

# BHUTAN

## and the Paris Agreement



### Sectors

Industry, human settlements, renewable energy



### National Implementing Agency

National Environment Commission Secretariat



### Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) submitted

September 30, 2015

### Paris Agreement signed

April 22, 2016

### Paris Agreement ratified

May 12, 2017

# Background

Bhutan is located in the eastern Himalayan region and is a carbon neutral country having net negative emissions of 4.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2000. Key elements underpinning Bhutan's development strategy are the philosophy of Gross National Happiness and environmental conservation. Nevertheless, Bhutan's fragile mountainous ecosystem and its heavy dependence on the agriculture sector make it vulnerable to climate change. The country also faces challenges in ensuring sustainable management of its natural resources due to the fast pace of economic growth, increasing population, and high level of poverty incidence in its rural areas. The INDC Project was implemented in close coordination with the Bhutan's LECB project, to provide technical support and bring various stakeholders together to address the country's NDC needs and to support climate action.



### About the INDC Project

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. In the run up to the historic Paris Agreement, the European Commission and others provided financial and technical support specifically to advance the preparation of countries' INDCs. This support, in the context of the larger global LECB Programme called the INDC Project, continued post-Paris and has enabled advances in implementation and country-driven action.



# ACTIONS & IMPACTS

## Facilitated engagement and sensitization on climate change at different levels

In preparation for Bhutan's INDC, consultations were carried out and sensitization activities were undertaken with support of the INDC Project to engage various stakeholders, policy makers, and legislators. The Project facilitated a sensitization workshop on the Paris Agreement for representatives from Bhutan's Parliament which helped in its subsequent ratification, and successfully employed media for stakeholder outreach and sensitization by supporting the production of the documentary titled 'Climate Change in Bhutan', which was broadcast on national television to reach out to civil society and aired during the COP21 in Paris.

## Integrated policy and institutional reviews and new holistic policy framework

In collaboration with other partners, the INDC Project helped Bhutan carry out a Climate Public Expenditure and Investment Review (for which UNDP developed a tool to provide countries a starting point to mainstream climate change into the budgeting and planning process) and a Biodiversity Policy and Institutional Review. Through these reviews, the country assessed eight policies and sixteen laws for their alignment with its NDC and National Biodiversity Action Plan. This integrated approach to the reviews resulted in the formulation of a new, holistic policy framework to guide the implementation of actions on biodiversity conservation, climate response, and poverty reduction.

## Three sectoral roadmaps for implementation of climate actions

Sectoral roadmaps were designed for three NDC sectors, namely industries, human settlements and energy. This exercise adopted a consultative process to elaborate and prioritize actions for cleaner industrial production, integration of low emission development in urban and rural settlement strategies, and designing an energy efficiency and conservation road map for Bhutan's energy sector. The INDC Project supported in-country capacity building activities as well as international training and exchanges for stakeholders from the industry and renewable energy sectors.



## Improved capacity and buy-in amongst stakeholders

Supporting the emergence of a holistic understanding of climate change among public institutions and stakeholders resulted in improved capacities and buy-in to contribute towards Bhutan's climate goals in a systematic and strategic manner. Sensitization of high-level policy makers helped in getting their endorsement for ratification of the Paris Agreement and for implementation of future NDC actions.



## Strategic alignment of existing policy landscape with NDC and sustainable development goals

The activities undertaken by the government, with support from the INDC Project, were instrumental in promoting and establishing a policy approach and frameworks to guide integrated planning and implementation of sustainable and low emission development action. Formulation continues to steer and monitor Lebanon's NDC activities.

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