

Lesson, Practices and Way Forward: Bhutan





Summary

1. Bhutan requires long-term, transformative and **green solutions** for key systems and sectors.
2. Bhutan remains committed to **inclusive, low-carbon and resilient development**.
3. Bhutan presented its second **Voluntary National Review** at the UN HLPF in July 2021.
4. Lessons learned from past reviews and the **COVID-19 pandemic** inform this process.



The VNR Process

Bhutan adopted a participatory and inclusive approach, engaging stakeholders across government and non-government agencies.

SDG awareness, indicator adoption, and data availability have improved since the first VNR.



Economic flagship programs focus on sustainable tourism, organic agriculture, SMEs, water, waste, and digital transformation.

Bhutan has adopted national climate, REDD+, and environmental policies to manage climate change impacts.



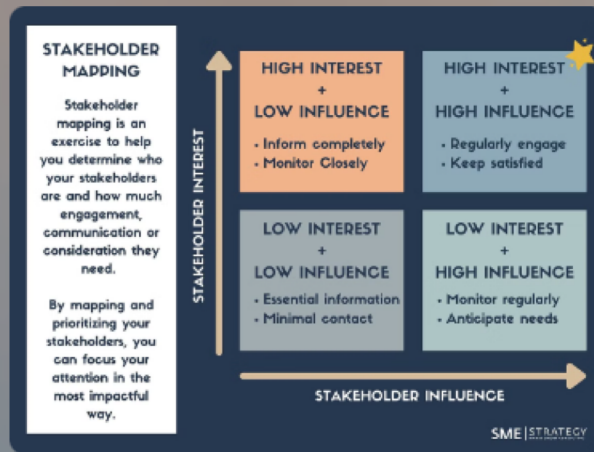
Challenges and Climate Vulnerability

Bhutan remains highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and natural disasters, threatening nature-dependent livelihoods and hydropower-agriculture economy.

Maintaining carbon neutral status faces pressure to accelerate economic growth, incurring high adaptation and mitigation costs.

Climate change poses serious threats to Bhutan's nature-dependent livelihoods and hydropower-agriculture based economy.





Stakeholder Engagement Challenges

1

Identifying and Balancing Diverse Stakeholders

Identifying and balancing diverse stakeholders can be context-specific and challenging.

2

Meaningful Participation

Meaningful participation requires broad access to information, capacity support, and clear government commitment to openness.



Conclusion and Future Steps

Fostering meaningful stakeholder engagement throughout the VNR process can enhance accountability for SDG implementation.

An inclusive and comprehensive approach to sustainable development is key-Private Sector Involvement

Public Services, education, data management and disaster preparedness

Low- Carbon and resilient development pathway

