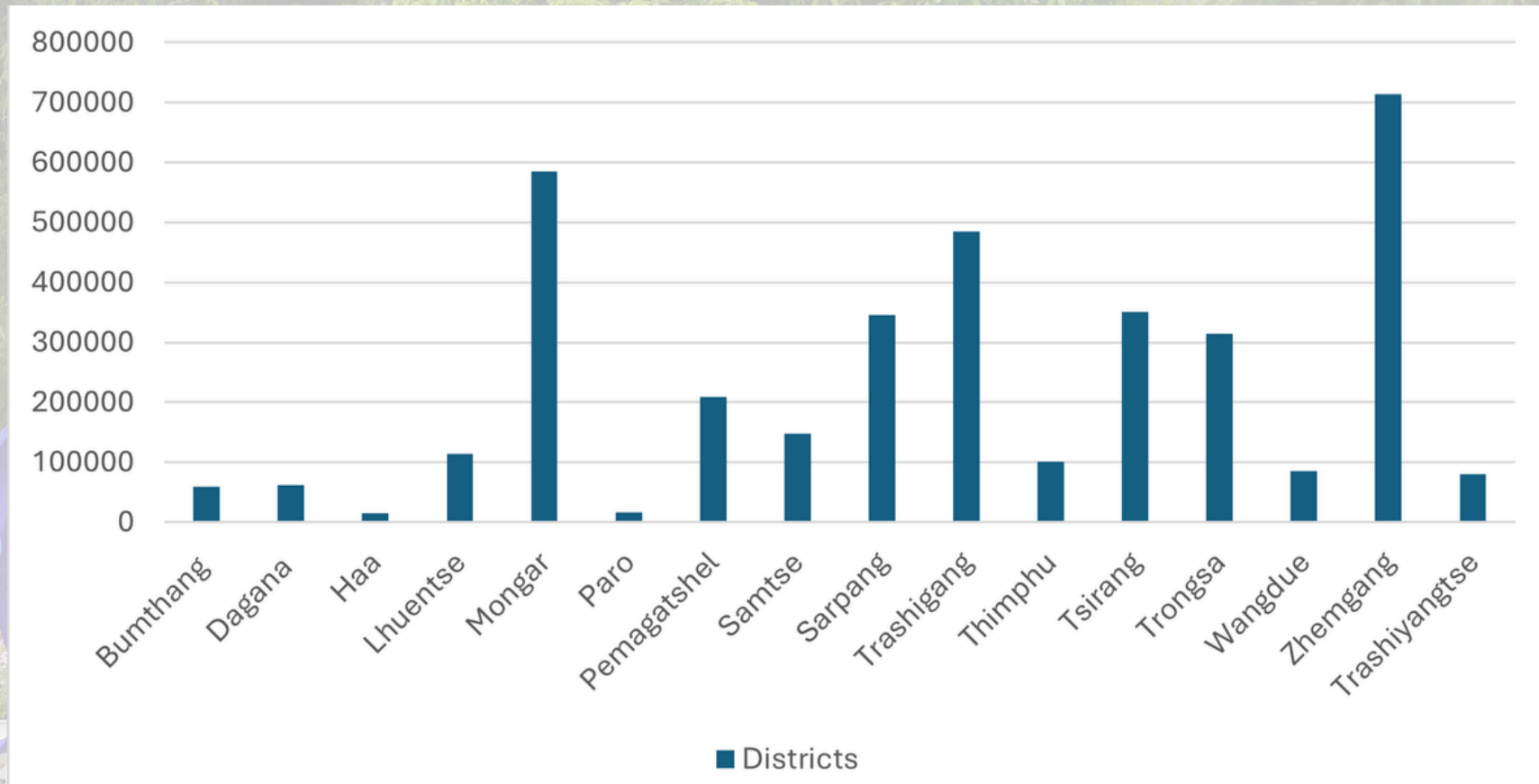
The 2025 Fair was the most successful edition to date, featuring 63 stalls representing rural products from across the country by 150 community members. The fair recorded a total sales turnover of Nu. 3,909,755, reflecting a significant increase compared to the previous year and demonstrating strong market demand for rural products.

The event enabled wide participation from remote communities, supported through transportation, accommodation, and logistical assistance to ensure inclusive access. A diverse range of products, including bamboo crafts, textiles, traditional food items, agricultural produce, and value-added goods, were showcased, with bamboo products, bura textiles, jandob, and traditional food items among the top-selling categories.



Beyond direct sales, the fair facilitated important market linkages between rural producer groups and urban markets. Several groups established new partnerships with organizations and retailers, including Bhutan Youth Development Fund's Green Weaving Center, Himalayan Crafts, Tarayana Rural Crafts, and the Centenary Farmers Market. Many products also entered the cottage and small-scale industry market, further expanding market access for rural producers.

## Amount earned by the community from different Dzongkhags



**3.9M**

NGULTRUM GENERATED  
FOR COMMUNITIES

**150**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
SUPPORTED

**63**

STALLS

**16**

DZONGKHAGS

# 70th Birth Anniversary Celebration



On 10 June, the Tarayana Foundation commemorated the 70th Birth Anniversary of its Founding President, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, with a special programme celebrating Her Majesty's vision, compassion, and lifelong service to Bhutan. The event brought together national and international well-wishers in honour of her enduring legacy. A key highlight was a generous contribution of USD 1,000,000 from Karuna Foundation to support the Climate Resilient Programme, reinforcing shared commitments to sustainable and resilient community development.

The Interactive Map of Jangchub Semgi Lingka, an ecological park in Rukha, Wangdue Phodrang, was unveiled. Named by Vairochana Rinpoche in honour of the 70th birth anniversaries of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, His Holiness the Je Khenpo, and Her Majesty the Queen Mother, the ecological park represents a significant symbol of environmental stewardship and cultural reverence.

In addition, the documentary "Seed of Hope: A Tribute to Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Royal Patron of the RNR Sector" was premiered, highlighting Her Majesty's invaluable contributions to rural livelihoods, agriculture, and sustainable development in Bhutan.



Maetabkha Gewog



## Founding President's Monitoring Visits

### Chukha Dzongkhag

#### WATER AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

In Maetabkha Gewog, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck inaugurated a 25,000-litre water reservoir benefiting 39 households of Gompatoed chiwog, improving water security for local households. The visit also included interactions with housing beneficiaries supported by the Foundation and partners.

Key interventions in the gewog include water infrastructure development, housing support, plumbing and SHG training, fruit seedling distribution, and sustainable land management under the IKI Living Landscape Project.

Her Majesty also met communities of Dugna and Chadokha of Geyling Gewog, where residents expressed gratitude for continued support and development initiatives.

The visit concluded at Kamji Central School, where Her Majesty addressed students, encouraging them to uphold discipline, compassion, and excellence. The school showcased its Tarayana Club and inaugurated a mini stationery shop to support student-led initiatives.



## Zhemgang Dzongkhag

Her Majesty the the Founding President, undertook a monitoring visit to Zhemgang Dzongkhag from 22nd to 25th October 2025. Zhemgang is among the first Dzongkhags where Tarayana began its work in 2003, and over the years, the Foundation has implemented a wide range of initiatives focused on water security, housing, livelihoods, nutrition, and community empowerment.

Her Majesty met with the community members of Bjoka Trong, Kamiti, Chapdempa, Namegrang Barpong, and Dali Chiwogs. The visit highlighted long-standing interventions such as micro-hydro energy development, housing and sanitation improvements, and bamboo-based livelihood programmes.

Community resilience has been further strengthened through artisan training, SGHs, nutrition awareness initiatives in partnership with the World Food Programme, and financial inclusion through Tarayana Microfinance. The BRECSA project has also supported women and youth in smart agriculture and nutrition-sensitive farming.



## **Bamboo Enterprise and Water Security Goshing Gewog**

In Goshing Gewog, Her Majesty met with the community members of Mewangang Chiwog and interacted with communities benefiting from housing support and a vibrant bamboo-based enterprise centre. The facility now produces bamboo crafts and furniture, marketed nationally, showcasing strong community entrepreneurship.

Key interventions in the gewog include housing improvements, water and sanitation infrastructure, springshed management, and extensive training in bamboo craftsmanship and small business development supported by regional partners.



## **Inspiring Next Generation: Tarayana Clubs**

At Sonamthang Central School and Yebilaptsha Central School in Zhemgang, Her Majesty engaged with Tarayana School Club members, inspiring them to uphold discipline, compassion, and resilience.

She emphasized the role of youth as ambassadors of kindness and service, encouraging them to contribute meaningfully to their communities. The interaction was filled with joy, cultural performances, and inspiring dialogue, leaving a lasting impression on the students.



## **Advancing Water Security and Land Management Nangkhor Gewog**

The final leg of the visit took Her Majesty to Kikhar village in Zhemgang, where integrated water security and sustainable land management initiatives have transformed community resilience.

Her Majesty inaugurated a water reservoir benefiting local households and reviewed ongoing springshed management efforts, water source protection, and community-led Water User Groups. These initiatives have significantly improved access to safe drinking water and strengthened environmental stewardship.

In addition, sustainable land development activities have enhanced agricultural productivity and supported orchard-based livelihoods across multiple villages.

# Day of Service and Reflection



On 10th November 2025, Tarayana Foundation and its sister organizations gathered at the Tarayana Courtyard for a meaningful celebration and moment of reflection dedicated to service, gratitude, and inspiration.

The event featured the traditional Offering of Beulwa from communities supported by Tarayana, symbolizing gratitude and devotion to His Majesty The Great Fourth, whose vision and compassion continue to guide the Foundation’s work.

A key outcome of the event was the declaration of 11th November as the “Day of Service and Reflection,” to be observed annually and designed to encourage empathy, selfless service, and community spirit across the organization. The Foundation also introduced the “Service from the Heart” Award to recognize individuals who exemplify quiet dedication and selfless contribution. The inaugural award was presented to Mr. Meme Tobgay, former gardener at Tarayana Park, in recognition of his seven years of devoted service marked by humility and commitment.

The celebration reinforced the Foundation’s core values of compassion, gratitude, and service, while strengthening the institution's commitment to honoring and living the principles of selfless service across all areas of work.

# Networks

The Foundation is a founding member and inaugural chair of the Business, Enterprise, and Employment Support for Women in South Asia Network (BEES), and an active member of regional networks such as the Asia Development Alliance (ADA), the South and South West Asia Network on the SDGs (SANS), the South Asia Rainwater Network (SARNET), the South Asia Women's Network (SWAN) and the Mid-Latitude Regional Network (MLRN). Through membership in these organizations, Tarayana collaborates with partners across South Asia to advance gender equality, sustainable water management, socio-economic empowerment, and inclusive development amplifying its impact on vulnerable communities in Bhutan and beyond.



Business, Enterprise, and Employment Support for Women in South Asia Network is a dynamic regional initiative committed to advancing the socio-economic transformation of women across South Asia. Reaching over 22 million women across formal and informal sectors, BEES supports entrepreneurs, home-based workers, and communities involved in producing garments, textiles, handicrafts, and agricultural goods. By addressing systemic barriers such as limited market access, inadequate skills training, and poor working conditions, the BEES Network aims to challenge entrenched gender norms and promote inclusive development. Through collaboration with communities, local bodies, and policymakers, the Network aspires to propel the region toward greater gender parity and economic integration.



The South Asian Rainwater Harvesting Network is dedicated to advancing sustainable water management across South Asia by fostering a robust regional network focused on rainwater harvesting. With a vision to lead the region in building effective collaborations and showcasing best practices, SARNET connects individuals, institutions, governing bodies, and organizations specializing in rainwater harvesting. Serving as a vital repository of knowledge, experience, and technology, the network promotes the exchange of information and evidence-based practices to strengthen rainwater harvesting efforts and ensure water security throughout the region.



Asia Development Alliance is a regional network that empowers civil society and serves as a catalyst for social change. It brings together 30 national CSO platforms representing over 10,000 organizations from South, Southeast, North East, and Central Asia.



The South Asia Women's Network brings together women leaders, parliamentarians, media representatives, creative individuals, NGO leaders, and grassroots workers from nine South Asian countries to operate eight sectoral networks: Environment; Arts and Literature; Women in Peacemaking; Health, Nutrition, and Food Sovereignty; Education, Crafts and Textiles; Finance, Livelihoods; Entrepreneurship Development; and Women in Media.



The Mid-Latitude Region (MLR), encompassing critical ecosystems such as the Third Pole and the High Mountains of Asia, is home to over half the world's population and faces acute environmental challenges due to climate change. These areas, rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage, play a vital role in global climate regulation and water security. The region is especially vulnerable to shifting weather patterns and rising greenhouse gas emissions, which threaten both ecological balance and community resilience. Through initiatives led by institutions such as the OJEong Resilience Institute and global platforms such as the MLR Network, of which Tarayana Foundation is an active member, efforts are underway to promote science-based adaptation, carbon neutrality at the village level, and international collaboration for sustainable development.

# TARAYANA'S SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

## Tarayana Rural Crafts



In 2025, the Tarayana Rural Crafts (TRC) had an exciting year of growth, collaboration, and community engagement. Notably, TRC was invited by the Embassy of Kuwait in Bhutan to showcase its products during Kuwait's National Day on February 13th. This was a significant opportunity for TRC to present its craftsmanship to an international audience.

In addition, TRC received flower-making training from renowned expert Ms. Hiroko Kimura and showcased these handmade creations at the Tarayana Fair. As a part of the event, 400 blue carnation rosettes were created for guests.

Throughout the year, TRC was actively involved in several key events, including the South Asia Women Conference, the International Vajrayana Conference, the GNH Conference, Bhutan Echoes, Global Peace Prayer, and Bhutan Fashion Week. Additionally, in response to growing interest in garments, TRC began producing tego (traditional jackets) with pockets, made from organic cotton and teri cotton with silk patterns.

TRC's commitment to community development was also evident through the ten-day Needle Felting and Soap Making training held in December for the women of Naro Gewog, Thimphu, as a part of the ongoing project "Protecting the Fragile Mountain System and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods of Highland Communities in Naro".





Tarayana Rural Crafts serves as the production and marketing arm of the Foundation, working closely with thousands of artisans and hundreds of SHGs across the country to improve and promote products originating from rural villages.

Each product is meticulously handmade by artisans whose families have practiced these crafts for generations, utilizing locally sourced natural materials. The artisans are provided with essential tools and skills to both revive traditional arts and crafts and adapt to evolving market demands.



# Tarayana Centre for Research and Development



## Tarayana at the United Nations LLDC3 Conference



The Tarayana Centre for Research and Development (TCRD) participated in the **Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3)** held in Awaza, Turkmenistan, from **4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025**, under the theme *“Driving Progress through Partnerships.”*

The conference brought together governments, Civil Society organizations (CSOs), international organizations, the private sector, and youth to strengthen partnerships for sustainable development in landlocked developing countries.

### Key Highlights

- Highlighted Tarayana’s community-driven development approach
- Emphasized housing as a fundamental human right and a foundation for inclusive development
- Advocated for placing people at the center of structural transformation

### *Positioning Bhutan in global development dialogue*

Mr. Chhimi Dorji, Director of TCRD, represented Bhutan’s civil society organizations and moderated a CSO Forum session on *People-Centred Structural Transformation and Environmental Sustainability*.



## 8th International Adaptation Futures Conference (AF2025)

### Adaptations Future 2025

Dr. Tshering Yangden, Sr. Researcher at TCRD presented on “Traditional Healing Methods and Climate Change Adaptations in Bhutan” at the 8th International Adaptation Futures Conference, the flagship event of the World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP).

Held in Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand, and hosted by the University of Canterbury Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha, this premier global platform brings together practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and academics to exchange knowledge and inspire climate-resilient action.

Dr. Yangden’s presentation, co-authored with Dr. Tulsi Gurung from CNR, highlighted findings from the B-KIND Project and showcased Bhutan’s rich traditional wisdom as a source of innovative climate adaptation strategies.



# Folk Heritage Museum



## Inauguration of the Folk Heritage Village

The Folk Heritage Craft Village was inaugurated by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck in Thimphu in honour of the 70th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. The initiative features eight craft stalls supporting traditional arts, cultural preservation, and sustainability.

## Lolay Celebration

The Folk Heritage Museum continues to promote Bhutan's living traditions through its collection of rural artifacts, interactive cultural demonstrations, and educational programmes showcasing traditional games, attire, and rural practices. It also facilitates the annual Lolay celebration in Thimphu, where students participate in preserving this winter solstice tradition, with 18 students and two interns engaged in 2025.





# TARAYANA MICROFINANCE



## Coverage

**1,361 clients**

20 Districts

698 female clients (51%) male  
663 clients (49%)

## FY 2025, the total loan outstanding portfolio

Nu. 61.46 million



## Sectoral Distribution

**Agriculture Loans:** Nu. 26.95 million  
**Small Business Expansion:** Nu. 21.69 million  
**Hire Purchase – Power Tiller:** Nu. 8.47 million  
**Dairy Farming Loans:** Nu. 3.36 million  
**Machinery Loans:** Nu. 0.98 million

## Portfolio Outreach by Product

**Small Business Expansion Loans:** 420 clients  
**Power Tiller Financing:** 416 clients  
**Agriculture Loans:** 326 clients

## New initiatives undertaken

During the financial year 2025, coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck on 10 June 2025, the institution introduced Menchoeth Kuendel (Medical Loan), Nyendel Kuendel (Marriage Loan), and Semso Kuendel (Funeral Rites Loan) to strengthen financial inclusion and provide timely, need-based support to communities.



# TARAYANA DRAGONS BHUTAN DRAGONS MOTORCYCLE CLUB



The Tarayana Dragons, also known as the Bhutan Dragons Motorcycle Club (BDMC), is a unique brotherhood of bikers driven by compassion and community service. Founded on October 17, 2008, by three childhood friends with a passion for riding, the club grew into a charity organization with the motto: “Love to Ride – Ride to Love.” The Club was officially affiliated with the Tarayana Foundation on August 2, 2016, by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. The Tarayana Dragons, under the leadership of President, Dasho Thinley Wangchuk Dorji, have since dedicated their strength and resources to supporting the Foundation’s initiatives. Over the years, the Club has raised millions for housing projects, medical aid, disaster support, and community development, proving that the spirit of biking can go hand in hand with spreading peace, compassion, and hope across Bhutan.



In 2025, the Tarayana Dragons continued their tradition of service through two charity rides, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to supporting education and vulnerable communities.

The 53rd charity ride was held at Patshaling Primary School, Tsirang, to support 41 students with essential school items in celebration of His Majesty the King’s 45th Birth Anniversary. The 54th charity ride was held at Jangbi Primary School, Trongsa, in honour of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo’s 70th Birth Anniversary. Students received school supplies, and 12 identified vulnerable families were provided with essential items.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

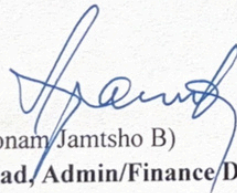
TARAYANA FOUNDATION  
 UNAUDITED RECEIPT AND PAYMENT STATEMENT  
 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMEBR 2025

RECEIPTS	SCHEDU	AMOUNT (NU.)	PAYMENTS	SCHEDU	AMOUNT (NU.)
Opening balance	1	47,788,890.86			
Cash in hand			Expenditure		236,297,632.67
Cash at Bank		47,788,890.86	Operational Expenses	2	144,260,200.00
			Program Expenses	3	92,037,432.67
Fund received		226,782,344.12			33,862,786.02
Operational Funds	2	132,737,230.69	Advance and adjustments	4	29,331,913.04
Program Funds	3	94,045,113.43	Recoveries & Remittances	5	4,530,872.98
Advance and adjustments	4	27,672,734.99			
Recoveries & Remittances	5	4,537,246.61			
		32,209,981.60	Closing balance	5	36,620,797.89
		-	Cash in hand		
			Cash at Bank		36,620,797.89
<b>Total</b>		<b>306,781,216.58</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>306,781,216.58</b>



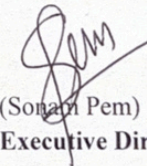
(Tashi Pem)  
 Sr.Accounts Officer

Accounts Officer  
 Tarayana Foundation



(Sonam Jamtsho B)  
 Head, Admin/Finance/Division

Head, AFD  
 Tarayana Foundation



(Sonam Pem)  
 Executive Director

Executive Director  
 Tarayana Foundation  
 Thimphu, Bhutan

# GOVERNANCE

## BOARD MEMBERS

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Founding President  
HRH Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, President, Bhutan National Legal Institute, Royal Institute of Law & Bar Council of Bhutan  
Dasho Karma Ura, President, Centre for Bhutan & GNH Studies  
Dasho Yanki T. Wangchuk, Former Secretary, Ministry of Finance  
Dasho Thinley W. Dorji, President, Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club & CEO, Bhutan Tourism Corporation Limited  
Aum Sangay Zam, Proprietor, Rinchen Enterprise  
Ms. Sonam Pem, Member Secretary

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dasho Tshewang Tandin, Former President, Royal Thimphu College  
Aum Chhimmy Pem, Former Director, Cultural Division, BIMSTEC  
Mr. Chhimi Dorji, Director, Tarayana Centre for Research & Development  
Ms. Chimi Zangmo, CEO, Hotel Dorji Elements, Former Executive Director, Vast Bhutan  
Mr. Karma T. Wangchuk, Ka-Ja Design Associates  
Mr. Kunzang Thinley, Former Principal, Royal Academy for Performing Arts  
Mr. Neten Dorjee, Executive Producer/Archive Manager, BBS  
Ms. Rinzi Pem, Assistant Director, Social Window, SDF  
Mr. Sonam Lhundrup, CEO, Peepal Consultancy Firm  
Mr. Thinley Namgyel, Former Chief Environment Officer, National Environment Commission  
Mr. Kalden Sonam Dorji, Proprietor, Terton Travel Bhutan & Founding Member, Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club  
Mr. Tshering Tashi, Proprietor, Jojos Adventure & Founding Member, Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club  
Mr. Sonam Tshering Dorji, Director, Department of Trade, Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Employment  
Mr. Tashi Penjor, Director, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport  
Mr. Chencho Nidup, Proprietor, Druk Events

## SECRETARIAT

Aum Chime P. Wangdi, Secretary General  
Ms. Sonam Pem, Executive Director  
Dr. Sangay Dorji, Technical Director

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Mr. Sonam Jamtsho B, Head AFD  
Mr. Pema Lhendrup, Sr. ADM & HR Officer  
Ms. Tashi Pem, Accounts Officer  
Ms. Tashi Choden, Asst. Accounts & Finance Officer  
Mr. Ram Bdr Ghalley, Office Assistant/Driver

## PROGRAMME DIVISION

Ms. Roseleen Gurung, Director of Programme (On Study Leave)  
Ms. Karma Uden, Sr. Programme Officer  
Ms. Palden Ongmo, Sr. Programme Officer  
Ms. Tulasi Ghalley, Programme Officer  
Mr. Bhuwan Kafley, Asst. Programme Officer  
Ms. Sangay Lhamo, Asst. Programme Officer

## COMMUNICATIONS & MONITORING

Ms. Namgay Pem, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer  
Ms. Sherub Wangmo, Communications & Documentation Officer  
Mr. Ramesh Subba, Asst. Communications and Documentation Officer

## TARAYANA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (TCRD)

Mr. Chhimi Dorji, Director  
Ms. Kitsho Tenzin Dema Wangchuk

## FIELD OFFICER

Mr. Namgay (Tsirang & Sarpang)  
Mr. Sonam Jamtsho (Lhuentse, Trashigang & Trashi Yangtse)  
Mr. Passang Tobgay (Thimphu & Paro)  
Ms. Thinley Bidha (Samtse)  
Mr. Jigme Wangchuk (Dagana)  
Ms. Ugyen Tshomo (Pemagatshel)  
Mr. Tashi Tshering Doya (Haa & Chukha)  
Mr. Sonam Gyeltshen (Manager Bhutan TSHAR Institute)  
Mr. Som Bdr. Rai (Trongsa)  
Mr. Dorji Tshegang (Zhemgang)

## SUPPORT STAFF

Mr. Tobgay, Gardener Tsheten, Night Guard  
Ms. Ganga Maya Gurung, Cleaner

## TARAYANA RURAL CRAFTS

Ms. Sonam Dema, Production Manager  
Mr. Pema Wangchuk, Traditional Paper Expert, Production Division  
Ms. Dhan Maya Pulami, Salesperson  
Ms. Sangay Wangzom, Tailor  
Ms. Samten Pemo, Tailor

## FOLK HERITAGE MUSEUM

Ms. Samjana Limbu, Manager  
Mr. Gado Tshering, Project Manager  
Mr. Kuenzang Dorji, Security Guard  
Ms. Chimi Lhamo, Sales Person  
Ms. Ugyen Pemo, Weaver  
Ms. Karma Thinley Choem  
Ms. Rinchen Namkha Lham, Cleaner

# Our Partners and Donors



# Year in Review

## **2nd January**

The Foundation organized a 10-day pilgrimage from 22 December 2024 to 2 January 2025 for eight senior citizens from Lumang in Trashigang and Lhuentse, accompanied by two coordinators. The group visited several sacred Buddhist sites in India, including Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, and Varanasi.

## **6th - 11th January**

The Tarayana Foundation's Annual Review and Planning Workshop was conducted at Bhutan TSHAR, Kalapang, Mongar.

## **27th January**

Officials from the British High Commission, India, visited the Tarayana Foundation to learn about its community development initiatives and ongoing programmes.

## **27th January**

A WWF-US delegation, represented by Dr. Roberto Troya and Ms Loren Mayor, visited Bhutan in support of the 13th Five-Year Plan. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR), the Ministry of Finance, Bhutan For Life, Tarayana Foundation, and the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation(BTFEC).

## **31st January**

The 42nd Board Meeting of the Tarayana Foundation was held at the Tarayana Centre, chaired by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck and graced by Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, along with the Board and Executive Committee members.

## **27th January - 3rd February**

The Tarayana Foundation team jointly organized a workshop with SEARICE on the interlinkages between agroecology, healthy food systems, and farmers' rights, and, in collaboration with BRECSA and the World Food Programme(WFP), facilitated training sessions on community mobilization, nutrition assessment, and home gardening.

## **5th February**

The Tarayana Foundation team completed community consultations and implemented water management initiatives in Getana Gewog, including the formation of Water User Groups and the conduct of feasibility studies to support sustainable water solutions.

## **12th February**

The Tarayana Foundation participated in the IKI Living Landscape Project Advisory Committee meeting in Thimphu, alongside representatives from government agencies and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The meeting reviewed progress achieved in 2024 and approved the work plan and budget for 2025.

## **13th - 14th February**

The National Consultation on the Agroecology Roadmap, hosted by the Tarayana Foundation at Terma Linca Resort & Spa in Thimphu, was graced by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck and His Excellency Lyonpo Younten Phuntsho, and brought together officials, experts, and farmers.

#### **17th - 20th February**

Tarayana Foundation conducted the B-KIND Project Dissemination Seminar across Gasa, Wangdue, and Punakha, bringing together researchers and stakeholders to present and validate findings on climate change, livelihoods, food security, and human-wildlife interactions.

#### **22nd - 24th February**

Tarayana Foundation facilitated an exposure visit for 46 members of Madhya Pradesh Samaj Seva Sanstha (MPSSS) to Bhutan, focusing on sustainable agriculture, organic farming, and community-driven water management.

#### **4th March**

Tarayana Foundation hosted the Karuna Foundation team to showcase its work on sustainable building practices, including prototype house construction in Gomche in Paro, springshed management in Dogar Gewog, and Bhutan TSHAR's bamboo sector initiatives in Mongar.

#### **5th March**

The Tarayana Foundation, in collaboration with the Bhutan Youth Development Fund(YDF), the Ministry of Finance, and SELWA, participated in the Second Project Steering Committee meeting for the Green Climate Fund Readiness Program held at Changchey, Tsirang. The meeting focused on strengthening coordination and advancing collaborative climate action.

#### **12th March**

The Tarayana Foundation participated in a hemp building workshop at Ka-Ja Throm in Thimphu, focusing on nature-based construction using hemp blocks and promoting eco-friendly, regenerative building practices.

#### **13th March**

The Tarayana Foundation successfully conducted qualitative research in Tareythang, Sarpang, under the Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Interventions programme, engaging Field Officers and local stakeholders to inform home garden development.

#### **22nd March**

The launch of *The Whispering Mountains: Marvellous Folktales from the Himalayas* at India House, Thimphu, organised by India House, the Nehru Wangchuck Cultural Centre, and Bhutan Echoes, was graced by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, along with authors, ambassadors, and literary contributors.

#### **25th - 27th March**

Tarayana Foundation co-sponsored the National Conference on "Connecting Practitioners and Researchers" at the College of Natural Resources (CNR) alongside the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN) and AFACI, bringing together researchers, government agencies, and practitioners to address climate, agriculture, and food security challenges.

**31st March**

The Tarayana Foundation held a five-day Water Caretaker Training at Maetakha Gewog for 31 participants, supported by WWF Bhutan and the IKI Living Landscape project.

**10th April**

The Tarayana Foundation hosted Ms Heidi Braun, Senior Programme Officer at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), for visits to B-KIND project sites in Laya, Punakha, and Wangdue Phodrang. The visit facilitated discussions on climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture, and community empowerment.

**23rd April**

Field Officers of the Tarayana Foundation, under the BRECSA project, conducted qualitative behavioural assessments across selected gewogs in Sarpang, Tsirang, Trongsa, and Zhemgang, in collaboration with (SJs).

**24th April**

The 43rd Board Meeting of the Tarayana Foundation, chaired by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, was held at Hotel Phuntsho Pelri, where the progress of the Foundation and its sister organizations was reviewed and strategic guidance was provided for future initiatives.

**3rd -5th May**

The 2025 Tarayana Fair was successfully observed with 63 stalls representing rural products from across the country by 150 community members, generating sales of Nu. 3.9 million. The fair strengthened market access for remote communities by creating valuable partnerships and linkages with urban markets, retailers, and cottage industry outlets.

**13th May**

The Tarayana Foundation welcomed WWF Germany Project Manager Mr Markus Radday to project sites in Paro and Tsirang, highlighting springshed restoration, storage tanks, improved water access, and sustainable farming opportunities.

**14th - 16th May**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck undertook a monitoring visit to Maetabkha Gewog and nearby communities, inaugurating a water reservoir and reviewing key development interventions supporting households and livelihoods. The visit concluded at Kamji Central School, where she engaged with students and encouraged discipline, compassion, and excellence.

**22nd May**

The Tarayana Foundation hosted His Excellency Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador, in Sali village, Paro, to observe springshed development and water harvesting initiatives under the IKI Living Landscape project.

**26th May**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Paro College of Education and engaged with future educators and school leaders.

**24th - 27th May**

The Tarayana Foundation conducted hands-on agricultural training for 37 SJs and Agriculture Extension Officers from Sarpang and Tsirang under the BRECSA project.

**7th June**

The Tarayana Foundation empowered farmers in Semjong Village, Tsirang, to transform barren slopes into productive farmland through sustainable land management practices, tripling crop yields and strengthening rural livelihoods under the IKI Living Landscape Project.

**10th June**

The Tarayana Foundation commemorated the 70th Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck alongside the announcement of a USD 1 million grant from the Karuna Foundation to support the construction of climate and disaster-resilient homes across the country.

**16th June**

The Tarayana Foundation successfully conducted the inception meeting for the project “Protecting Fragile Mountain Ecosystems and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods” in Naro Gewog, Thimphu, supported by COMDEKS GEF-SGP through UNDP Bhutan.

**19th June**

The Tarayana Foundation hosted the International GNH Conference at Dungkar Dzong, Paro, on “Operationalising GNH in Bhutan and Beyond”, with participants exploring village-led and global approaches.

**27th June**

The Tarayana Foundation hosted Ms Fawzia Hoodbhoy, UNICEF Deputy Representative, and her team in Ngawang Dramtoe Village, Tading, Samtse, to familiarize themselves with Tarayana’s interventions.

**June 30th**

The Tarayana Foundation hosted the Springshed Exposure Tour to ICIMOD and ENPHO teams in the IKI Living Landscapes project sites.

**6th - 9th July**

The Tarayana Foundation conducted its first field visit to Naro Gewog, Thimphu, to initiate the project “Protecting the Fragile Mountain System and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods of Highland Communities,” supported by COMDEKS GEF-SGP through UNDP Bhutan.

**14th - 15th July**

Tarayana Foundation participated in the Media and Civil Society Workshop in Paro under the project “CSOs as Actors in Governance and Development,” in collaboration with Helvetas Bhutan and funded by the European Union, alongside journalists, CSOs, and partner organizations.

**22nd July**

The Tarayana Foundation welcomed Mr. Peter Rodrigues, WFP Bhutan Representative and Country Director, for a familiarization meeting at the Tarayana Centre to explore partnerships in food security and rural livelihoods.

**30th July**

The Tarayana Foundation conducted district-level livestock training under the BRECSA project in Tsirang and Trongsa with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) and WFP.

**31st July**

The Tarayana Foundation signed an MoU with RSPN, YDF, Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, and SELWA under the Green Climate Fund Readiness Project to strengthen Bhutan’s climate finance readiness.

**2nd August**

The book *Footsteps of Compassion* by His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigme Jigten Wangchuk was launched at the Embassy of India in collaboration with Roli Books, honouring Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck.

**6th August**

Mr Madhur Gandhi of IFOAM Organics International visited the Tarayana Foundation Centre during the Regional Conference on Agroecology for the project “Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities of Local Stakeholders,” supported by the World Future Council across Bhutan, Nepal, and India.

**11th August**

Mr Chhimi Dorji, Director of TCRD, represented the organization at the LLDC3 Conference in Awaza, Turkmenistan, participating in sessions on people-centred structural transformation and collaborating with HAI on the development of an agroecology roadmap with the MoAL.

**11th - 15th August**

Tarayana Foundation hosted representatives from AmpliPhi, including senior leadership, for discussions on potential collaboration in reforestation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience initiatives in Bhutan.

**19th August**

Tarayana Foundation, under the BRECSA project, supported farmers’ training on smart agriculture, livestock, and mushroom cultivation across gewogs in Sarpang, Trongsa, Zhemgang, and Tsirang, in collaboration with SJs.

**27th August**

The Tarayana Foundation hosted a visit for Save the Children Bhutan team, led by Programme Director Mr. Binod, to Rukha in Athang Gewog, Wangdue Phodrang, and Kimgang in Mewang Gewog, Thimphu, for consultations on livelihoods, social inclusion, gender equality, and climate resilience initiatives.

**4th September**

The Tarayana Foundation conducted joint monitoring in Gakiling and Sombeykha, Haa, with WWF Bhutan and the Department of Forests and Park Services, including community consultations.

**10th September**

Tarayana Foundation participated in a three-day workshop under the Green Climate Fund project on strengthening climate data and services, alongside government agencies, YDF, Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy, and Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law.

**15th September**

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Water and Tarayana Foundation to strengthen collaborative water resource management, sharing technical expertise, research, and services for underserved communities across Bhutan.

**18th September**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Gyalpozhing College of Information Technology (GCIT) for the “Day of Innovation, Compassion & National Vision,” engaging with college leadership on integrating technology with community development initiatives.

**25th September**

A pre-writeshop on (SLM), initiated by the Tarayana Foundation in collaboration with the National Soil Services Centre (NSSC), Department of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan, was conducted to consolidate field experiences and lessons learned for informing future SLM practices.

**26th September**

A joint field visit by ICIMOD and the Tarayana Foundation under the HI-CAS Project was conducted in Punakha and Paro, with participation from officials of the Policy and Planning Division, Department of Irrigation, and the respective Dzongkhag Administrations.

**30th September**

The Tech Tarayana partnership with GCIT was launched following Her Majesty the Queen Mother’s visit to develop technology-driven solutions for social impact.

**7th - 10th October**

The Tarayana Foundation participated in a week-long writeshop in Haa to finalize the Himalayan Agroecology Roadmap, “Building Sustainable Food Systems: An Agroecology Roadmap for Smallholder Farmers in Bhutan 2025,” together with members of the Advisory and Technical Committee.

**13th October**

The 44th Board Meeting of the Tarayana Foundation, chaired by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck at the Tarayana Centre and graced by Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, along with Board and Executive Members, reviewed progress updates across all sister concerns and subsidiary organizations.

**13th to 17th October**

The Tarayana Foundation participated in the final consultation on the draft PES agreement for the Omchu watershed, bringing together upstream communities from Dophuchen, Wanggatshel, and Marpji with downstream stakeholders in Phuentsholing.

**16th October**

A monitoring and evaluation visit was conducted in Barshong Village, Naro Gewog, Thimphu, by the Tarayana Foundation, UNDP Bhutan, and local stakeholders to assess the community-based drinking water supply system under the Highland Resilience Project.

**18th October**

Nutrition Model Gardens were established in Darchgang, Tsirang, and Khempagang, Sarpang, under the BRECSA Project, in partnership with the WFP, Tarayana Foundation, local communities, and CNR students.

**22nd October**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck conducted a monitoring visit to Bjoka Gewog, Zhemgang Dzongkhag, to review long-term community development interventions initiated by the Tarayana Foundation.

**23rd October**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Mewangang Chiwog, Zhemgang, where the Foundation had supported housing for five families and established a Community Facility Centre for Cane and Bamboo Development.

**24th October**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Sonamthang Central School and Yebilaptsha Central School, Zhemgang, highlighting the contributions of Tarayana School Clubs in empowering youth, promoting volunteerism, and supporting community development.

**26th October**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Kikhar, Tali, and Dakphel villages in Zhemgang, highlighting water security and sustainable land management initiatives under the IKI Living Landscape Project.

**4th November**

A CIRAD team visited Bhutan from October 23–31 for SASI Project preparations in collaboration with the Tarayana Foundation, CNR, FAO Bhutan, and the MoAL, including field visits to Dogar and Shaba Gewogs in Paro and Ngangla and Trong Gewogs in Zhemgang.

**10 November**

The Foundation observed a meaningful celebration of gratitude, compassion, and service, marked by the Offering of Beulwa and the declaration of 11 November as the “Day of Service and Reflection.” The event also introduced the “Service from the Heart” Award, with the inaugural award presented to Mr. Meme Tobgay for his dedicated and selfless service.

**19th November**

A two-day Smart Agriculture Farming training was conducted by the Tarayana Foundation in Gangkha and Gibsa villages, Khebisa Gewog in Dagana, with Extension Officers, training 78 farmers in sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices.

**9th December**

Community consultations and household assessments were conducted in Tshogonpa Chiwog in Lumang Gewog, Trashigang and Sergithang Gewog in Tsirang under the Holistic Community Development project funded by the Government of India, led by Tarayana Foundation staff and a volunteer architect.

**10th December**

The Royal Thimphu College and the Tarayana Foundation signed an MoU to collaborate on research, student internships, community development, and academic programmes, aiming to bridge learning with real-world impact, empower students and communities, and foster meaningful engagement for positive change.

**11th December**

The Tarayana Foundation completed an assessment of the Omchhu Watershed to establish a baseline for future PES interventions involving Phuentsholing Thromde and upstream communities.

**19th December**

The Department of Water in collaboration with the Tarayana Foundation, conducted a readiness workshop on the formation and registration of Water Users Associations.

**27th December**

In collaboration with the Department of Forests and Park Services and the Tarayana Foundation, the Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (JKSNR) engaged local communities in Tergola to conserve the critically endangered Himalayan herb *Nardostachys jatamansi* (Pangpoi).

**31st December**

A postage stamp was launched, and a folk heritage craft village was inaugurated at the Folk Heritage Museum premises in Thimphu to commemorate His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo’s 70th Birth Anniversary, by Her Majesty Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, and His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigten Wangchuk also graced the occasion.



His Majesty The King awarded the Nation Order of Merit (Gold), during the 109th National Day celebrations in Trongsa in recognition of Tarayana Foundation's contributions in the upliftment of the poorest and vulnerable communities of Bhutan

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