

Reducing the impact of Human Wildlife Conflict on rural poverty in Bhutan

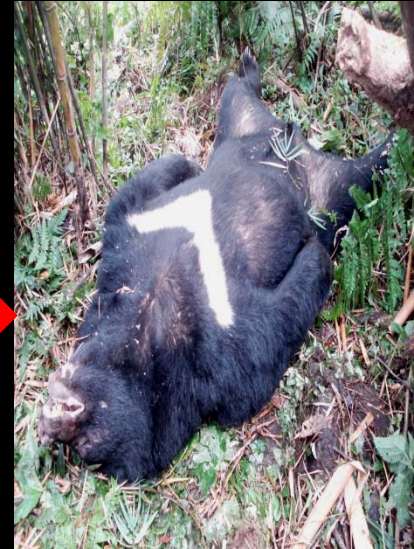
Department of Forests and Park Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

Manifestations of Human Wildlife Conflicts in Bhutan

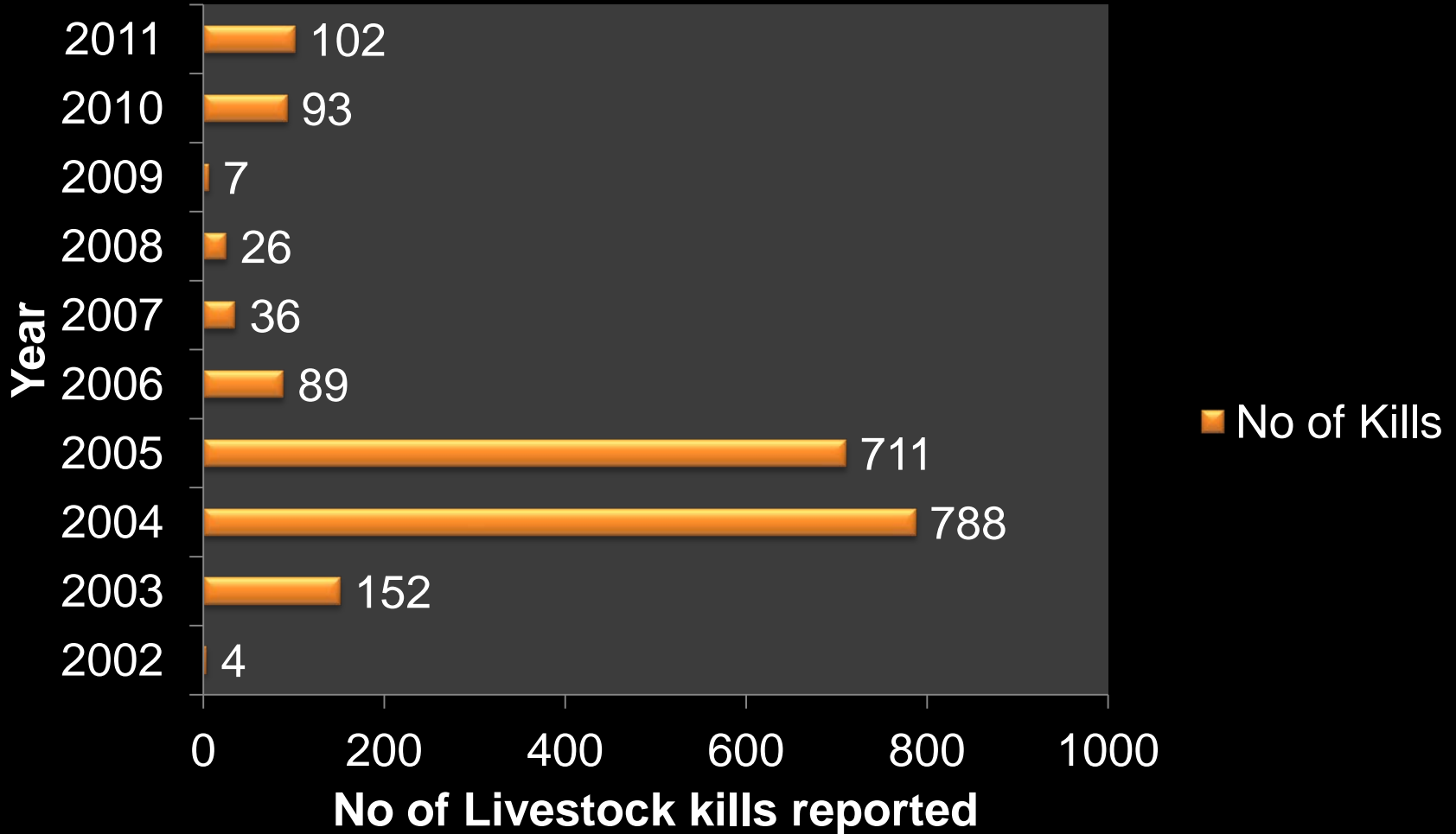


0 9,500 19,000 38,000 57,000 76,000
Meters

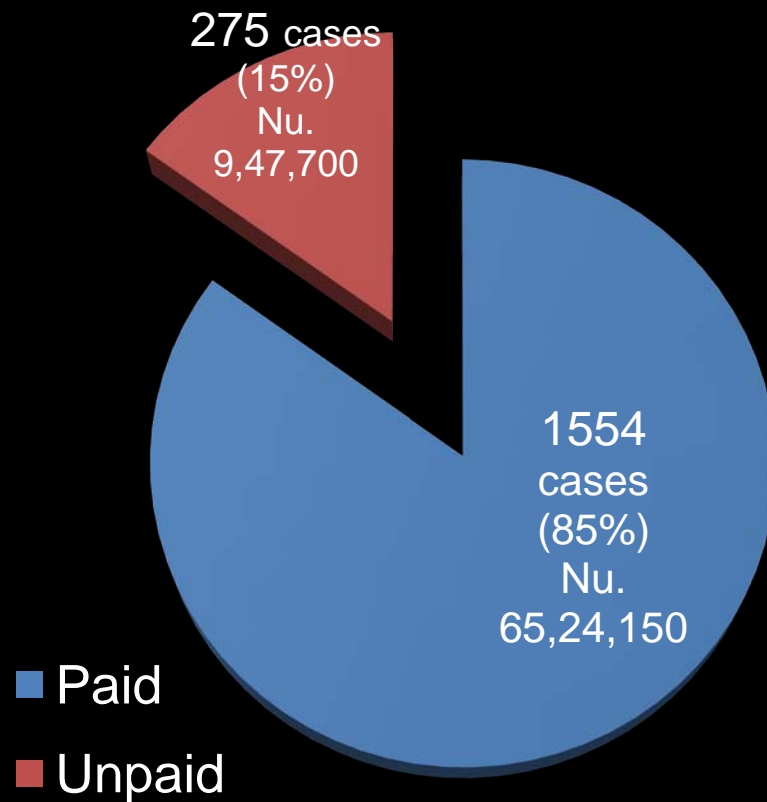
HWC: Rural Hardship, An Economic Loss and a Threat to Wildlife Conservation



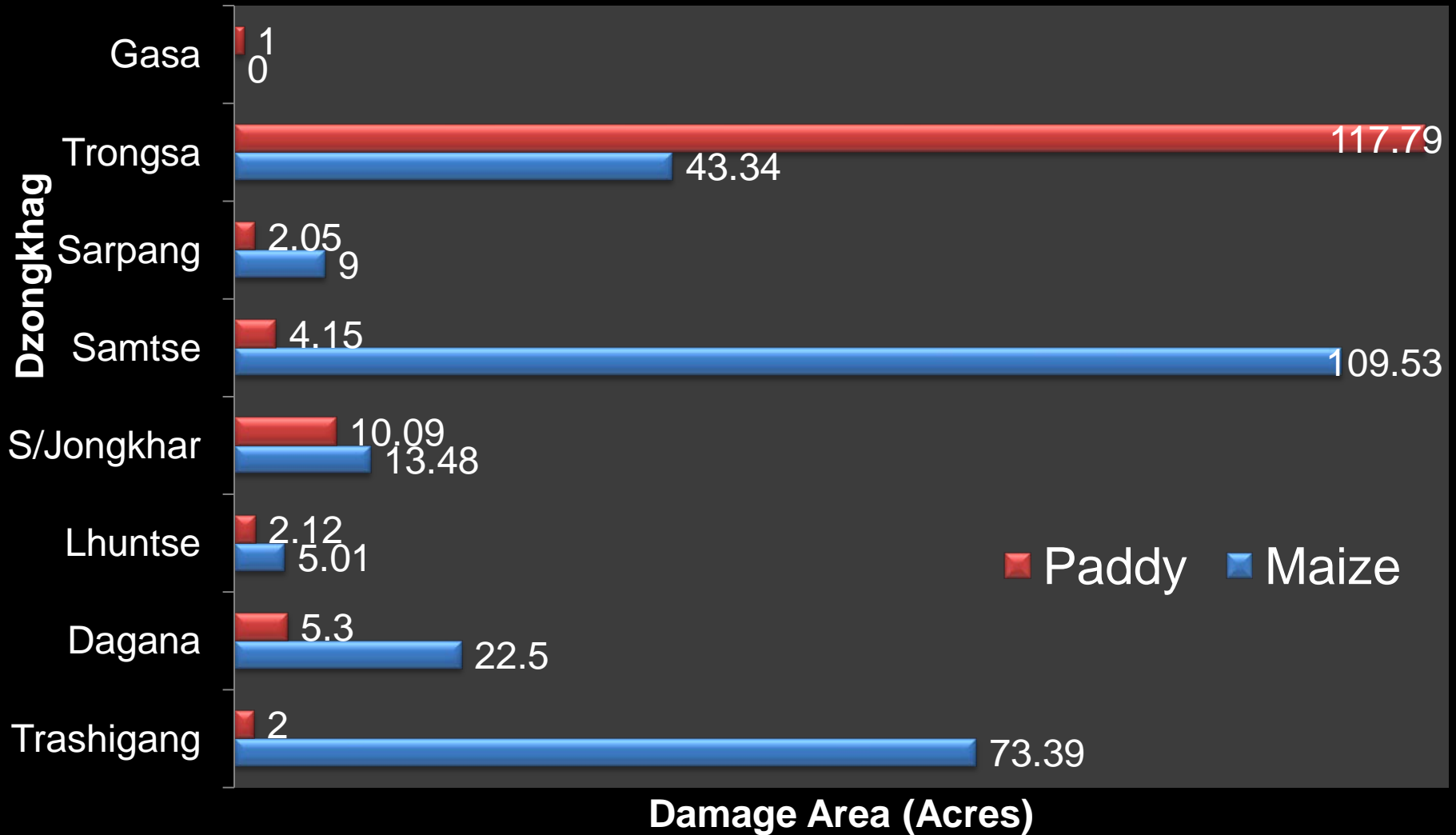
Livestock Kill Data



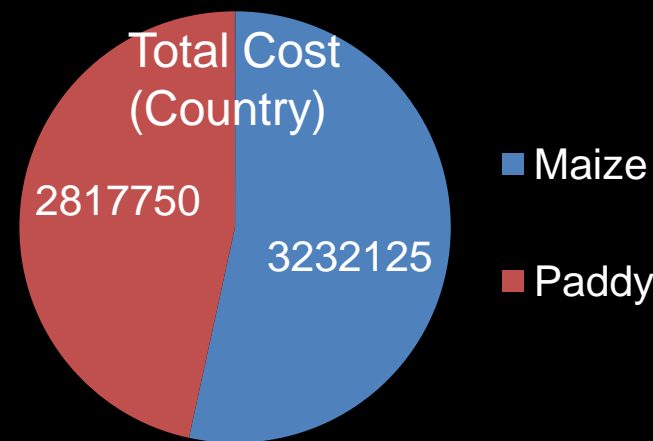
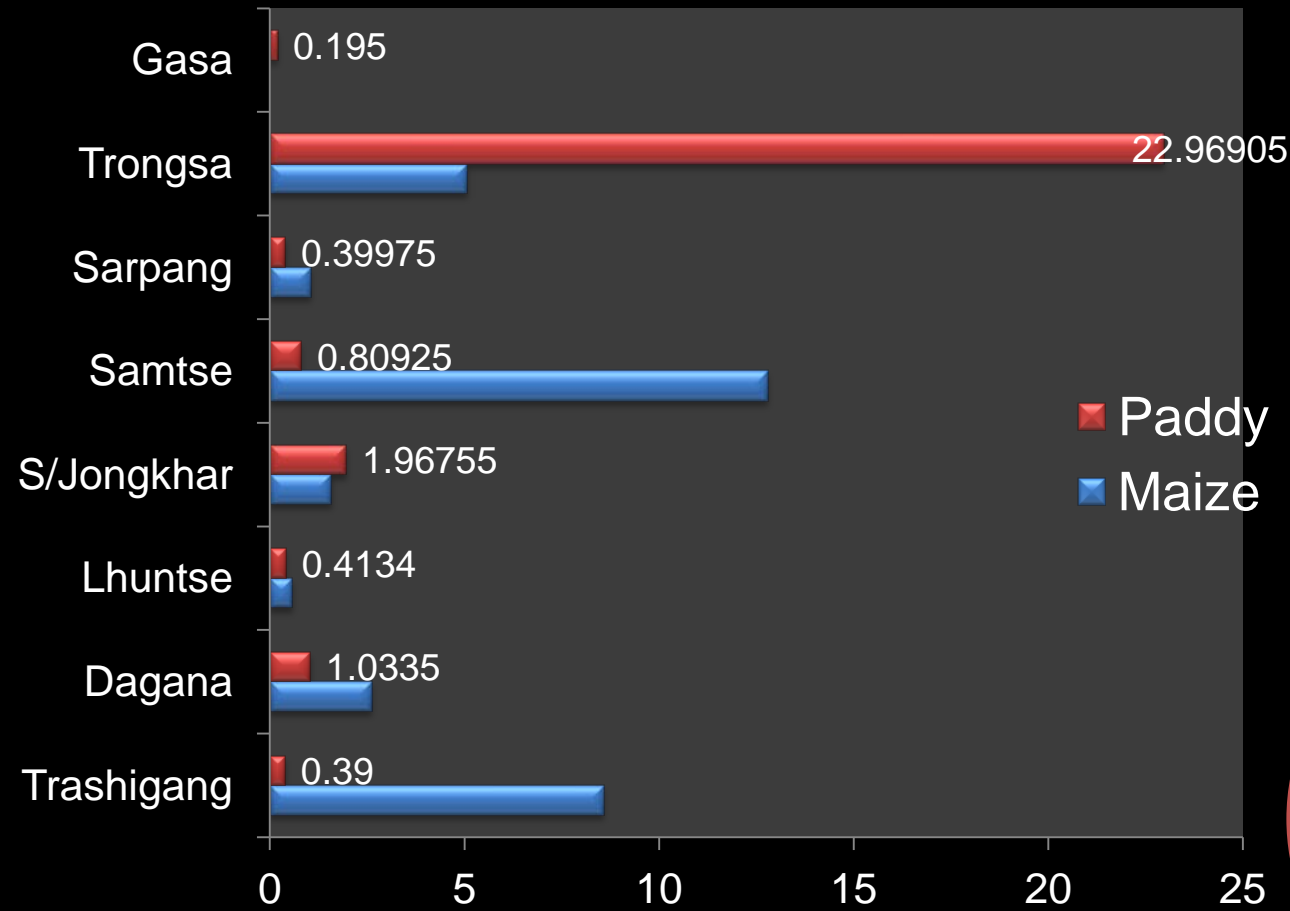
Livestock Cash Compensation Details



Crop Damage Reported Data



Damage in Ngultrum (in millions)



Developing a sustainable financing mechanism to compensate the damages by wildlife.

- Endowment Fund for Human Wildlife Conflict Management.
 - The Fund raised through various donations.
 - Current Status of Fund: Nu.4.2m
 - Fund Investment with BTFEC.
 - Investment returns finance the formation of GCC (currently 8 GECCs formed)

Fund Raising Program

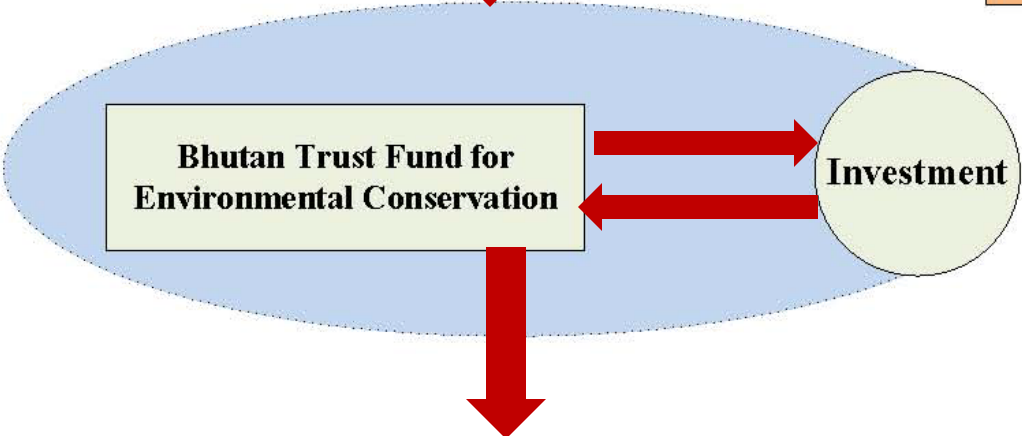
National Donations
Private Sectors
Corporate Sectors
Government Agencies
International Agencies
Individuals

**FUND
RAISED**

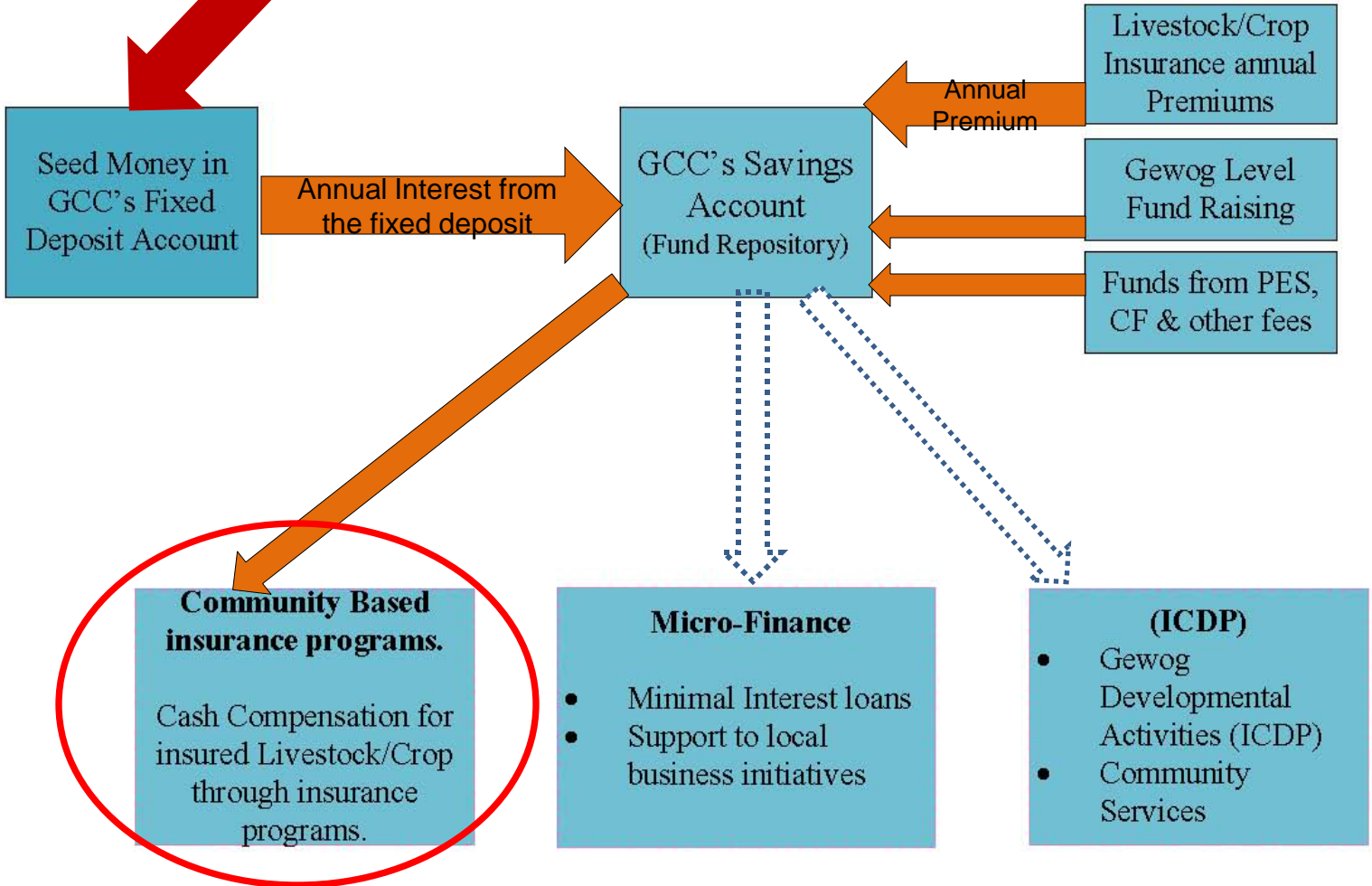
**International
donations**

**Human Wildlife Conflict Management
Endowment Fund**

**Collection of Entry
Fees**
Bhutan Takin Preserve,
etc...



Gewog Conservation Committee (GCC)



Community Based insurance programs.
Cash Compensation for insured Livestock/Crop through insurance programs.

Micro-Finance

- Minimal Interest loans
- Support to local business initiatives

(ICDP)

- Gewog Developmental Activities (ICDP)
- Community Services

Community Based Insurance Program

1. Livestock Insurance Programs
2. Crop Insurance programs.

Implementation Mechanism:

- Functions as a semi-government office under the Gewog Administration.
- Each Chiwog is represented by Tshogpas.
- Farmers are invited to insure their livestock or crop against wildlife damage.

Implementation mechanism.

- GECC operates two bank accounts viz. Fixed Deposit Account and Savings Account
- Seed money from HWC Endowment Fund (Fixed Deposit Account)
- Community pays annual premium for insuring crop/livestock with the GECC (Savings Accounts).
- Community raises fund through fund raising events and other donations (Savings account)

Implementation mechanism.

- Community decides on the amount of premium they want to pay for each livestock/acre of crop land.
- Based on the premium paid: compensation= 10x, 5x or 2.5x the premium paid depending on the breed of livestock or type of crop.
- Compensation fund is the annual premium and the annual bank interest from the fixed deposit account and other voluntary donations.

Implementation mechanism.

- The balance in the savings account can be used for:
 - Micro-credits programs for the members.
 - Financing small conservation related development projects.
- OR it will add to the principal seed money in the fixed deposit account.

Challenges

- Insurance companies view wildlife insurance as a undertaking beyond their risk level.
- Lack of funds for the seed money.
 - Compensation claims exceeding the allocated funds.
- Government Rate Vs GECC Rate.
- Wildlife kill Vs natural or accidental death of insured animals.
- Lack of understanding among the community on importance of wildlife conservation.

Harmonious Coexistence



THANK YOU
Tashi Delek