

Bhutan CMS VATAVARAN Green Ambassador Award 2022



Dr Nawang Norbu

Executive Director (Vice-President) of Bhutan Ecological Society

Dr Nawang Norbu (PhD) joined the Bhutan Ecological Society in 2017 after having served as Director of the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment. He was the pioneer for the establishment of society while at the institute in 2010. As a Director at the UWICE, he helped convene the Climate Summit for A Living Himalayas, a process that brought together civil society, academics and Government representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal culminating in the signing of the agreement in November 2011 to adopt a framework action plan to adapt to climate change. He also initiated the establishment of the School for Field Studies (SFS) in Bhutan. Prior to working at the institute, he also served as Park Manager for the Phrumsengla National Park where he led the drafting of a 5-year management plan for the park and also the adjoining biological corridor.

Nawang received his PhD in Natural Sciences (Magna cum Laude) from the University of Konstanz and the International Max Planck Research School (Germany). He is interested in exploring the drivers and consequences of development and how it influences environmental conservation and societal progress.

With the Royal Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck, and under the leadership of Dr Ngawang, aiming to connect science, business, and policy for building and sustaining resilient communities and functional landscapes, which will provide for human needs and foster prosperity, while ensuring the integrity of ecosystems.

www.cmsvatavaran.org

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Dr Rebecca Pradhan

Senior botanist at Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Bhutan

Dr Rebecca, 69, is a senior ecologist and botanist at the Royal Society for Protection of Nature and a pioneer in the field of environment conservation in Bhutan. Fueled by an early interest in nature, she started her conservation career with the Royal Government of Bhutan.

She served as the Head of the Herbarium and Forestry Research Library of the Department of Forests and Park Services from 1985 till 1999. She joined RSPN in 2000 when she started contributing immensely to the growth of RSPN. One of her most outstanding works has been in the field of conservation of the critically endangered White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*) in Bhutan. Of the less than 60 confirmed global population of White-bellied Heron, 28 (population survey, 2016) are found in Bhutan. The conservation efforts for this critically endangered species were made possible from grants and donations, and one such grant was received from CEPF for the protection of one of the last remaining habitats along the Phochu River in the Punakha.

In her illustrious career, Rebecca also authored several publications. Some of her notable publications are “Wild Rhododendrons of Bhutan” and “Threatened Birds in Bhutan.”

Dr Rebecca Pradhan was honoured with the recognition as one of the ‘Hotspot Heroes’ by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) at the 6th IUCN World Conservation Congress on September 4, 2016. The honour of “Hotspot Heroes” was conferred to 15 conservationists from around the world during the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the CEPF at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The ‘hotspot heroes’ were chosen from a pool of more than 2,000 civil society organizations that were the recipients of CEPF grants for the conservation of biodiversity hotspots across the globe since 2001. The honour was in recognition of the valuable contribution of Dr Rebecca towards the conservation of biodiversity hotspots in Bhutan and exemplifies her selfless dedication and hard work.

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