

# Initiative spotlight: Bhutan national CSFE



## LESSONS LEARNT:

**Avoiding assumptions in the market assessment ensures that climate-smart actors concentrate on the right efforts.**

- For instance, unlike most CSFEP markets, Bhutan has a history of building with timber. Consequently, the emphasis was not on raising awareness of building with timber but on **understanding the proper use of forests and the consequences of improper use.**

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**Engaging an on-the-ground partner, preferably a conservation NGO, will help balance the conversation to ensure the timber industry and its interests do not overly skew it**

## CONTEXT

- **Bhutan has one of the highest rates of forest cover in the world, at [71%](#)**
- **22,000 houses must be built by 2050 to fulfil the demand for affordable, low-carbon urban housing**
- **Timber-based construction has been part of Bhutan's ecosystem historically; there is an opportunity to return to these methods sustainably**

## CSFEP'S APPROACH AND ROLE

- CSFEP was brought on board alongside [Bauhaus Earth](#) and [Arup](#) to sustainably transform Bhutan's urban construction sector and ultimately **support the Government of Bhutan to create a national climate-smart forest economy**
- The partners began with a scoping mission and then focused on three main activities: developing **Thimphu's 20-year structural plan**, creating a **business case for manufacturing sector** investment, and establishing a timber-based construction research and development unit
- Alongside partners such as Good Energies Foundation and WRI, **CSFEP supported the development of a business case to attract investors** into Bhutan's timber manufacturing sector
- CSFEP serves as the **forestry partner**, advising project partners to ensure that all plans are climate-smart

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## IMPACT

### COMMUNITY

- Establishment of **Bhutan's regenerative value-chain alliance** which brings together stakeholders to improve forest management
- Construction of a **climate-smart pilot building** as a prototype for ecosystem actors
- Development of a business case for securing investment in timber manufacturing, which is expected to result in a **climate-smart manufacturing sector that can supply materials for the built environment in a way that supports the forests**