

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024



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Druk Nyö Foundation



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024**



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# FOREWORD

from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

It is with great honor that I present the “Druk Nyo Foundation’s 2024 Annual Report”, reflecting on another year of spiritual development, impactful initiatives, community empowerment, and cultural preservation. This report encapsulates the collective efforts of our dedicated team, partners, and the communities we serve, all of whom have played an integral role in realizing our shared vision of spiritual growth, sustainable development and heritage conservation.

The past year has been marked by transformative projects across various sectors, from spirituality and cultural growth in Sumtrhang, agricultural empowerment in Ura and Monggar, to enhancing healthcare infrastructure at Ura Primary Health Center, and expanding educational support at Yelchen Central School and Kuensel Phodrang Primary School. Our commitment to capacity-building has also been realised through training programs in financial literacy, sustainable farming, and hospitality management, equipping individuals and communities with skills to foster long-term self-reliance.

A key milestone this year was the continued progress of the Nyo Heritage Eco-Cultural Trail Project, undertaken in collaboration with our international partners. This initiative not only strengthens eco-tourism and cultural heritage preservation but also creates meaningful economic opportunities for local communities.

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I am deeply humbled by the responsibility of carrying forward the foundation’s mission while also upholding the spiritual and cultural legacy of Sumtrhang Chöje. The unwavering support of our partners, donors, and well-wishers continues to inspire us to expand our impact, build resilient communities, and safeguard Bhutan’s rich heritage.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my predecessors, Samten Yeshe and Sonam Choden, for their leadership and dedication, and to our entire team for their tireless commitment. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of meaningful change, embracing both tradition and innovation to empower lives and sustain our cultural roots.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your continued support and collaboration will be instrumental in shaping a future that honors our past while building a more sustainable, empowered, and culturally vibrant Bhutan.

With gratitude,

Sonam Nyenda  
Executive Director  
Druk Nyo Foundation



## DRUK NYÖ FOUNDATION

*A spiritual, social and cultural organization of Sumtrhang Chöje dedicated towards building a society of excellence in spiritual, social, cultural and natural realms”*

Nyö is a name of one of a major ancient Himalayan Buddhist clans. 28 generations of Sumtrhang Chöjes in central Bhutan have retained their significance over centuries upholding some of Bhutan’s rich cultural and spiritual heritage. Sumtrhang Chöjes, who hold the Nyö lineage, have played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural landscape in Bhutan.

The genesis of the Druk Nyö Foundation finds its roots in the Late 28th Sumtrhang Chöje Wangdrak Gyatsho’s (1949-2022) visionary endeavor. When the foundation was established, the name “Nyö” was chosen as a tribute to the age-old lineage, emphasizing its enduring legacy and commitment to preserving Buddhist teachings and Bhutanese heritage through diverse social causes. This act not only reflects a deep connection to the past but also serves as a beacon for the future, ensuring that the Nyö Foundation’s values and contributions remain integral to the Buddhist values and nation’s identity.

The historical narrative traces back to 1200 AD when Nyö Gyalwa Lhanangpa (1164-1224) and his son Nyöton Trulzhig Chöje (1179-1265), founded Sumtrhang Monastery. This pivotal moment marked the inception of the Nyö lineage and Sumtrhang Chöjes in Bhutan. Since then, Nyö lineage holders have been steadfast guardians of Buddhist teachings, fostering spiritual growth and cultural preservation while navigating the currents of history.

In essence, Nyö is more than just an ancestral lineage; it embodies a profound cultural ethos and spiritual tradition. The amalgamation of the past, present, and future within the Druk Nyö Foundation ensures that the legacy of Nyö endures, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of Bhutanese identity, Buddhist teachings, and human value.



## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF OUR FOUNDER

The 28th Sumtrhang Chöje Wangdrak Gyatsho, the founder of the Druk Nyo Foundation, was born in 1949 to his father, the 27th Sumtrhang Chöje Tshewang Tandin and mother Ani Tshogyal of Buli Gonpa. Early in his education, he studied Monlam Namsum with his father's guidance and the Kudrung Droep of Nimalung. He also received the transmissions of Sumtrhang's traditions from his father.

At the age of 18, he went to Trongsa Dratsang to study rituals, marking the beginning of his spiritual journey. His commitment to practice non-sectarian Buddha Dharma led him to receive the Dudjom Tersar lineage transmission from His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche in 1970 at Tashigang and the Rinchen Terzoe from His Holiness Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche in 1971 at Dechencholing in Thimphu. Additionally, he obtained the Kagyu Wang Lung Tri Sum from Kyabje Nyizer Trulku in Phunakha.

In 1979, he founded Sumtrhang Gomday, a lay practitioner spiritual community, which started with 23 dedicated gomchens. This initiative further showcased his commitment to fostering spiritual growth and communal well-being.

A pivotal encounter with His Holiness Drupwang Sonam Zangpo at Paljor Choling Goenpa in Toeb Metsena resulted in Chöje Rinpoche accepting him as his root teacher. For six years, he diligently practiced Mahamudra under the guidance of his revered teacher. However, the passing of his root teacher in 1982 brought a shift in his responsibilities.

In the years that followed, Chöje Rinpoche played a pivotal role in multiple capacities—serving as a school teacher under the guidance of Her Royal Highness Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuk, while steadfastly upholding his sacred responsibilities as the Sumtrhang Chöje. Simultaneously, he also took on the significant duty of representing the people of Ura in parliament, demonstrating his commitment to education and service to the community demonstrated a harmonious blend of spiritual and secular responsibilities.

Notably, in 1997, with the gracious support and well-wishing of His Majesty the fourth King and a gift of Nu. 2,50,000, Chöje Rinpoche initiated the renovation of the Sumtrhang monastery. This endeavor aimed at preserving the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Sumtrhang, a mission he championed with passion.

In his relentless pursuit to uncover the sacred Kama lineage of Vajrakila, the main practice at Sumtrhang, Chöje Rinpoche embarked on a transformative journey that led him to Yangthang Rinpoche. From this revered master, Chöje Rinpoche received crucial Kama empowerments and transmissions related to the profound practice of Vajrakila. His own root teacher, Drupwang Sonam Zangpo also played a pivotal role in imparting essential Vajrakila transmissions, from whom he received Sangdue Phurpa transmission. His guru also instructed him to go to Lama Gyelwang Nima to receive the transmission, which he did in the 1990s at Rinpoche’s residence in Changangkha.

In 2014, accompanied by his two eldest sons, he met His Holiness Drikung Kyabgoen Chetsang Rinpoche for the first time and received several empowerment and transmission from His Holiness. Since then, Sumtrhang reconnected with Drikung communities through His Holiness as Sumtrhang has its historical root to Drikung.

Reflecting on the hardship of preserving and upholding Sumtrhang monastery and its heritage and benefiting to the social causes, Chöje Rinpoche founded Druk Nyo Foundation in 2017 with aims to promote Spirituality, Education, Culture and Nature as the basis of value preservation and promotion. Today, the foundation has not only supported the long-overdue renovation works of the Sumtrhang monastery but also benefits farmers, schools, scholars, and others through its various projects.”

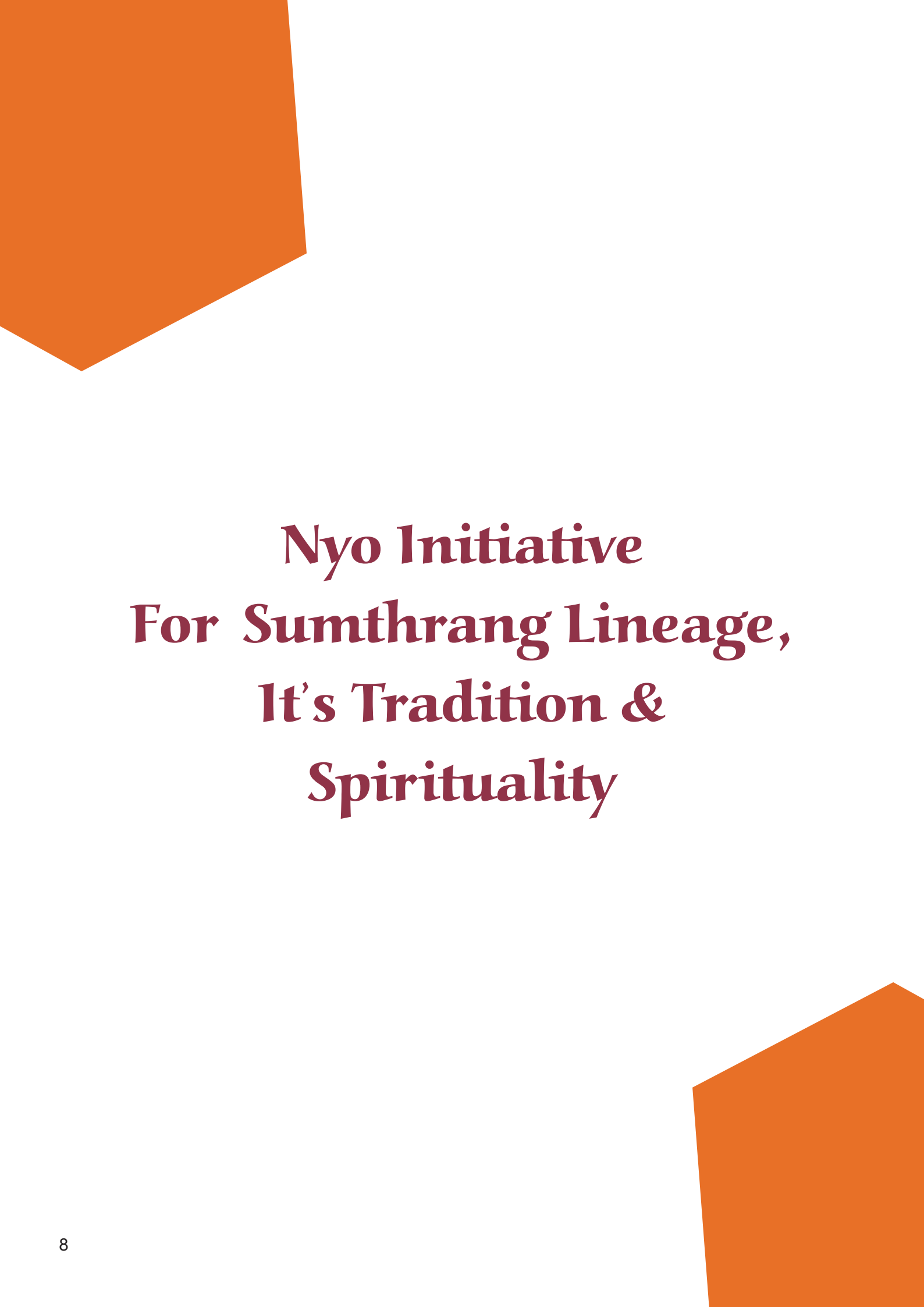
The life of our founder, the 28th Sumtrhang Chöje Wangdrak Gyatsho exemplifies a harmonious blend of spiritual dedication, educational pursuits, and community service. His legacy lives on through the Druk Nyo Foundation and the enduring impact he made on the cultural and spiritual landscape. He passed away in November 2022, leaving behind a profound legacy of compassion and service.



## SUMTHRANG MONASTERY

Sumthrang Monastery is located in Ura Gewog, Bumthang district in central Bhutan. It is one of the earliest religious establishments in central Bhutan and probably the first center for the practice of Vajrakilaya teachings in Bhutan. It was founded around 1200 CE by the practitioners of Vajrakilaya teachings from the Nyö Clan called Nyöton Thrulzhik Chöjé (approx. 1179-1265). Nyöton was a scion of the Nyö lineage in the 18th generation and is the son of Nyö Gyelwa Lhanangpa Sangay Raychen alias Zejid Pel (1164-1224). However, oral history attributes the establishment of the monastery to Gyelwa Lhanangpa. Nevertheless, since its establishment, the temple has been a vibrant center of religious and cultural life and served as a source of religious culture and traditions for most of the central and some parts of eastern Bhutan. Sumthrang, thus, is a very important religious, cultural and historical center in Bhutan's history. In addition, descendants from its lineage include Pema Lingpa (1450-1521), one of the greatest five Tertons. As one of the earliest religious centers in the country, it houses some of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred relics.

The Founder, Nyöton Thrulzhik Chöjé was born to Gyelwa Lhanangpa of Nyö lineage and mother Lhachig Dechogma. He was born on the 15th day of the fourth lunar month of the Earth Pig Year. It is described in his biography about his prophetic journey from Tibet to the South (present day Bhutan, particularly, Ura) and the foundation of the temple. After identifying the four important landmarks in four directions with a stone pillar at the center of those landmarks, as prophesied for his temple establishment, he founded Sumthrang Samdrup Chödzung, now popularly known as the Sumthrang Lhakhang in the beginning of the 13th century. The surrounding village of Sumthrang gradually developed around the temple.



**Nyo Initiative  
For Sumthrang Lineage,  
It's Tradition &  
Spirituality**

## 1. Revival of Sumthrang Samdrup Choedzong

The renovation and revival of Sumthrang Samdrup Chödzung's structural, spiritual, and cultural traditions began decades ago under the guidance of our late Chöje, and we are still working diligently to complete it. Our partnership with ASIA, Italy, has been instrumental in the renovation and structural extension, with funding support from the Tides Foundation. Consequently, this year, we have been able to revive some of our spiritual lineage and cultural practices, marking an important milestone in our ongoing efforts.



### 1.1. Vajrakila Empowerments & Transmission Received by the Lineage Holder from His Eminence Dorji Lopen Rinpoche

Sumthrang stands as the earliest monastic center established for Vajrakila practice in Bhutan. According to the Vajrakila commentary text *gsang rgyud kyi grel pa gnyo ston bde mchog bdag gi khyad chos*, authored by the founder Nyoton Trulzhig Sumthrang, the Vajrakila practice at Sumthrang initially followed the Kama lineage. This practice dates back to the early 13th century, and the text is among the earliest written literature in Bhutan, as well as the first to document Vajrakilaya teachings in the country.

In the 15th century, the 8th Sumthrang Chöje Pelden Zangpo further enriched this tradition by composing the *Tsawa Sorzhag* commentary along with the *Kangsol* liturgy text, affirming the original Vajrakila practice of Sumthrang. However, in later centuries,



Sumtrhang appears to have integrated elements of Ratna Lingpa's treasure tradition with Sangkhop Phurpa practice tradition, which is popularly practiced by the Central Monastic Body.

Following the passing of the Late Chöje, Dungzin Sonam Nyenda took on the responsibility of presiding over the annual Vajrakila rituals at Sumtrhang. Recognizing the significance of lineage purity and authentic transmission, he identified HE Dorji Lopen Rinpoche as the principal lineage holder of the Ratna Lingpa Phurpa according to the Sangkhop tradition. HE Dorji Lopen Rinpoche is the second highest spiritual leader after His Holiness Je Khenpo of Bhutan in the central monastic body, who is also truly realized and a Remi (nonsectarian) practitioner. With the assistance of his close friend, Vice Principal of Pangrizampa College of Astrology Lopen Sonam Rinchen, Dungzin humbly requested HE Dorji Lopen Rinpoche to bestow the Vajrakila empowerment and transmission, which HE graciously consented.

Although the initial plan was to conduct the empowerment at Sumtrhang Samdrup Chödzong, scheduling conflicts necessitated an alternative arrangement. Consequently, the event was hosted at Pangrizampa College of Astrology. The principals, teachers, and students of the college meticulously prepared for the empowerment, setting up elaborate mandala arrangements. HE Dorji Lopen Rinpoche personally inspected the arrangements a day before the empowerment to ensure proper preparations and maintain the efficacy of the empowerment.

On the 9th day of the sacred Sagadawa month, the Tagon or preliminary empowerment was conducted, followed by the actual Vajrakila empowerment and transmission on the 10th day. Dungzin Sonam Nyenda had the great fortune of receiving these sacred

transmissions alongside his Gomchens, as well as the principals, teachers, and students of Pangrizampa College. Although there was no public announcement, as advised by HE, the occasion saw the heartfelt gathering of hundreds of devoted individuals, underscoring the deep reverence for the event.

The empowerment and transmission of Vajrakila from HE Dorji Lopen Rinpoche mark a vital step in preserving and revitalizing the Vajrakila practice at Sumtrhang.



## 1.2. Kangsöl Revival

The Sumtrhang Kangsöl, a sacred annual ritual deeply rooted in Bhutanese history and culture, has long been a significant spiritual and communal event in Sumtrhang. However, due to various challenges, including the substantial errors in liturgical text and the decline in traditional dance performances, the Kangsöl had not been performed in its full glory for nearly 29 years. Recognizing the urgency of reviving this important tradition, Dungzin, along with his dedicated gomchens and community members, took the initiative to restore the lost elements of the Kangsöl, ensuring its continuity for future generations.



### 1.2.1 Restoration of the Liturgy Texts

One of the primary challenges in reviving Sumtrhang Kangöl was the limited number of liturgical texts available, with only two existing copies, making the ritual performance difficult. To address this, the Dungzin, with the assistance of Lopen Dorji Gyeltshen, undertook the laborious task of retyping the text to produce additional copies.

During this process, they discovered numerous errors and missing sections within the manuscripts. To ensure accuracy and authenticity, they meticulously compared the texts with Ratling Phurpa edited by Karma Changmey, Pema Lingpa's Kagyed, and other related manuscripts sourced from the Lodhen Foundation's digital archive. These texts, retrieved from a temple in Haa, played a crucial role in reconstructing the complete liturgy.

The team began their editing work on the Descending Day of Lord Buddha, and through their unwavering dedication, they successfully completed the task in a remarkably short time. The printing of the newly edited text was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Acho Yeshe Pendhen, resulting in 20 copies being produced, marking a significant milestone in the project.



### 1.2.2 Revival of Mask Dances and Rituals

Parallel to the restoration of the texts, the local Gomchens (lay practitioners) in the village began rehearsing the sacred mask dances, a unique and ancient tradition of Sumtrhang. The village's mask dances, particularly dedicated to Vajrakila deities and the protector deity Dragtsen Dorji Dradul, had not been performed since 1994. In 2014, a significant milestone was reached when the late Chöje, alongside his eldest son, Samten Yeshe, and monks from Kheng, successfully revived some of these dances during the Kangöl festival. This rare performance was documented by the Lodhen Foundation's cultural team, led by Samten Yeshe himself, recorded diligently by Yeshe, who also worked for Druk Nyo Foundation for a year. These video recordings proved invaluable in reconstructing the original dance sequences.

Under the leadership of Umzey Kinley, the dance steps were initially reconstructed from the memory of a few elderly community members. These recollections were later refined and validated through the 2014 video recordings to maintain their authenticity. Likewise, the recorded footage of the rituals provided crucial guidance in editing the liturgical texts, ensuring accuracy in the performance of the ceremonies.



### 1.2.3 Community Involvement and Kangöl Celebration

The revival of the Sumtrhang Kangöl was a collective effort, with support from the community. Women from Ura and Shingyer actively participated as Zheyimas (singers), compensating for the limited local population. The Kangöl was successfully held from the 26th to the 30th day of the 10th lunar month, corresponding to December 26–30, 2024.

A key highlight of the event was the presence of Dungsey Thinley Namgyal Wangchuk, who had recently received full monk ordination and Vajrakila transmissions from His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche after completing the Damngagdzoë transmission in Nepal. Alongside the Dungzin, he led the ceremonies, upholding the spiritual and ritualistic integrity of the Kangöl.



### 1.2.4 Auspicious Signs and Hope for the Future

An extraordinary occurrence took place on the third day of the ritual. During the Zhawri/Damtsig Ngolem performance (symbolic act of purifying the ten evils), a strong wind swept through the courtyard, raising a cloud of dust. This was followed by the Vajrakila deity dance, during which vibrant rainbows appeared in the sky, one of which strikingly resembled a rising phoenix. This powerful omen was interpreted as a sign of renewal and hope—a symbol of the resurgence of the Nyo lineage and Sumtrhang from its period of decline.

With prayers from His Holiness and the unwavering commitment of the community, this sacred tradition has been reinstated, ensuring that Sumtrhang's rich spiritual heritage continues to flourish.



## 2. Visit of His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon (August 5 and 6)

Sumtrhang Samdrup Chödzung was greatly honored to receive His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon, the revered Vajradhara and supreme head of the Drikung Kagyu lineage, once again this year. Despite his demanding schedule and long travels, His Holiness took the time to bestow oral transmission of Avalokiteshvara upon the local community, as well as students and teachers of Ura Central School, bringing immense spiritual merit to all in attendance.

His Holiness also visited the ongoing Tsamkhang project at Zamling Bung, a historic retreat site located in the forest beneath Sumtrhang Drag. This site holds profound historical and spiritual significance, as it has traditionally been the place where Sumtrhang chöjes retire for lifelong retreats towards the end of their lives. It is also the site where Drubthob Melong Dorji perfected his Tumo (fire yoga) practice at the face of Sumtrhang Drag, just above this location. In 2025, His Holiness, along with five selected Rinpoches and Khenpos, will undertake a strict three-year retreat at this sacred site.



## 3. The Visits of Eminent Spiritual Figures to Sumtrhang in 2024

Sumtrhang Samdrup Chödzung, the sacred seat of the southern lineage of the Nyo clan, had the immense honor of receiving several revered masters throughout 2024. Their visits brought profound blessings and strengthened the spiritual and cultural heritage of Sumtrhang.

### 3.1. Visit of His Eminence Kyabje Nupa Rinpoche (April 6, 2024)

On April 6, 2024, His Eminence Kyabje Nupa Rinpoche visited Sumtrhang Samdrup Chödzung and, at the request of the public, graciously bestowed the “Fivefold Mahamudra of the Drikung lineage” and the “Amitayus oral transmission” to the gathered devotees. His visit was accompanied by Rabsang Rinpoche, Khenpo Kinley, and students from Singapore, enriching the occasion with their presence. To honor Rinpoche and his entourage, the Nyo Dungzin offered Nangten Jalkha of sacred relics and hosted a ceremonial lunch.



### **3.2. Visit of Khenchen Tsewang Gyatsho (May 5, 2024)**

On May 5, 2024, His Eminence Khenchen Tsewang Gyatsho of Namdroling Monastery in Mysore, South India visited Sumtrhang, where he was warmly received by Dungsey Sonam Jigme Yoedbar. As a mark of deep respect and devotion, the Dungsey offered a Nangten Jalkha of sacred relics of Sumtrhang to Khenchen Rinpoche.

### **3.3. Visit of His Eminence Gyeltshen Tulku Rinpoche (July 29-30, 2024)**

His Eminence Gyeltshen Tulku Rinpoche stayed at Sumtrhang from July 29-30, 2024, after His Eminence was requested to preside over the funeral ceremony of our late Sumtrhang Rinpoche Drupwang Tenzin Wangchuk Rinpoche. During his stay, Rinpoche paid a visit to the sacred sites of Sumtrhang Drag, known for their spiritual significance, particularly associated with Vajrakila.

Upon returning from Sumtrhang Drag on the evening of July 30, His Eminence visited the monastery and shared profound guidance with the two Sumtrhang lineage holders, emphasizing the importance of embracing their responsibilities with proper education and training. Inspired by the sacred landscape of Sumtrhang, Rinpoche also composed a short poem upon his return to his Gompa, reflecting on the deep significance of the place.

The visits of these eminent spiritual figures to Sumtrhang Samdrup Chödzung in 2024 have deepened the spiritual essence of the monastery and its surrounding communities. Their blessings, teachings, and guidance have reinforced Sumtrhang's role as a sacred center of Vajrakila practice and Buddhist heritage.

གང་རྩོད་གྱི་གནས་བཤད།

ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ས་དབུས་གྱི་དུམ་བུའི་ཚལ། །བྲག་བཞི་གཏེར་བུམ་ནགས་ཐང་གདལ། །

At the grove in the center of southern land,  
Four cliffs, treasure vase, forest, and grasslands pervade.

ཤིང་གཉིས་ཡུལ་གྱི་ལྷེ་བ་རུ། །ཀ་སྤུ་ལ་ཡི་སྦྱོད་འབྲེ་བ། །

In between the two villages of *Shing*;  
Like a vessel of a skull cup.

མིང་བད་ཡི་གེས་བསྟན་ཅོ་ན། །

If the name is explicated by signs and letters;  
དབྱུངས་ཡིག་དང་པོར་གསུམ་པའི་ཞབས། །པལ་ཆེར་དེགས་པའི་ར་མགོ་ཅན། །

The first vowel(ཨ), footed with the third(ཨུ);

[Followed] Usually [by] the prideful headed Ra(ར);

དི་ཟའི་གོང་ཁྱེར་གླིང་བཞིན་དུ། །ཚུ་སྦྱོད་ལྷ་རིགས་སྐར་ཆེན་ཆགས། །

Like a sanctuary of the city of Gandharva;  
A heavenly clan encamps at the upper part of the [flowing] river.

དེ་རྒྱབ་གནས་རིར་བཅོན་ཁར་ནི། །བ་ལང་ཡ་སོ་ཅན་གྱི་བྲག།

Behind it, the palace of *Tsen* on top of the sacred mountain;

[is] The cliff of an upper jaw of an elephant;

སྤང་དང་ནགས་བཟང་མཐའ་བསྐྱོར་ཞིང་། །

Surrounded by plains and forest.

ལུང་བསྟན་དུས་བབས་ད་ལྟའི་བར། །ཆོས་ཡོན་ཚུ་བའི་རྒྱན་བཞིན་སྦྱོར་། །

Since the time of prophesy to this date;  
Continuity of dharma and tradition, maintained like a flowing river;

ལྷོ་ས་འདིར་མཛོས་པའི་དཔལ་དུ་གྱུར། །དག་ལེགས་འཕེལ་བའི་བྲག་ཤིས་ཤོག།

Becoming the glory of magnificence for this region.

May it enhance the auspiciousness of virtuous excellence!

ཤིང་པོ་འབྲུག་སྐྱོ་སྐྱོགས་ཅོ་ན། །ལྷ་དར་ཅེ་ནས་གཡོས་པ་འདི། །

When the wood male Dragon roared;  
The one spread from the submit of the divine flag;

ཁྱི་ཚེལ་གྱུ་རུས་སྤེལ་བའོ། །།

Is distributed by Khi Tsil Guru.

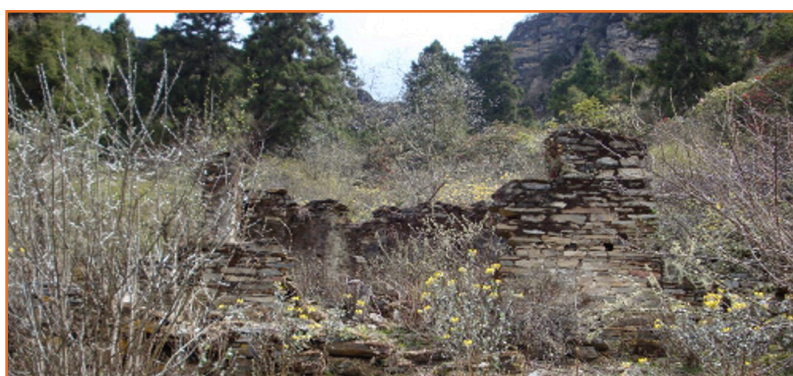
#### 4. Revitalizing Zamling Retreat: A New Era of Spiritual Practice

Nestled beneath the sacred Sumtrhang Drag, Zamling Retreat once flourished as a prominent Buddhist center for practice and learning in the 15th century. Over time, it became a secluded retreat for the Sumtrhang Chöjes, where they spent their later years in retreat and lifelong spiritual practice. The 26th Sumtrhang Chöje, Kuenzang Ngodrup, and Ani Nyidha were the last to retreat there, after which the site gradually fell into ruins over the course of a century.

Today, Sumtrhang and the entire Ura valley are deeply blessed and honored as His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche has chosen Sumtrhang as the site for his three-year retreat in Bhutan. Accompanied by five esteemed Venerable Khenpos and Trulkus—including our own Dungsey Thinley Namgyal Wangchuk—His Holiness’s presence marks a profound revival of Zamling’s spiritual significance.

With generous funding support from His Holiness himself, the physical structures of five Tsamkhangs (retreat houses) have been successfully completed. The final furnishing and preparations are set to be completed by May 2025, ensuring that the retreat is fully equipped for the beginning of this historic spiritual endeavor.

His Holiness’s vision, prayers, and blessings are bringing Zamling Retreat back to life as a sacred site of deep spiritual practice. Sumtrhang remains forever indebted to His Holiness for this extraordinary revival, which will once again establish Zamling as a center of profound Buddhist meditation and realization.





**NYO INITIATIVE  
FOR  
CULTURE, HERITAGE,  
& CONSERVATION**



## NYO HERITAGE ECO-CULTURAL TRAIL: PRESERVING HERITAGE AND PROMOTING ECO-TOURISM

### 1. Restoration and Conservation Efforts

The “Nyo Heritage Eco-Cultural Trail Project” is an ongoing initiative undertaken in partnership with our international partner ASIA, Italy, and co-financed by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano. This project aims to preserve Bhutan’s rich cultural heritage while enhancing eco-tourism opportunities, ultimately contributing to sustainable local economic growth.

Recognizing the importance of stakeholder engagement, the project team conducted courtesy visits to the County Heads of Tang, Choekhor, and Ura to introduce the initiative and foster collaboration. Additionally, discussions with the Chief Forestry Officer of Phrumshingla National Park ensured compliance with environmental regulations and facilitated necessary clearances. These engagements played a crucial role in refining project plans and securing essential local support.

Following these preparations, the restoration of the eco-cultural trail commenced. Key conservation efforts included:

1. Restoring and protecting the Goen Langdrang, the historic remains of Terton Pema Lingpa’s grandfather Tenpai Nyima’s spiritual residence.
2. Fencing and landscaping around seven stupas.
3. Establishing two designated cooking and water storage areas for travelers.
4. Creating seven rest points to improve visitor experience.
5. Clearing and remaking of the footpath from Ngang Lhakhang to Sumthrang

By integrating cultural heritage preservation with eco-tourism development, this initiative aims to revitalize local communities, promote sustainable tourism, and ensure the long-term conservation of Bhutan’s historical sites. The project team remains committed to completing the remaining activities to achieve these goals.



## 2. Empowering Small Coffee Shop Owners in Ura

As part of the ‘Nyo Heritage Eco-Cultural Trail Project,’ the Druk Nyo Foundation successfully organized a specialized training program for 15 individuals in Ura, focusing on the management of local coffee shops. The initiative aimed to enhance business operations, improve coffee preparation skills, and elevate customer service standards, all contributing to the long-term sustainability and growth of local businesses.

**The training covered key areas such as:**

1. Business operations and financial management to improve sustainability.
2. Barista skills and coffee machine maintenance for high-quality beverage preparation.
3. Customer service excellence to enhance guest satisfaction and increase revenue.
4. Health and hygiene standards to ensure compliance with food safety regulations.

A combination of theoretical presentations, video demonstrations, and practical hands-on sessions ensured a comprehensive learning experience. Participants gained valuable insights into marketing strategies, cleanliness protocols, and quality control, equipping them with the tools to improve their businesses and attract more visitors.

This initiative represents a significant step toward strengthening local entrepreneurship, contributing to economic empowerment and tourism growth in Ura Gewog.



### 3. Enhancing Homestay Hospitality in Ura

To enhance service standards in the hospitality sector, the Druk Nyo Foundation organized an intensive training program for managing homestays at Sumtrhang Samdrup Choedzong in Ura. The program focused on enriching guest experiences, optimizing homestay management practices, and promoting sustainable tourism.

#### **The training covered essential hospitality skills, including:**

1. Three-course meal preparation and menu planning to cater to diverse guests.
2. Room cleanliness and maintenance standards to ensure high hygiene levels.
3. Guest agreements and service customization for a personalized experience.

The program combined theoretical sessions, live demonstrations, and hands-on activities, providing a well-rounded understanding of professional hospitality management. By equipping participants with practical tools and knowledge, this initiative has significantly enhanced homestay operations, ensuring higher service standards and increased economic opportunities for local families.



# TIGER CONSERVATION PROJECT

The project Promoting Tiger & Nature Conservation in Bhutan: Leveraging Cultural Values & Practices to Enhance Community Stewardship seeks to foster harmony between conservation efforts and Bhutan's rich cultural heritage. By utilizing traditional knowledge, religious texts, and community narratives, the initiative aims to enhance environmental stewardship and support Bhutan's conservation efforts. The year 2024 witnessed significant project progress through research, documentation, interviews with local people, and audio-visual documentations. reparatory steps for further advocacy and awareness campaigns.

## Key Activities and Accomplishments

### Data Collection and Analysis

#### 1. Data Collection Efforts:

- Gathered extensive materials from various Kanjur, Tenjur, Sumgbums, and other sources
- A total of **267 sources** were reviewed, resulting in entries of over **721 titles** into the excel sheet
- The analysis identified **15 distinct genres** and **9 source types**, categorizing information by themes, locations, and species mentioned.
- Highlights from the data include:
  - **392 mentions** of tigers—the most frequently referenced animal.
  - **176 mentions** of lions, illustrating their cultural importance as well.
- Data elements were meticulously categorized to align with project objectives.
  - **392 mentions** of tigers—the most frequently referenced animal.
  - **176 mentions** of lions, illustrating their cultural importance as well.
- Data elements were meticulously categorized to align with project objectives.

#### 2. Documents and Outputs:

- A 47-page document in the Tibetan language (to be translated in English) was created, featuring:
  - 9 stories focusing on tiger conservation and cultural narratives.
  - 55 sayings that highlight the cultural reverence for tigers and nature.
  - Short profiles of 10 deities associated with tiger heads or adornments.
  - Details of 18 deities that ride tigers.
- Another 24 pages document in the Tibetan language was created explaining the Buddhist images collected related to Tigers.
- These documents serve as a foundation for future conservation education and cultural revival efforts.

### 3. Interviews Conducted:

- Locals, religious figures, leaders, and experts from Bumthang, Trongsa, and Thimphu were interviewed, contributing oral histories, insights on tiger symbolism, and perspectives on conservation of diverse backgrounds.

## Community Engagement and Advocacy

### 1. Draft Documentary Preparation:

- A draft script for a documentary was completed, capturing the intertwining of cultural values, conservation practices, and the symbolism of tigers
- The documentary remains flexible to incorporate emerging findings.

### 2. Ritual Documentation:

- Preparations are underway to film and document the Zandre Khajur ritual, a spiritual practice with symbolic relevance to tiger conservation.
- The ritual will serve as a vital component of the documentary and advocacy efforts.

## Data Entries According to Data Type and Element

Data Type	Totals
Herbivore ཀང་མྱིག་ཅན་	140
Carnivore གཅན་གཟན་	320
Birds བྱ་རིགས་	73
Aquatic animals རྒྱ་གཞན་སྟོན་ཆགས་	35
Insects འབྲུ་མྱིན་	14
Primate ལྷུ་འཇོ་རིགས་	18
Rodent ཅིག་མོ་ཅན་	10
Reptiles ལྷོ་འཕྲོ་འཇོ་རིགས་	40
Plants and herbs ལྗང་རྒྱུ་	4
Trees རིང་	20
Flowers and fruits མེ་ཉྱེག་དང་འབྲས་ལུ་	7
Water bodies རྒྱ་རིགས་	17
Weather/Climate གནས་གཤིས་ ས་གཤིས་	1
Rock and Mountain ས་རྩོ་རི་བྲག་	21
Natural calamities འབྲུང་བཞིན་ཉེན་ངན་	3
Others གཞན་རིགས་	121

Data Element	Totals
Monument འགངས་ཅན་དངོས་རྟེན་	0
Cloths and ornaments ལྷན་གོས་	27
Food and drinks བཟའ་འཛུང་	17
Rituals & remedies ལྷན་དབྱེད་རིག་ལྟ་	145
Practice and meditation ལྷུང་པ་ཉམས་ལེན་	66
Vision and experience དག་རྣམ་རྟོག་ཚོར་	55
Beliefs རྣམ་རྟོག་དང་ཡིད་ཅེས་	95
Interaction/encounter འབྲེལ་གཏུགས་གདོད་ལུག་	68
Ritual objects and implements འཚོད་ཆས་ལག་ཆས་	6
Images and illustration ལྷ་འབབ་རིས་མོ་	24
Marks and remains དངོས་ཀྱི་རྗེས་ལུས་སྟེང་གསལ་	10
Sounds and cries རང་རྟུན་	13
Habitat འབྲུགས་གནས་	37
Others གཞན་རིགས་	180



## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

### 1. **Zandre Khajur Ritual:**

- Successfully film and document the ritual as a key cultural element of the documentary.

### 2. **Finalization and Dissemination of Documentary:**

- Incorporate additional findings and feedback into the script and finalize the documentary for wider distribution.

### 3. **Advocacy Workshop:**

- Plan and host a workshop to promote tiger conservation and cultural stewardship, leveraging findings from the project.

### 4. **Data Refinement and Translation:**

- Segregate, cluster, and translate the data into accessible formats for broader audiences, ensuring its use in educational materials and advocacy campaigns.

### 5. **Community Partnerships:**

- Strengthen collaboration with local communities, monasteries, and conservation agencies to integrate cultural values into conservation policies.

The 2024 accomplishments of the Promoting Tiger & Nature Conservation in Bhutan project lay a strong foundation for future efforts. By intertwining Buddhist concepts and Bhutan's cultural heritage with modern conservation practices, the initiative has demonstrated the potential for a holistic approach to environmental stewardship.

As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing community participation, enriching cultural narratives, and ensuring the protection of Bhutan's tigers for generations to come.



# **NYO INITIATIVE FOR EDUCATION**

## Enhancing Educational Resources and Student Development at Yelchen Central School, Pemagatshel

In 2024, the Foundation implemented a comprehensive support initiative at Yelchen Central School in Pemagatshel, Bhutan, aimed at improving the learning environment and fostering holistic development of school students through various programs. Essential supplies, including stationery, uniforms, and hostel items, were provided to economically disadvantaged students to ensure their academic pursuits remained unhindered. Additionally, a printer was donated to support the school's operational needs, enabling efficient production of learning materials and enhancing the overall teaching and learning process. These interventions not only addressed immediate necessities but also laid the foundation for long-term educational aids that could be supported by the Foundation.



## Support to Kuensel Phodrang Primary School, Thimphu

At Kuensel Phodrang Primary School in Thimphu, the Foundation addressed poor ventilation in three temporary classrooms by installing six ceiling fans and eight window frames. These upgrades were crucial during the hot summer months when students and teachers struggled with uncomfortable learning conditions. The initiative was undertaken in response to the school's immediate needs and has since significantly improved the classroom environment. By ensuring better air circulation and a cooler atmosphere, the foundation has created a more conducive space for learning, enhancing both the comfort and focus of the students.



**NYO INITIATIVE  
FOR AGRICULTURE  
& FOOD SECURITY**

## Empowering Rural Communities: A Report on Agricultural and Healthcare Initiatives in Ura and Monggar (2024)



The Nyö Foundation, in collaboration with its international partner ASIA, Italy, and with funding support from PCDM and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, has successfully implemented multiple initiatives aimed at empowering rural communities, enhancing sustainable agriculture, and improving healthcare services in Bhutan. These initiatives have significantly contributed to strengthening the livelihoods, food security, and economic resilience of the beneficiaries

### 1. Empowering Ura Through Agricultural Support

As part of our post-COVID-19 recovery efforts, the Nyö Foundation launched the project “Post-COVID Support to Communities of Ura Gewog” to enhance farm mechanization, promote sustainable agriculture, and improve health and hygiene practices. This project, implemented in partnership with ASIA, Italy, and funded by PCDM, was successfully concluded in June 2024 with the inauguration of a vegetable market shed in Shingnyer.

**Through this initiative, we provided:**

3. 16 mini-tillers
4. 12 greenhouses
5. Comprehensive sets of agricultural tools

**Additionally, extensive capacity-building programs were conducted, equipping farmers with knowledge and skills in:**

1. Greenhouse management
2. Organic farming techniques
3. Conversation of Horticultural products and marketing

The project also distributed various vegetable seeds to diversify crop production, creating new income-generating opportunities for farmers. These initiatives have empowered the farming community, fostering economic sustainability in Ura Gewog.



## 2. Enhancing Healthcare Infrastructure in Ura: Medical Equipment Donation to Ura Primary Health Center

Recognizing the need to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in rural areas, the Foundation procured and donated essential medical equipment to Ura Primary Health Center in 2023. Following consultations with local health officials, additional medical equipment was identified and officially handed over on February 24, 2024, coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the King.

This initiative reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to improving healthcare accessibility and ensuring that rural communities receive quality medical care. The donated equipment aims to enhance diagnostic capabilities, patient monitoring, and overall healthcare services provided at the center.

### List of Donated Medical Equipment

The following medical equipment are handed over to Ura Primary Health Center in 2023 and 2024:

1. 10 Finger Tip Pulse Oximeters
2. 10 BP Machines (Omron)
3. 3 Oxygen Concentrator Machines
4. 5 Digital Weighing Machines with Height Measurement
5. 5 Fetal Dopplers
6. 1 IV Fluid Warming Machine (STERICOX Brand)
7. 10 Oxygen Regulators (B-Type Cylinder)
8. 5 Scale Hanging (25 Kg) with Metal Hook
9. 3 Digital BP Instruments with SPO2 Pulse Display (Mindray) (Rechargeable)
10. 2 Dell Desktop i3 Core Computers with One Printer Each (2 Sets)
11. 1 Small Centrifuge Machine
12. 2 Hemoglobin Test Meters
13. 1 Printer (LaserJet Pro M126a)
14. 2 Otoscopes

By equipping the Ura Primary Health Center with these essential medical tools, the Foundation aims to improve diagnostic efficiency, enhance patient care, and support healthcare professionals in delivering better medical services to the community.



### 3. Empowering Farmers in Monggar

In August 2024, the Nyö Foundation successfully concluded an agricultural empowerment project in Monggar Gewog, benefiting farmers across five chiwogs. This project, implemented in partnership with ASIA, Italy, and funded by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, aimed to promote sustainable agricultural practices, enhance food security, and improve economic conditions.



### **Key project activities included:**

Four comprehensive training programs covering:

1. Organic cultivation techniques
2. Agricultural mechanization
3. Product conservation, distribution, and marketing
4. Financial management & accounting training

### **Market exposure visits to:**

1. Bhutan Agro Industries
2. Agriculture Research and Development Center
3. National Post-Harvest Center
4. Strategic land cultivation plans were also developed to optimize crop planning and market alignment.



**To further enhance mechanized and sustainable farming, essential agricultural tools and resources were distributed, including:**

1. 5 power tillers
2. 16 types of light agricultural equipment (e.g. electric fencing, Grass cutters, water tanks, vegetable storage boxes, water pipes, so on)
3. 244 bags of organic manure
4. 13 varieties high-yield hybrid vegetable seeds
5. Cardamom saplings



**A key focus of the project was empowering women farmers, equipping them with skills in:**

1. Operating agricultural machinery
2. Practicing organic farming
3. Developing food conservation and marketing strategies

By addressing technical and economic barriers, this initiative has significantly strengthened the economic resilience of farming communities in Monggar Gewog, particularly women-led agricultural groups.

#### **4. Financial Management and Accounting Training**

In February 2024, the Foundation conducted a Financial Management and Accounting Training program for five farmer groups in Monggar Gewog to enhance their financial literacy and business management skills.

### **The training covered practical and accessible topics, including:**

1. Budgeting
2. Record-keeping
3. Cash flow management
4. Basic accounting practices



The sessions were designed to be engaging and inclusive, combining theoretical presentations, hands-on exercises, and locally relevant case studies. This approach ensured that local farmers not only gained a solid understanding of the concepts but also had the opportunity to apply their knowledge in practical, real-world contexts. This project activity aimed to equip farmers with financial management skills, enabling them to efficiently manage their agricultural enterprises, ultimately contributing to their economic stability and self-reliance.

### **5. Market and Exchange Visits to Lingmithang, Monggar**

In March 2024, a market and exchange visit was organized for the farmer groups to enhance their knowledge of production, processing, and marketing strategies.

The visit included:

1. National Post-Harvest Center  
Training on post-harvest management, proper storage, innovative packaging, and quality control measures to minimize losses.
2. Bhutan Agro Industries Limited  
Exposure to value-added processing, including the production of juices, jams, and pickles.
3. Agriculture Research and Development Center  
Introduction to advanced crop cultivation techniques and sustainable farming practices.

Farmers found the visits highly informative, expressing confidence that the knowledge

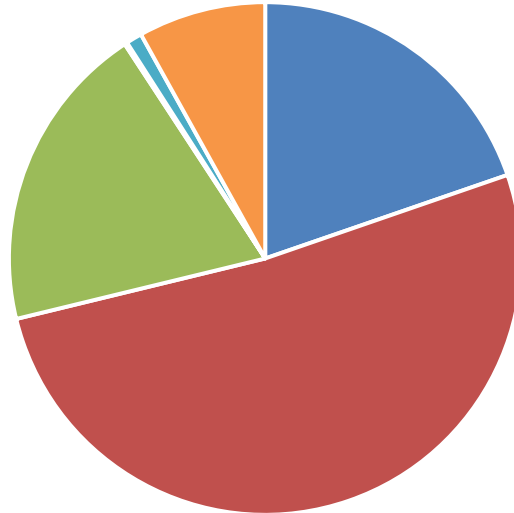
gained would enhance their farming methods, increase productivity, and improve marketing strategies, ultimately leading to economic growth in their communities. Through these agricultural, healthcare, and skill development initiatives, the Nyö Foundation has made substantial contributions to enhancing rural livelihoods, strengthening food security, and empowering farming communities in Bhutan.

These projects reflect our unwavering commitment to sustainable development, economic resilience, and community empowerment. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to expanding our efforts, ensuring that rural communities have access to the resources, knowledge, and opportunities needed to thrive.



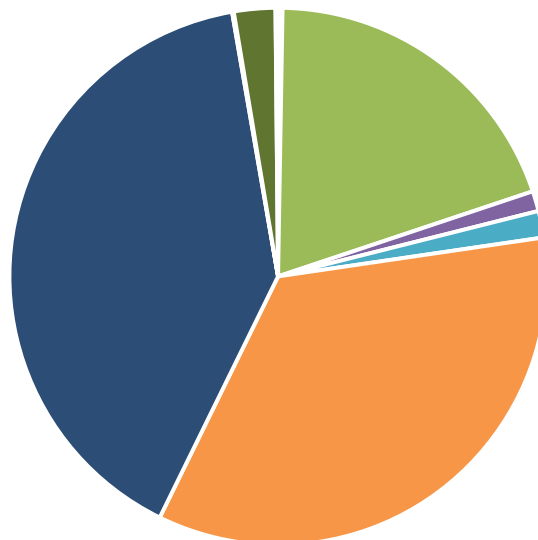
# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## RECIEPTS

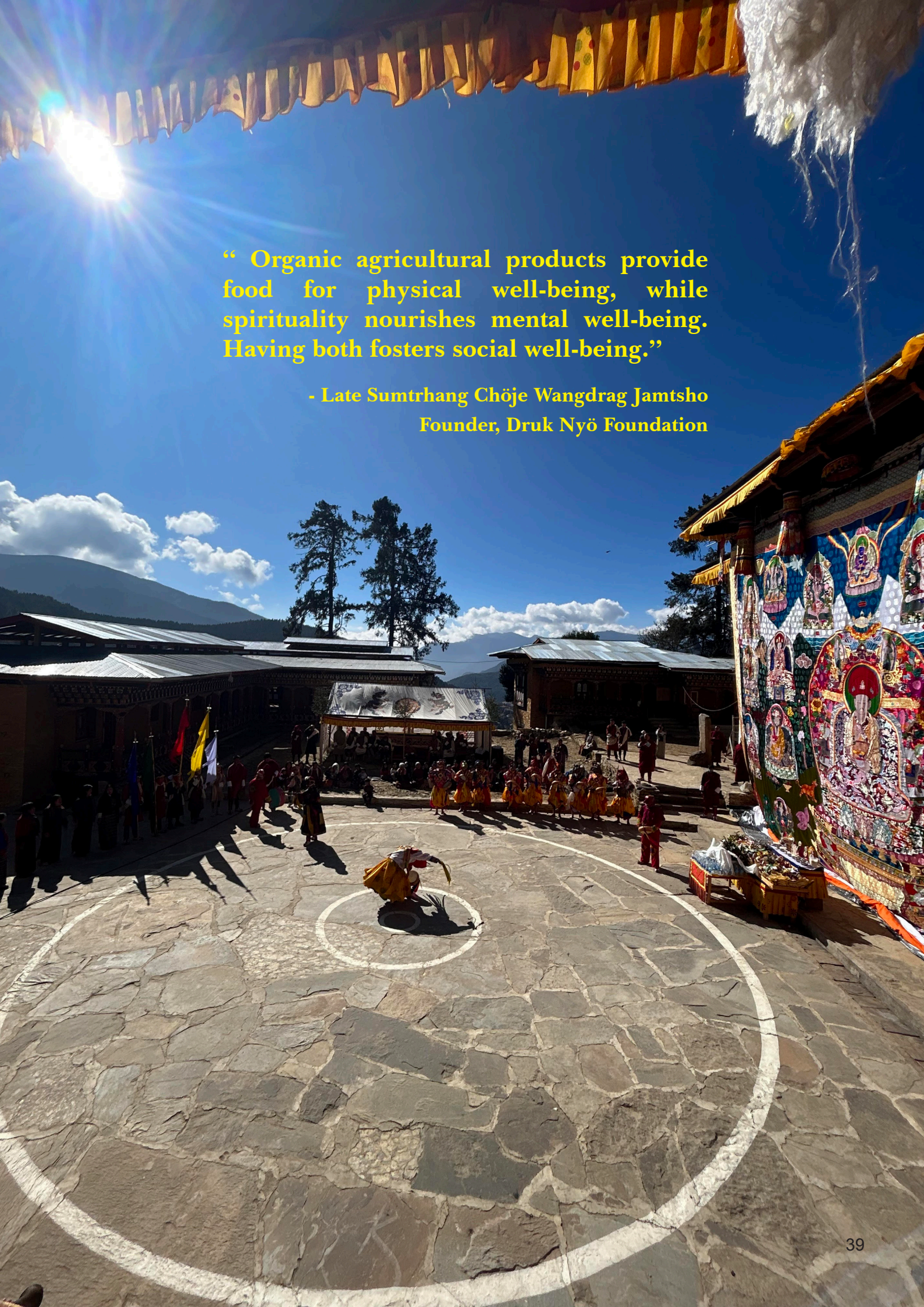


- Opening Balance from 2023 ■ project funds ■ other funds
- Income others ■ Interest earned ■ Contributions

## PAYMENTS



- Printing & Stationery ■ Outstanding Liability ■ Salary
- TDS payable ■ Rent ■ Project costs
- spiritual and culture cost ■ Sponsorship ■ Running & Maintenance
- Office Equipment-Asset ■ Bank Charges



**“ Organic agricultural products provide food for physical well-being, while spirituality nourishes mental well-being. Having both fosters social well-being.”**

**- Late Sumtrhang Chöje Wangdrag Jamtsho  
Founder, Druk Nyö Foundation**

## NEWS & INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

### Appointment of Dungzin Sonam Nyenda as New Executive Director

The Druk Nyo Foundation appointed Dungzin Sonam Nyenda as its new Executive Director on March 1, 2024. His appointment was marked by a small ceremony attended by office staff and project collaborators, signifying a new chapter in the foundation's journey toward sustainable community development and cultural preservation.

Sonam Nyenda, a founding member of the Druk Nyo Foundation, brings extensive academic and leadership experience to his new role. He holds a Master's degree in Religious Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder, USA, and has dedicated over 10 years as a lecturer at the College of Language and Culture Studies in Bhutan.

Before assuming this position, Sonam was pursuing a fully funded PhD at the University of Virginia, USA. However, following the passing of his father, the 28th Sumtrhang Chöje, he made the profound decision to return home to uphold his family's sacred spiritual lineage—one that has been preserved since the 13th century. In addition to his responsibilities at the foundation, he continues to serve as the spiritual heir of Sumtrhang Chöje, committed to maintaining its cultural and spiritual heritage.

Sonam succeeds Sonam Choden, who stepped down as Executive Director to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Hamburg, Germany. Under his leadership, the foundation aims to expand its impact, strengthen community-driven initiatives, and advance its mission of preserving Bhutan's cultural and spiritual heritage while fostering sustainable socio-economic growth.

The Druk Nyo Foundation extends its gratitude to Sonam Choden for her invaluable contributions and warmly welcomes Sonam Nyenda in his new role, looking forward to continued growth and meaningful change under his guidance.



# THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO EUROPE – 2024

In October 2024, the Executive Director of the Nyö Foundation and Dungzin of Sumtrhang Samdrup Chödzong embarked on a productive and insightful visit to Europe, where he engaged in key academic discussions, stakeholder meetings, and collaborative initiatives focused on promoting Bhutanese history, sustainable development, and cultural preservation.

## *International Seminar at the University of Naples, Italy*

At the International Seminar titled “Beyond Borders: Tracing the Historical Dynamics and Transmission Models of Buddhism in Asian Contexts” hosted by the University of Naples, Italy, Nyo Dungzin Sonam Nyenda delivered a compelling presentation on “The Beginning of Buddhism in Bhutan: Exploring the Contributions of Nyö Gyalwa Lhanangpa and Nyöton Thulzhig Chöje.” His presentation aimed to highlight these lesser-known yet significant figures in the history of Bhutanese Buddhism, encouraging



scholars and academics to delve deeper into their contributions. This seminar provided a valuable platform for sharing Bhutan's historical and religious narratives with a global audience.

### ***Stakeholder Engagements in Italy, Bolzano, and Germany***

Following the seminar in Naples, Sonam Nyenda continued his European visit with a series of meetings and discussions in Rome, Bolzano, and Germany, focusing on strengthening existing collaborations and exploring new opportunities for the Nyö Foundation.

### ***Meeting at ASIA Headquarters, Rome***

At the ASIA headquarters in Rome, he had a productive dialogue with the President and management team, discussing ongoing collaborations and potential areas for expanding joint efforts in cultural preservation and education.

### ***Presentation in Bolzano on the Nyö Eco-Cultural Trail***

In the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, the Executive Director presented on the Nyö Eco-Cultural Trail project, an initiative co-funded by Bolzano that aims to promote sustainable tourism while preserving Bhutan's rich natural and cultural heritage. His presentation reinforced the significance of eco-tourism in supporting rural economies and maintaining environmental sustainability.

### ***Participation in ASIA Germany Board Meeting***

In Germany, he attended the ASIA Germany board meeting along with Nyö board member Sonam Choden, where discussions centered on the sustainability of education support projects. He also engaged with prospective supporters on the role of eco-tourism and economic sustainability in Bhutan's rural communities, further advocating for the long-term development plans of the Nyö Foundation.

The Executive Director's visit to Europe was highly successful, fostering deeper academic engagement, strengthening institutional partnerships, and advocating for Bhutan's cultural and environmental sustainability.

## GENEROUS DONATION FROM MISS ANNETTE ROECKL AND ANONYMOUS SUPPORTERS

We are deeply grateful to Miss Annette Roeckl from Munich, Germany, for her generous donation of winter gloves, scarves, and other essential items to our Foundation. While some of the products have minor defects, their overall quality remains exceptional. These items have been invaluable, and we have been fortunate to distribute a substantial number of them as gifts to our local supporters. We would like to thank Mr. Deflet Casper for sponsoring and arranging all the shipment of essential items besides his continued support.

A significant portion of the donated goods has been gifted to villagers and individuals who have played a pivotal role in helping us revive our Kangsöl. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in our efforts, and we are pleased to acknowledge their contributions through this thoughtful gesture.

In addition, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Tower Cafe, Thimphu for their monthly donation and individuals who have supported our monastery and initiatives while choosing to remain anonymous. Their generosity and dedication have been just as vital in sustaining our work, and we honor their contributions with deep appreciation.

There are still many gloves and scarves in our possession, and we look forward to continuing to share these items with our supporters in the future as a token of our gratitude. The kindness of Miss Annette Roeckl and our anonymous donors has not only provided much-needed warmth but has also strengthened the bond between our foundation and the communities we serve.



## LETTER OF GRATITUDE

As we conclude the Wood Dragon year 2024, we take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to the individuals and organizations whose unwavering support, guidance, and generosity have made our work possible.

First and foremost, we extend our profound respect and appreciation to His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche, our esteemed advisor, for his blessings, wisdom, and spiritual guidance, which continue to inspire and strengthen the vision of the Druk Nyo Foundation. His Holiness's presence at Sumtrhang has been an immense source of encouragement and empowerment for our mission.

We also pay tribute to our late Chöje Wangdrak Jamtsho, whose vision, prayers, and dedication laid the foundation for many of the initiatives we continue today. His unwavering commitment to cultural preservation and community empowerment remains a guiding force in our work, and we honor his legacy through our ongoing projects and future aspirations.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our international partners, including ASIA, Italy, and Marwell Wildlife, UK, for their steadfast collaboration in advancing education, enhancing agriculture and food security, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation. Your partnership has allowed us to implement impactful programs that create meaningful, long-term change in Bhutan's rural communities.

A special note of gratitude goes to our donors and funding partners, including PCDM, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Italy, and other generous organizations and individuals who have provided the crucial resources necessary for our projects and offerings to the monastery. Your belief in our mission has enabled us to empower farmers, enhance education, improve healthcare, and preserve Bhutan's rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

To the Sumtrhang Chöje family members, your support, resilience, and commitment to upholding the spiritual and cultural heritage of Sumtrhang have been invaluable in carrying forward this sacred lineage and its contributions to the greater community.

Finally, to our dedicated team, volunteers, local leaders, and the communities we serve, we deeply appreciate your hard work, perseverance, and commitment. The achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to your passion and collective effort.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to preserve Bhutan's cultural heritage, empower communities, and build a sustainable future. With your continued support, we look forward to creating even greater impact in the years ahead.

With deepest gratitude,

Druk Nyo Foundation  
2024

# TEAM & PARTNERS

## ADVISORS

HIS HOLINESS DRIKUNG KYABGOEN CHETSANG RINPOCHE  
the Chair of Global Drikung Community.

VEN. SUMTRHANG DUNGSEY THINLEY NAMGYAL WANGCHUK  
President/Chair Druk Nyo Foundation.

SAMTEN YESHI

Member Secretary, PhD candidate, Leiden University, Netherland

DR. SONAM CHODEN

Advisory Member, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Hamburg, Germany

## EXECUTIVE & MANAGEMENT

SONAM NYENDA Executive Director

KINLEY DORJI Admin/Finance Officer

TSHERING CHOKI Programme Officer

WANGCHEN GYALPO Admin Assistant

## RESEARCH AND EXPERTS

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Tiger project culture expert

PHILIP RIORDAN | LHENDUP THARCHEN

Tiger Experts

LOPEN DORJI GYELTSEN, KHENPO PHUNTSHO GYELTSHEN, KHENPO

TASHI TOBGAY, KHENPO UGYEN NORBU

Tiger data collectors

## VOLUNTEERS

TSHERING OM TAMANG, SCE | PEMBA, New York

## OUR PARTNERS & DONORS



AUTONOME  
PROVINZ  
BOZEN  
SÜDTIROL



PROVINCIA  
AUTONOMA  
DI BOLZANO  
ALTO ADIGE



