



## 2017 Annual Report



Annual Report 2017  
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“Where we live must be clean, safe, organized, and beautiful, for national integrity, national pride, and for our bright future. This too is nation building”

His Majesty The King of Bhutan,  
Royal Bhutan Flower Exhibition, April 1, 2015.







“Always watchful, His Majesty (Drukgyal Zhipa) would observe litter that blights our pristine environment, and express concerns on the growth of waste and their proper disposal”

His Majesty The King of Bhutan,  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Changlimithang, Thimphu





**Logo symbolises:**

1. The flower symbolizes the pure form of the nature in its original form.
2. Green color symbolizes the nature in its true color
3. Clean Bhutan indicates that Bhutan should be clean and every Bhutanese citizen should be responsible.



**Celebrating the fourth Clean Bhutan Foundation Day**

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## Foreword

Like most other developing nations, Bhutan is faced by many problems brought about by rapid urbanization; Like most developing countries, Bhutan is faced by many problems brought about by rapid urbanization; a major one being an increasingly large output of waste and improper disposal. In 2014, Thimphu, capital city of Bhutan produces 35 metric tonnes of waste every day. As of 2017, Thimphu alone produces around 51 tonnes of waste everyday (Thimphu Thromde 2017). According to Thimphu thromde it is estimated that 49% of Thimphu's total refuse is biodegradable organic waste; 25.3% is paper; 13.7% is plastics; and 3.6% is other type of waste. The capital's only designated dumping site, Memilakha Landfill was overflowing its capacity since 2002. This has led to illegal dumping there and at other sites around Thimphu. In 2015, the landfill is being revamped with leachate extraction system.

One of our main objectives is to reduce waste at source and to practice sustainable consumption lifestyle and ultimately preventing waste going to the landfill. In 2017, Clean Bhutan conducted a total of 99 advocacy programs on "How to reduce waste at source?" reaching out to 16 Dzongkhags to 19,067 participants.

In the year 2017, Clean Bhutan had managed to conduct a total of 115 cleaning campaigns in 16 Dzongkhags, town and village areas with involvement of 4,431 volunteers.

Clean Bhutan is also working with the Waterkeeper Alliance to keep our fresh water free from waste pollution and other types of pollution.

Finally, we would like to thank all our donors, partner agencies, institutes individual contributors, members and volunteers for their continued support to achieve Zero Waste Bhutan.

TashiDelek.

  
Nedup Tshering  
Executive Director



## INTRODUCTION

Clean Bhutan was established on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014. It was initiated as a cause to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The Fourth King. After the instruction of The Prime Minister of Bhutan, on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Clean Bhutan was registered as Civil Society Organization (CSO) with CSO Authority.

Clean Bhutan's aim is to advocate and sensitize the Bhutanese citizens about our behavior and habits to

manage waste and help reduce waste generation. As Bhutan is beginning to experience rapid socio-economic development and waste is becoming a major concern. Therefore, Clean Bhutan's responsibility is to inform the people of Bhutan about the negative impacts on the environment and human health from waste through advocacy programs and develop mechanisms on how to manage and reduce waste at source.



## **Vision**

Zero Waste Bhutan by 2030

## **Mission**

To change the mindset of every Bhutanese to be responsible citizens and practice sustainable consumption by using available resources most efficiently

## **Strategy**

Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission from landfill and prevent river pollution from waste by Advocating Behavioral Change (ABC) on sustainable consumption lifestyle.

## **Long-term objective (2030)**

Advocate Behavioral Change (ABC) on sustainable consumption lifestyle and prevent Bhutan from becoming a consumerist society.

## **Medium-term objective (2025)**

Changing the mindset of all citizens to practice the 3R with Responsibility.

## **Short-term objective (2020)**

Work with local government, municipality authorities and communities to manage waste more efficiently.



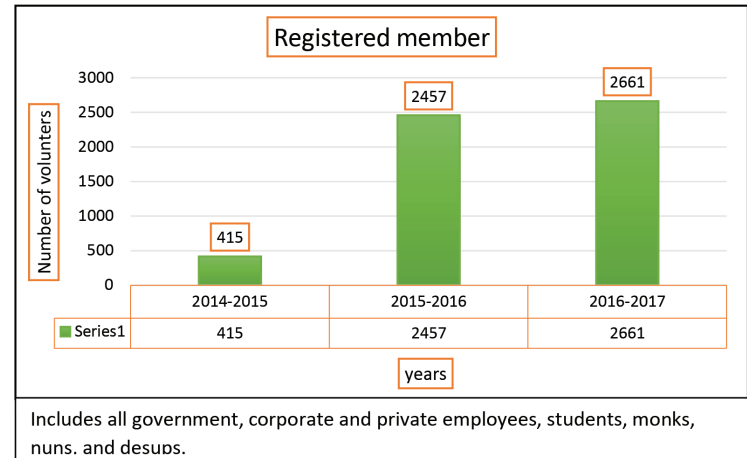
## Registered Members

As of December 2017, clean Bhutan has a total of 5,533 registered members and has worked with more than 6,819 volunteers. The following are the responsibilities of the registered members:

1. If a members see anyone litter, it is the responsibility to educate the litterbugs.
2. Do not throw wrappers and any other waste out of a moving vehicle
3. Take back your own waste collection bag when travelling
4. Do not leave an area with your litter after using the area
5. Carry your own shopping bags when going out for shopping
6. Segregate your waste and manage it properly at home and anywhere
7. Educate your children/parents to be litter free and
8. Practice 3Rs and be a responsible citizen.

### FOCAL INSTITUTE

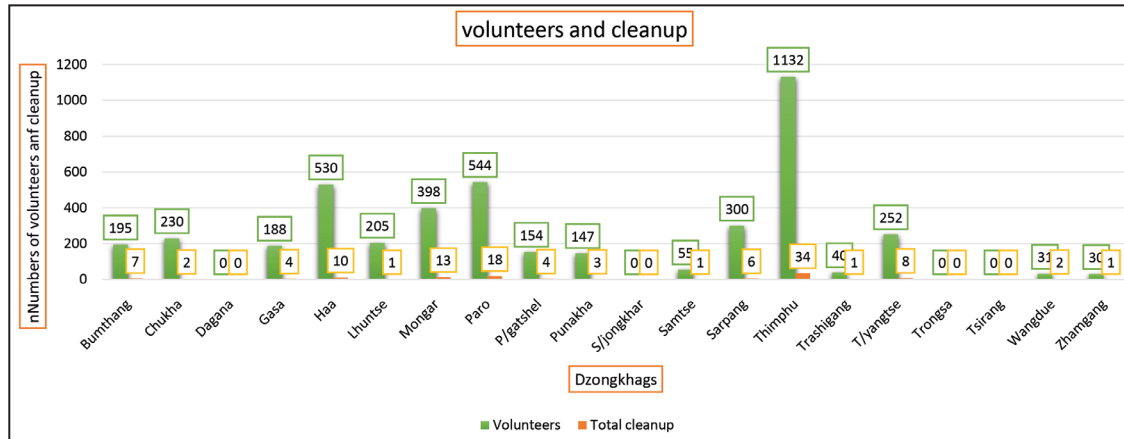
- Paro College of Education - Paro
- Samtse College of Education - Samtse
- College of Natural Resource – Wangdi Phodrang
- Sangchokhor Shedra Kilikhar Shedra - Paro
- River guides of Panbang - Zhemgang
- River guides of lotus adventures - Punakha



## ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Activities conducted were mainly focused on cleaning campaign and advocacy on waste management. The cleanup campaigns were carried out to achieve the vision of zero waste by getting rid of already existing litters and advocacy was conducted to prevent future waste generation by educating the society about waste management concepts for behavioral change.

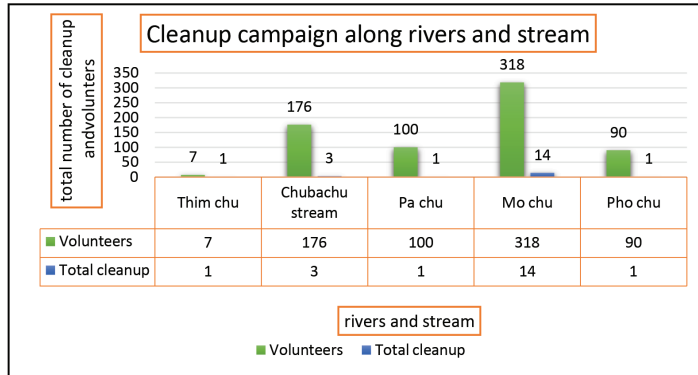
### Cleaning campaign along town and villages - 2017



In the year 2017, Clean Bhutan had managed to conduct a total of 115 cleaning campaigns in 16 Dzongkhags along town and village areas with involvement of 4431 volunteers. In addition, a nationwide cleanup campaign being organized on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

## Clean up campaign along rivers and stream - 2017.

Clean Bhutan manage to conduct 20 cleanup program along four rivers and a stream during 2017 with total volunteers of 691.



2017: monthly cleanup along Mo chu by green bag warriors.

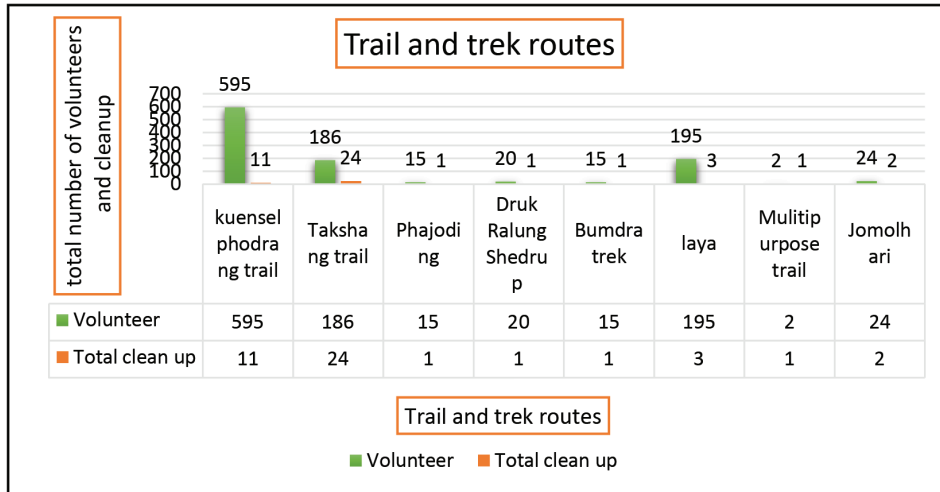


22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017: Cleanup during World Water Day by Bhutan Red cross society in partnership with NEC, RSPN, Thromde and Clean Bhutan.



## Clean up campaign along Trek routes and trails – 2017

Total of 44 clean up campaign along trail and trek routes being organized with total participants of 1052 volunteers.



14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October 2017: Jomolhari trek route and base camp cleanup campaign.

## ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Total of 99 advocacy being carried out in 16 Dzongkhags with total Participant of 19067 in 2017.

Sl. no	Dzongkhag	Participants	Advocacy
1	Bumthang	4200	6
2	Chukha	800	2
3	Dagana	0	0
4	Gasa	270	3
5	Haa	24	1
6	Lhuntse	205	1
7	Mongar	1866	9
8	Paro	1811	14
9	P/gatshel	2750	3
10	Punakha	317	5
11	S/jongkhar	0	0
12	Samtse	50	3
13	Sarpang	36	1
14	Thimphu	4081	39
15	Trashigang	70	1

16	T/yangtse	2454	7
17	Trongsa	0	0
18	Tsirang	0	0
19	Wangdue	96	3
20	Zhangang	37	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>19,067</b>	<b>99</b>



### Waste & climate

Waste generation does not result in positive impacts on climate. Waste treatment and disposal can have both positive and negative climate impacts.(UNEP 2010)

### Tshog Offering

At his monastery in Bhutan, Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche (DKR)hosts the world's most eco-friendly tshog offering, refusing to use plastic wrappings in favor of local, sustainable resources.(DKR June 29,2014)

**Manage your own waste**  
Clean your brain and not the drains:  
(Clean Bhutan Feb 2014)



### Waste & drinking water

Landfills can contaminate drinking water if they are not properly constructed. Occupational risks exist at disposal facilities that are not well designed, run,or maintained.(WHO 2015)

“Where we live must be clean, safe, organized, and beautiful, for national integrity,national pride,and for our bright future. This too is nation building.”(His Majesty The King of Bhutan, Royal Flower Exhibition, April1,2015)

Waste sector emissions were estimated to account for 3-5% of total global anthropogenic emissions in 2005. (Bogner et al.)

## PROJECT 1 – 2016/17

### **Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BT FEC)**

A two year project on “Advocating Behavioral Change-Managing our own waste-Mongar and Trashigang ” in collaboration with local governments which commenced in the month of July, 2015. The project is supported by Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation with a sum of Nu 6.8 million, completed on June 2017.



*12<sup>th</sup> June 2018: Advocacy program at Thanrong Gewog*

### **Activity 1: Segregating waste from going to landfill**

An advocacy program on how to manage our own waste and why it is important to segregate the waste has been organized in Mongar, Trashigang and Lhuntse. Three MRF (Material Recovery Facility) has been constructed at Gangola(Chali gewog) , Kidheykhar shedra and Royal Bhutan Police coloney under Mongar Dzongkhag to reduce waste going to landfill.

### **Activity 2: Clean river system and signage**

During the cleanup campaign along the river, there were not much of habitants living nearby. Therefore an advocating program was held on clean water sources. A cartoon clip titled “Clean Water for Next Generation” was aired on BBS national TV.

### Activity 3: Action plan for Mongar and Trashigang

- 30(thirty) stakeholder meetings with the Dzongkhag official ,gewog official and local communities of three dzongkhags
- 33 advocacy and training program to educate the local communities in three dzongkhags

### Activity 4: Advocacy material production

- The two minute advocacy cartoon clip, “clean water for next generation” was aired on BBS TV for the whole month of February and Car stickers have been printed and distributed to three dzongkhag and advocacy program for taxi driver and public bus driver.



**Bhutan Trust Fund**  
for Environmental Conservation





## **PROJECT 2 (2017/18)**

### **Small Grants Programme/Global Environment Project (SGP/GEF UNDP)**

An eighteen months project on “Waste management system for Trashiyangtse community” from December 2016 to February 2018. The project is funded by small grant project, UNDP/GEF with a sum of Nu 2.8 million.

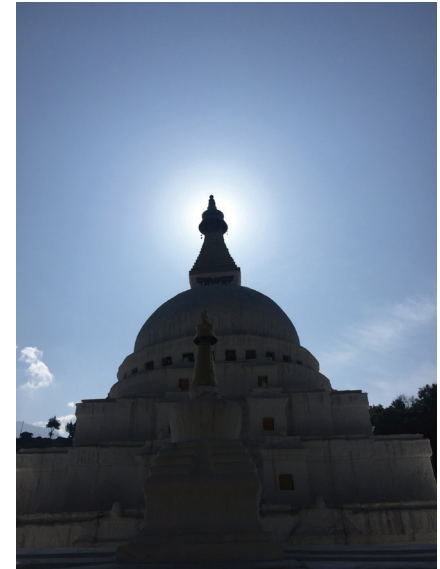
#### **Activities**

- 18 meetings and training program was organized to the stakeholder/ communities and school children where more than 1000 participants attended the program and able to do 14 cleanup program during festival and official gathering.



*9<sup>th</sup> December 2016: nationwide cleanup program at Trashiyangtse*

- The construction of biodegradable waste composing unit and segregation shed has been completed. Organic waste is collected by national seed center.
- Production of an animated short video on waste management in Trashiyangtse has produced and air on national TV.
- A local waste management committee has been formed with six member and drafted by law has been presented to the committee member and the stakeholders/community for implementation and to institutionalize revolving fund for long term sustainability.
- 5 numbers of CCTV is installed within the Throm area to monitor the litterbugs and Waste recovery shed has been constructed with four units, i.e. e-waste, plastic, pet bottles and cartoon.
- Baler machine has been purchased so that the pet bottles collected at the shed could be sold for recycling
- 3 cooking stove has been purchased and handed over to Dzongkhag administration to reduce the use of fuel wood at Chorten Kora and Three signage is installed i.e. segregation shed, composting pit and at town.



**SGP** The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



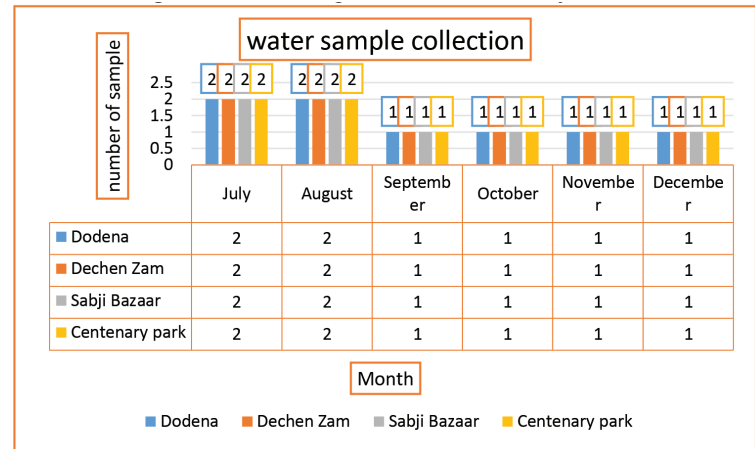
## PROJECT 3 (2017)

### Waterkeeper Alliance:

#### 1) Thim chu WaterKeeper

November 2015: A project on Thim Chu Waterkeepers implemented by Clean Bhutan in collaboration with Waterkeepers Alliance partnership with National Environment Commission and Department of Hydro-Met Services. The project area is along Thim Chu starting from Dodena to Damchu. The objective of the project is to protect the river from pollution and to monitor the water quality. Provide data to public and government for appropriate decision making to protect Thim Chhu pollution.

- Waterkeeper Alliance team made its third visit to Bhutan to help support the growing Bhutanese network with water monitoring equipment and training. They held the training from 17th -21st of July 2017.
- The Bhutan Waterkeeper team collects sample every other week, collecting a total of 24 samples till the end of the year.
- We were honored to provide the first environmental law discussion and field training to the 25 students of Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law ,who make up the inaugural class of Bhutan’s very first law school.





*17-22 July 2017: Training on water monitoring*

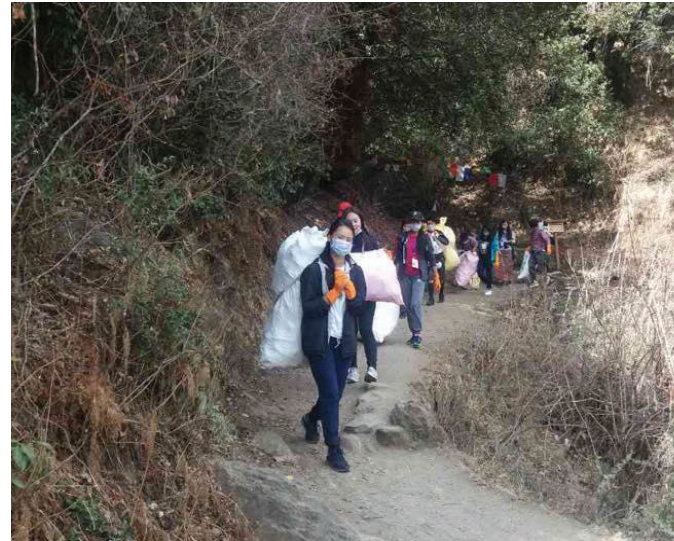
## **2) Punatsang chhu waterkeeper**

October 23, 2017: Punatsang chu is the newest addition to Bhutan Waterkeeper Movement. The Punatshang chu is one of Bhutans four major river basins, the punatshang chu is also the main habitat of the critically endangered White Bellied Heron now under massive threat from the installation of two hydropower projects along the river.





Mr. kesang Lhendup, a Manager and river guide at Lotus Adventures Bhutan, will oversee the waterkeeper organization and its volunteer work force of river guides and partners and work with Clean Bhutan and Wangchu WaterKeeper in developing its outreach, awareness and advocacy program.





## PROJECT 4 (2016/17)

### Taktsang Trail Clean up Program

Taktsang Monastery is Bhutan's most iconic landmark and religious site. With the increase number of tourists and pilgrim visitors to Taktsang, Clean Bhutan has initiated clean-up program along Taktsang trail.

We have employed 5 people with two ponies to maintain a clean trail to Taktsang. During the peak tourist season they clean the trail on weekly basis and twice a month in off season. Until today, we received small contribution from Tourism Council of Bhutan and Norbu Bhutan to conduct weekly clean up and emptying bins which was installed along Taktshang route.

Clean Bhutan's member of Paro College of Education students also organize several clean-up campaign along the Taktsang trail.



## CHALLENGES

- Understanding on how waste have negative impact on human health, local environment, all sentient beings especially the ground water, drinking water sources, rivers and streams.
- People throw their trash everywhere especially in the places where no one can see it. Most common places are below the road, forest and rivers and streams.
- Litterbugs in towns and villages and trails to remote lhakhangs
- Highway litterbugs- trash by travelers, vehicle drivers and public transport
- Trash left along trekking routes



*Landfill Leachate*



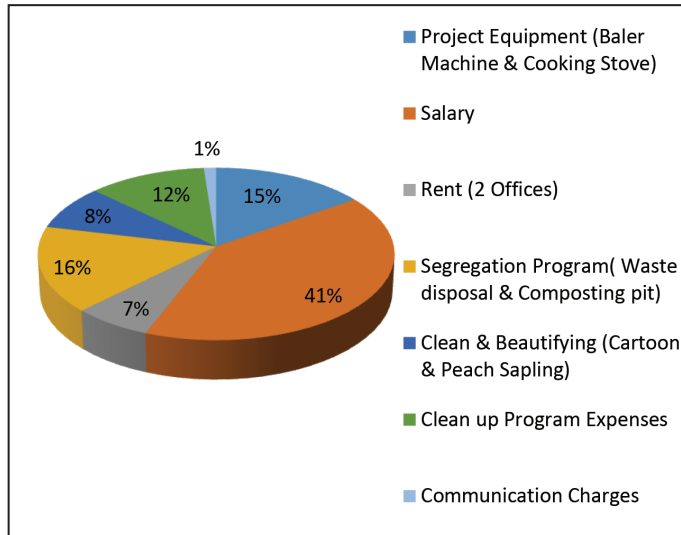
*Small Dustbins  
"Who is responsible  
to empty it?"*

## **ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2017**

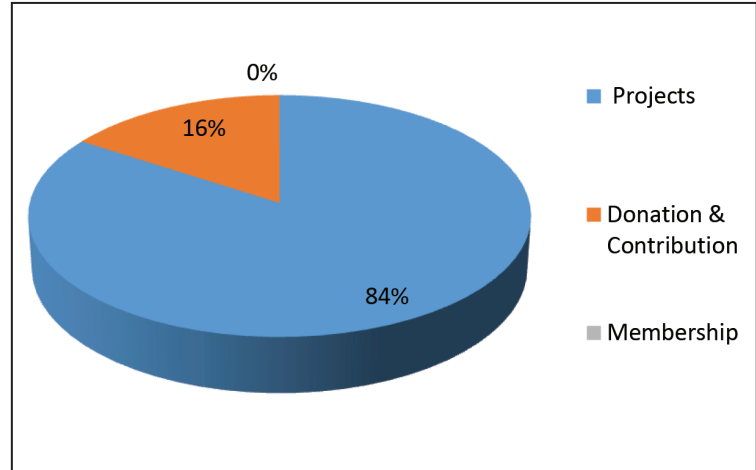
- A total of 115 cleaning campaigns in 16 Dzongkhags with 4,431 volunteers. In addition, a nationwide cleanup campaign was held on 9th December 2017.
- A total of 99 advocacy program was organized 16 Dzongkhags with 19,067 participants including villages, towns and schools.
- To improve the existing waste management system of Taktsang trail, Clean Bhutan employed 4 people and 3 ponies to clean up the trail once a week during peak tourist season and twice a month during off-season. This was a part of advocacy and clean up program under PPP model.
- Training of Paro College of Education students to become Trainers of Training (TOT) on waste management to the school students and during their Teaching Practice to remote schools.
- A total of 5,533 registered member and the year 2017 having the highest number of registered members i.e. 2,661 members
- Clean Bhutan logo has been registered with the Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu as copy right
- In Bhutan, Clean Bhutan is the local partner of WaterKeeper Alliances USA. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between the two organizations.
- Established a basic water quality data for Thimphu river (Thim Chu).
- A new unit has been established on “Development of Weavers’ skill” on how to weave products out of plastic and tetrapac waste. By 2018, the skills with be imparted to all interested entrepreneur especially women self-help groups to generate additional income out of waste and reduce waste from going to the landfill in all 20 Dzongkhags.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Expenses



### Income



  
Sonam Delkar  
Finance Manager



  
Nedup Tshering  
Executive Director

## ORGANOGRAM

Royal Patron: Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen (Queen of Bhutan)

### Clean Bhutan Organogram

### Clean Bhutan Board Member



Karma Nima  
Board Director



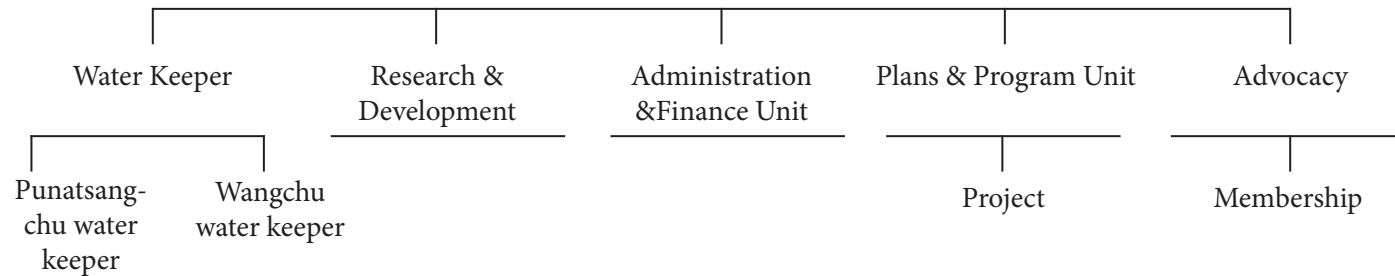
Thinley Namgyel  
Board Director



Sonam Tobgay  
Board Director



Nedup Tshering  
Member Secretary



Clean Bhutan Secretariat and outreach staff




#	Name	Designation	Office Location
1	Mr. Nedup Tshering	Executive Director	Thimphu
2	Ms. Sonam Delker	Finance Manager	Thimphu
3	Ms. Shristi Sharma	Program Director	Thimphu WangChu Waterkeeper
4	Mr. Kezang Lhendup	Outreach Officer	PunaTsang Chu Waterkeeper
5	Ms. Dechen Choden	Legal Officer	Thimphu
6	Ms. Nima Selden	Regional Coordinator	Trashigang
7	Mr. Karma Phuntsho	Regional Coordinator	Trashigang
8	Mr. Ratu Tshering	Regional Coordinator	Mongar
9	Ms. Harka Maya Gurung	Regional Outreach Officer	Paro (taktsang area)
10	Ms. Tshering Wangmo	Assistant Outreach assistant	Paro
11	Mr. Kezang	Assistant Outreach assistant	Paro
12	Mr. Karma	Assistant Outreach assistant	Paro
13	Ms. Chogyal Lhamo	Regional Outreach Officer	Bumthang/Trongsa
14	Ms. Dechen Choden	Plastic Weaving instructor (TOT)	Thimphu
15	Ms. Karma Tshomo	Plastic Weaving Instructor (TOT)	Thimphu
16	Ms. Ninda Dema	Plastic Weaving Instructor (TOT)	Thimphu





Clean Bhutan Outreach Focal Persons in institutions.



#	Focal Person Name	Institute	Location
1	Thukten zangpo	Paro College of Education	Paro
2	Samten Zangmo	Samtse College of Education	Samtse
3	Yeshey Dendup	Changzhu Primary School	Changzhu, Samtse
6	Lopon Tashi Dorji	Sangchokhor Shedra	Paro
7	Vice Principal	Khilikhar Shedra	Mongar
8	Tshering	River Guides of Panbang	Panbang
9	Sonam	Private Sector (Contractor)	Pema Gatshel
10	Thinlay Rabgay	Laya Middle Secondary School	Laya
11	Dechen Wangda	Dorokha Lower Secondary School	Samtse
12	Tshering Pelmo	Tshatsi Lower Secondary School	Pema Gatshel

*Reduce Waste at Source*



“It is our collective responsibility to ensure that where we live remain clean, safe, well organized, and beautiful, for all times to come”

His Majesty, The King of Bhutan  
Address to the Nation  
109<sup>th</sup> National Day, December 17, 2016









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