Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into the Tourism Sector in Bhutan

**Project Sites** Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary, Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, and surrounding landscapes in five Districts

**Species Focus (flagship species for ecotourism)** Red pandas, black-necked cranes, Ludlow’s Bhutan Glory butterflies, golden langurs, golden mahseers, birds

**Grant Amount** $4.9 million

**Executing Partner** Tourism Council of Bhutan

**GEF Implementing Agency** UNDP

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**Expected Start Date** 27th September 2021

**Context**
Over half of Bhutan’s geographical area is designated as protected areas and biological corridors. Bhutan’s national development philosophy considers the country’s rich biodiversity to be a development asset. However, threat to biodiversity resources, particularly emerging from human wildlife conflict is a major issue in the country as it has cultivated a negative community attitude towards wildlife and conservation.

**Objective** Model ecotourism development mainstreams biodiversity conservation into the tourism sector in Bhutan.

**Project Components**
- Enabling and coordinated policy and institutional framework for ecotourism and wildlife conservation.
- Demonstration of innovative and diversified ecotourism landscapes that support human-wildlife coexistence.
- Ecotourism capacity, promotion, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation.