

Gross National Happiness Gyalyong Gakyid Pelzom

-Bhutan's Developmental Philosophy



ENV016- Sustainable Development-II
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GEOGRAPHY



✓ **20** Dzongkhags

✓ **Area** - 38,394
Sq Km

✓ **Population** –
797,765

✓ **Capital** -
Thimphu.

✓ **Altitude** – 40
metres to 7541
metres above
sea level

Bhutan Political History: Happiness under Buddhist Theocracy



ZHABDRUNG NAGAWANG NAMGYEL

Unified Bhutan -1616

Dual system of government:
Choetsi Nyidhen

Spiritual: Je Khenpo
Secular – Druk Desi, Druk
Gyalpo

State Religion – Buddhism

Legal Code- 1952

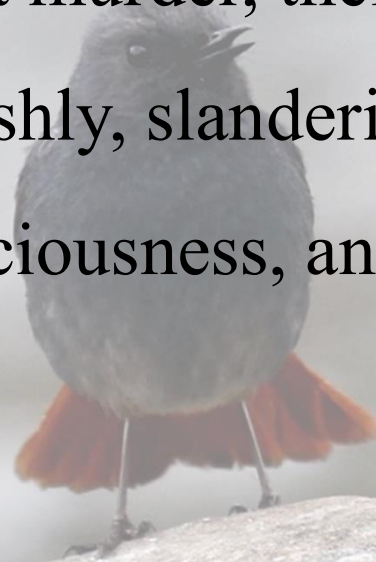
10 Pious acts

16 Virtuous acts

The establishment of
individual behavior leading to
collective happiness
as a state policy

10 Pious acts: Lha Choe Gya wa Chu

- prohibitions against murder, theft, sexual misconduct, lying, speaking harshly, slandering, worthless chatter, covetousness, maliciousness, and holding wrong views



The 16 virtuous acts of *Michoe Tsangma Chudru*

Do not

- kill or steal;
- hold wrong views;
- go against the wishes of one's parents;
- be disrespectful to elders, learned persons and leaders;
- harbour evil or ill thoughts towards family or friends;
- refrain from helping neighbours;
- be dishonest;
- follow bad examples;
- be greedy or selfish;
- inspire evil thoughts in others;
- be late in repaying debts;
- cheat;
- act differently towards the rich and the poor, or those of high or low status;
- not listen to evil advice;
- be deceitful; and
- be short-tempered or lose one's patience.



- The 1729 code: If the government cannot create happiness for its people, there is no purpose for the Government to exist
- The modern concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) was promulgated by His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth King of Bhutan in the early 1970s.
- GNH is more important than GDP
- Balance between historical foundation and tenets of Bhutan's traditional culture and polity with modernization and capitalism.



GNH- Philosophy and a guide

- Gross National Happiness, or GNH, is a holistic and sustainable approach to development, which balances material and non-material values with the conviction that humans want to search for happiness
- The objective of GNH is to achieve a balanced development in all the facets of life that are essential; for our happiness
- “The State shall strive to promote those conditions that will enable the pursuit of Gross National Happiness.”
Article 9- Constitution of Bhutan





Today, it is technically defined as a,

“multi-dimensional development approach seeking to achieve a harmonious balance between material well-being and the spiritual, emotional and cultural needs of society.”

The key words being harmonious balance - that may be achieved by balancing the needs of the body with those of the mind.

Four Pillars of GNH

**Sustainable & Equitable
Socio-Economic Development**

**Environmental
Conservation**



**Good
Governance**

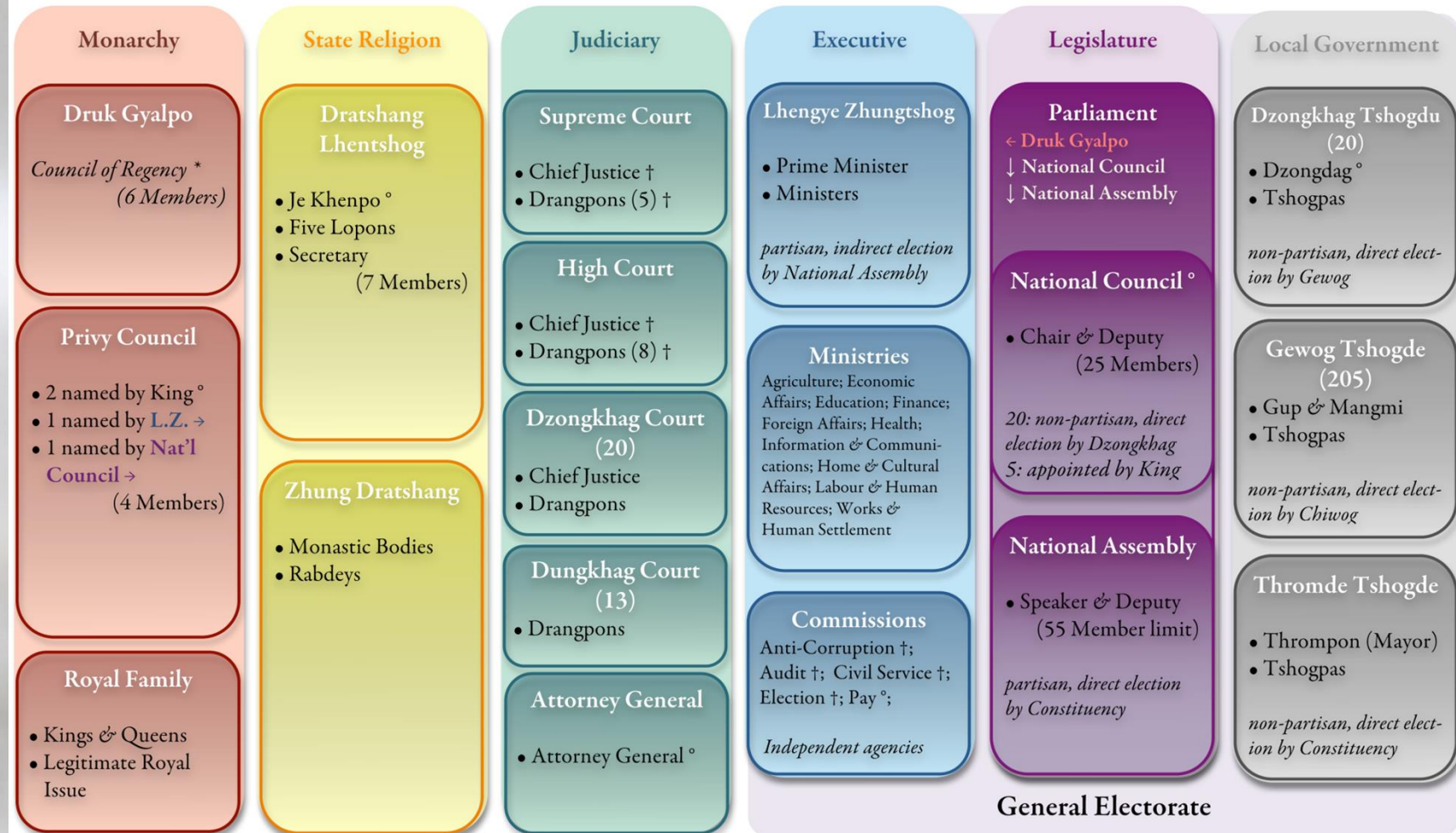
**Preservation & Promotion
Of Culture**

9 domains of GNH



BHUTAN GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

Government of Bhutan



† Royal Appointments to Constitutional Offices

° Other Royal Appointments

* The Regency is a temporary Council



Socio-economy

Hydropower- 45% of National
Revenue





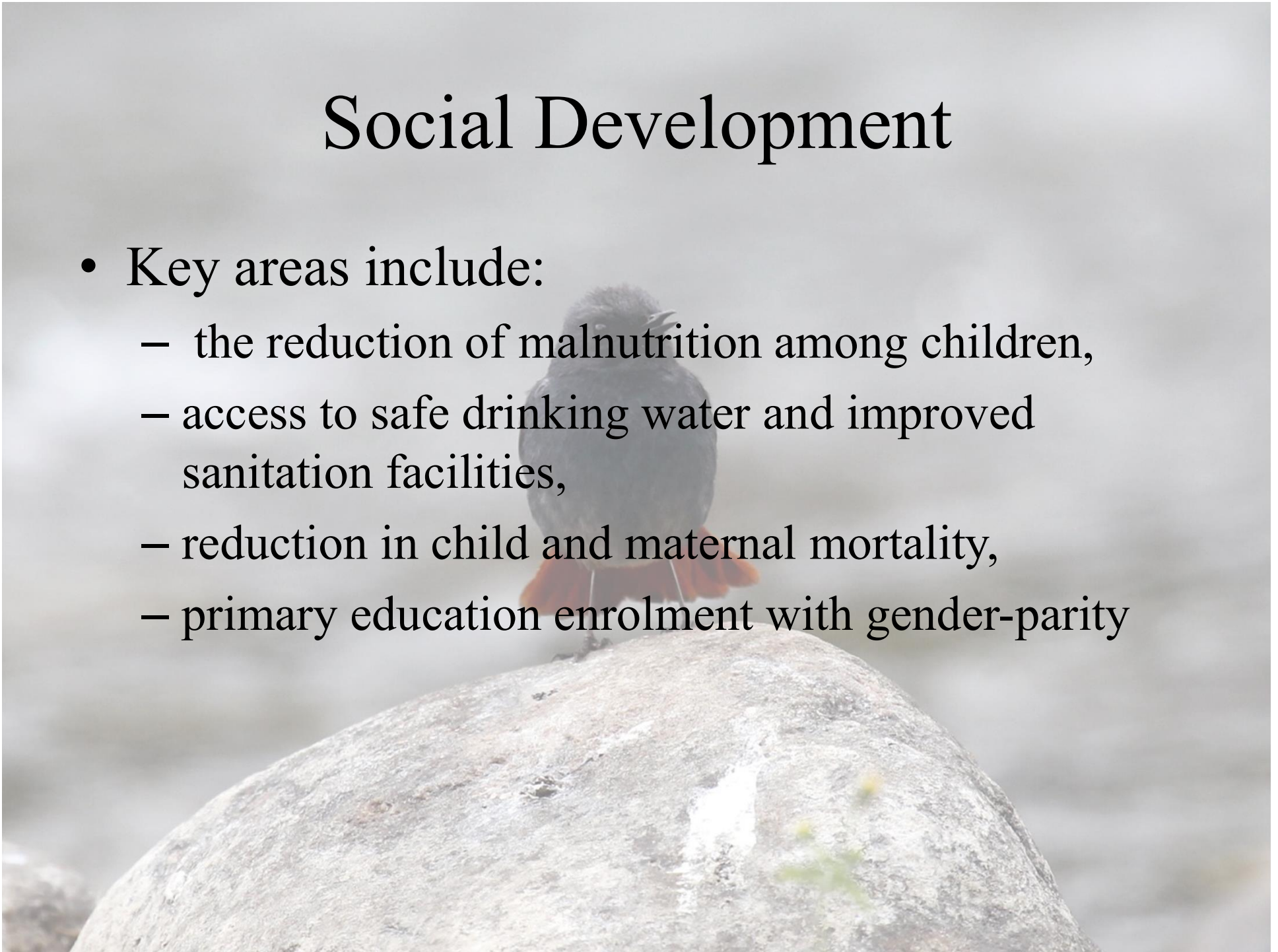
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Industries and Economy



Social Development

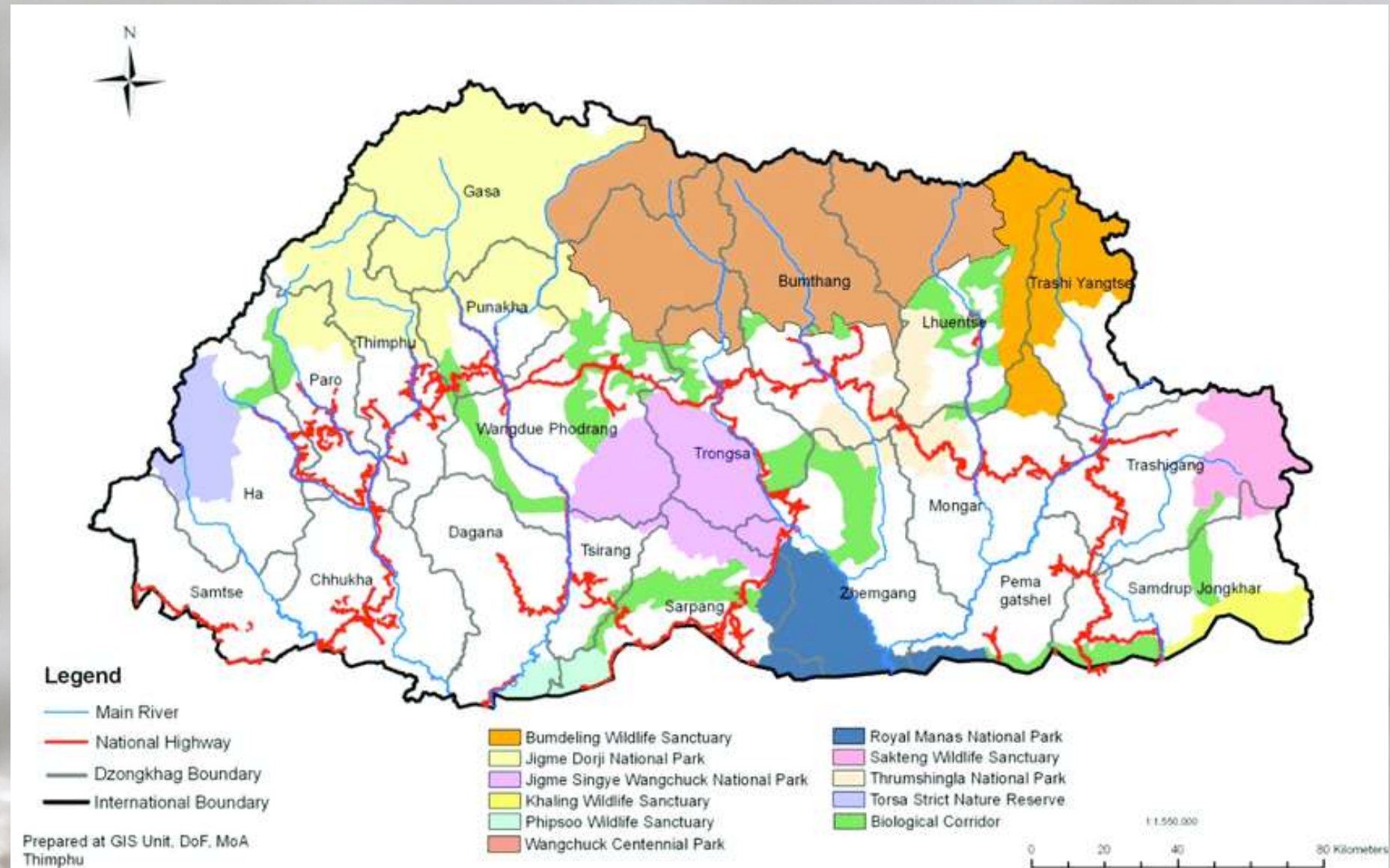
- Key areas include:
 - the reduction of malnutrition among children,
 - access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities,
 - reduction in child and maternal mortality,
 - primary education enrolment with gender-parity

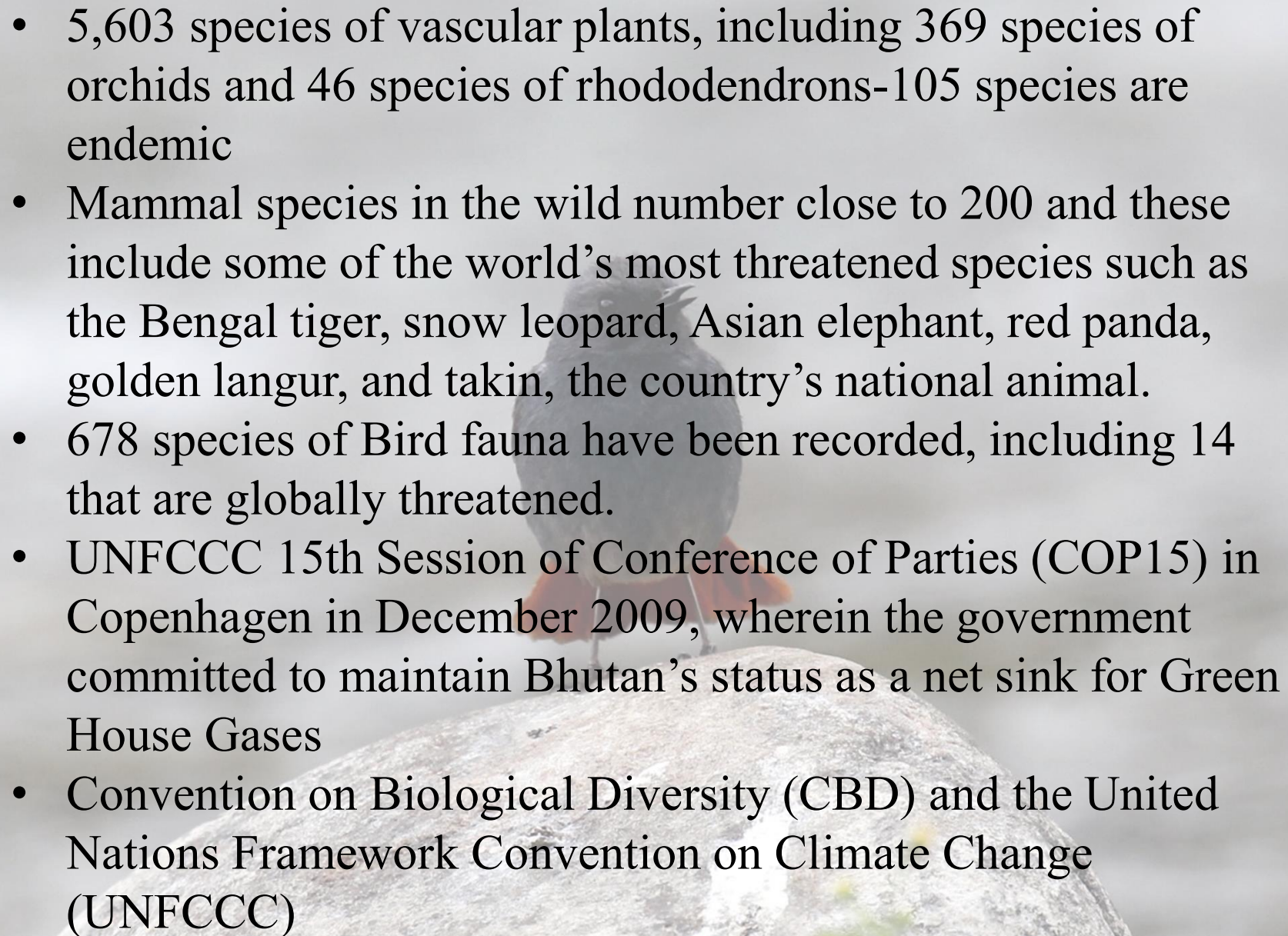






Environmental Conservation

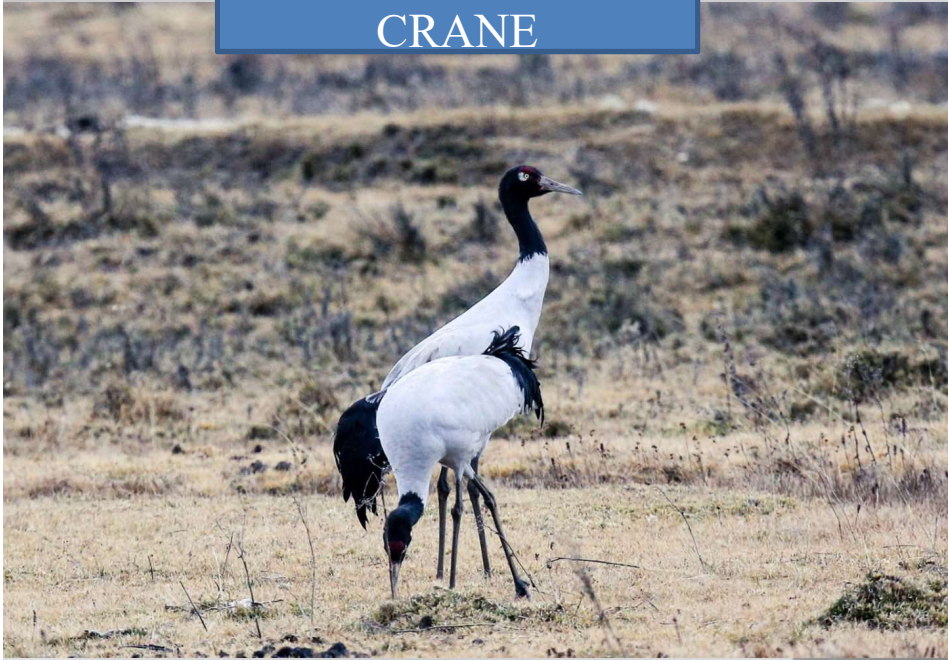


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- 5,603 species of vascular plants, including 369 species of orchids and 46 species of rhododendrons-105 species are endemic
 - Mammal species in the wild number close to 200 and these include some of the world's most threatened species such as the Bengal tiger, snow leopard, Asian elephant, red panda, golden langur, and takin, the country's national animal.
 - 678 species of Bird fauna have been recorded, including 14 that are globally threatened.
 - UNFCCC 15th Session of Conference of Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen in December 2009, wherein the government committed to maintain Bhutan's status as a net sink for Green House Gases
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)





BLACK NECKED
CRANE



CORDYCEPS-YAR TSA GUEN
BOOP



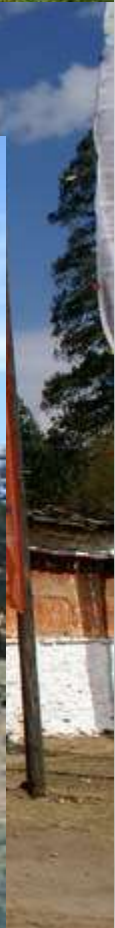
TAKIN







CULTURE & TRADITIONS



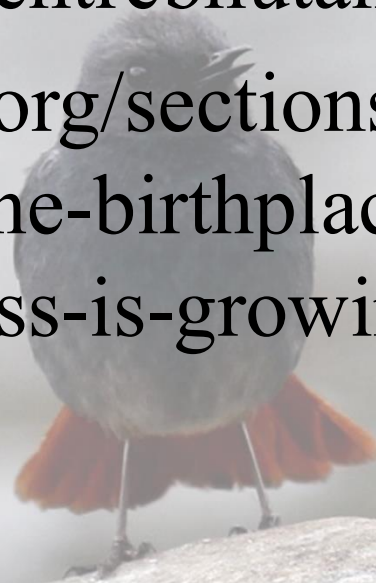


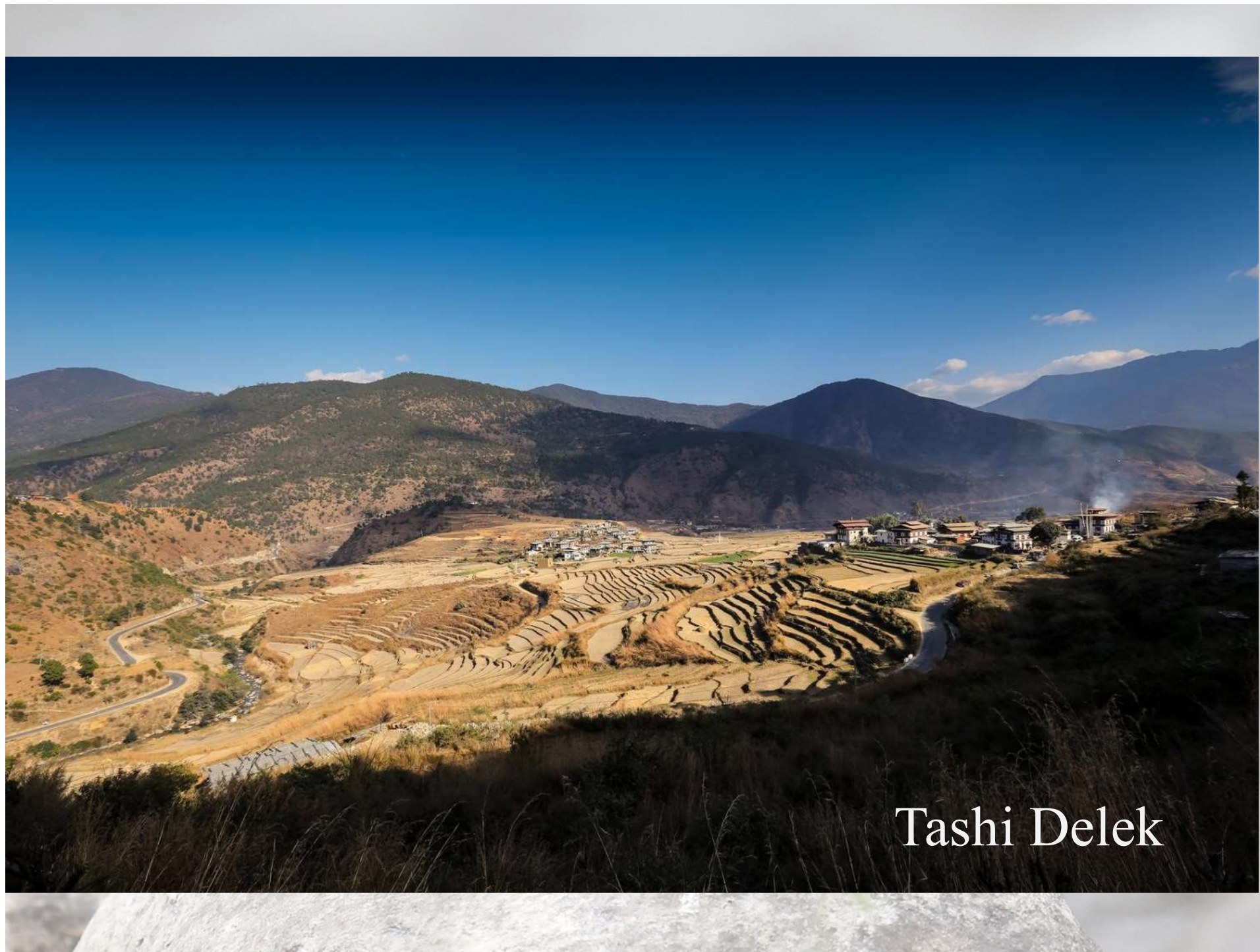
Conclusion

- The balance between material and non-material development, and the multi-dimensional and interdependent nature of GNH are key features that distinguish GNH from GDP as a measure of a country's progress.
- The 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in July 2011 adopted Resolution 65/309 titled “Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development”

Resources and others interesting reads

- <http://www.gnhcentrebhutan.org/what-is-gnh/>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/02/12/584481047/the-birthplace-of-gross-national-happiness-is-growing-a-bit-cynical>





Tashi Delek