

Embassy of India
Thimphu

Press release : Punatsangchhu - 2 Hydroelectric Power Project hands over Mahseer Conservation and Fish Monitoring Centre, Wangdue Phodrang to the Royal Government of Bhutan.

In an effort to safeguard the local biodiversity of Wangdue Phodrang, the Punatsangchhu - 2 Hydroelectricity Project Authority (PHPA - II) handed over a state-of-the-art Mahseer Conservation and Fish Monitoring Center to the Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan.

Golden Mahseer (*Tor Putitora*) is a large migratory riverine fish found in South-East Asia and is the largest fish found in Bhutan's rivers. The majestic fish holds high religious and cultural significance in Bhutan. It is revered as one of the eight auspicious signs in Bhutan, namely *Sernya* : The Golden Fish. An endangered species, the Golden Mahseer is a Schedule-I protected species under the Forest and Nature Conservation Rules of Bhutan, 2006.

The ground breaking ceremony of the project was carried out on 7th November 2015 by the then Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay. Located in the Athang Gewog in Wangdue Phodrang, this centre will help in the breeding and seed production of Golden Mahseer and other fish varieties native to the region. The centre has been constructed at a cost of Nu./Rs. 151.53 million by PHPA - II.

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