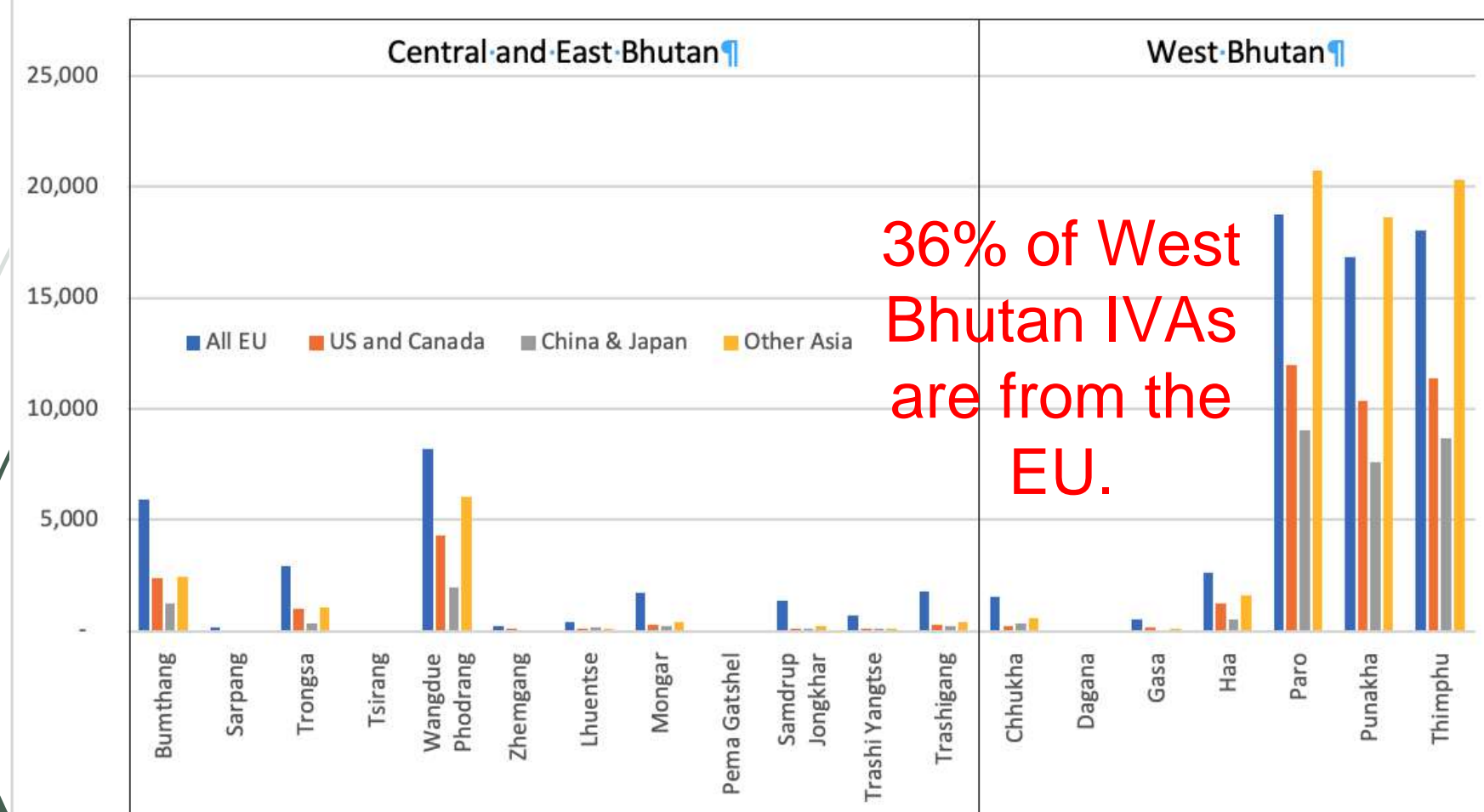


Sixteen products, four destinations, one green country -  
Low carbon products and packages

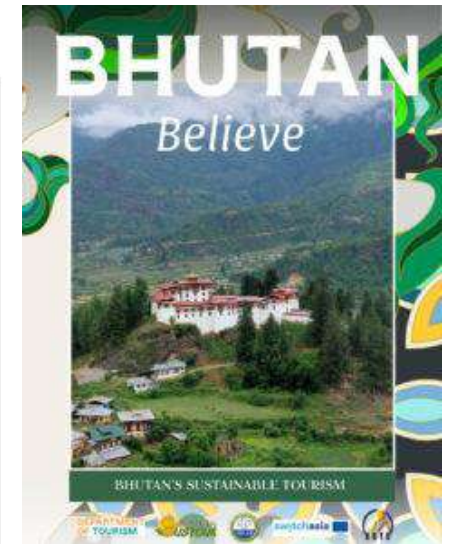
Robin Boustead, tourism sustainability expert,  
SUSTOUR Bhutan (07.03.2024)

79% of IVAs only visit West Bhutan

International Visitor Distribution Across Bhutan (2019)

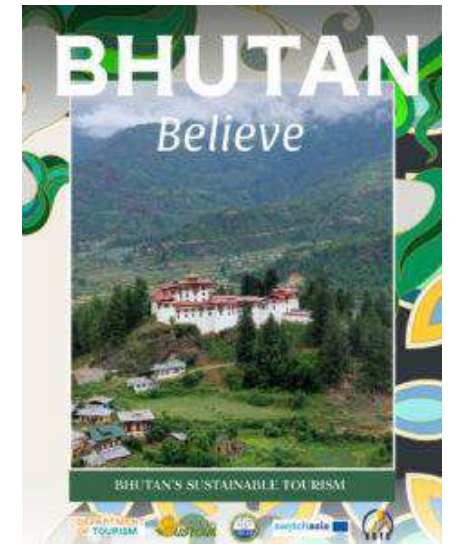


36% of West Bhutan IVAs are from the EU.



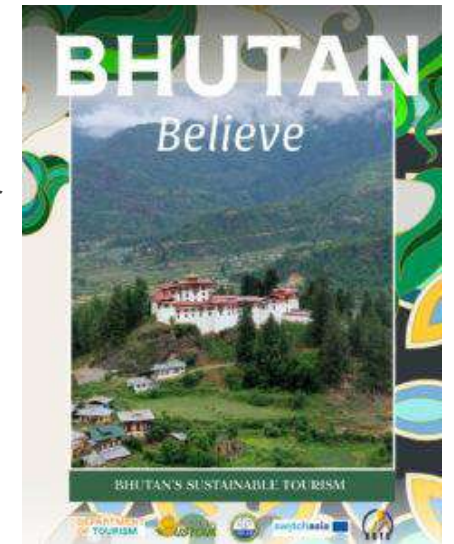
## Low Carbon Packages and Products

- ❑ Internal transportation – did not include international transport in the impact comparison as with only 2 airlines (duopoly) there is no chance for reduction at present.
- ❑ Accommodation based on Bhutan Green Hotels Standard.
- ❑ Meal choices – locally themed for variety and ingredient selection.
- ❑ Activities and Waste – 1.5hrs human-powered per day, waste minimisation and recycling reduces direct and indirect waste to 2.5kg/day (2.32kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kg)
- ❑ Other criteria (1) positive social impacts: livelihoods, biodiversity, gender and youth employment (2) packages from the ALoS and longer.
- ❑ Products reviewed by popularity, then surveyed and comparative assessments of potential impacts.



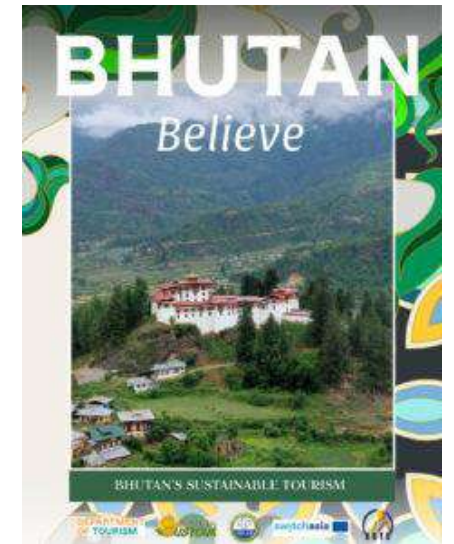
## Product and Packages Impact Actions

- **Sustainable Driving Practices** - lower speed limit effectively reduces vehicular emissions, contributing to cleaner air and a reduction in noise pollution.
- **EV Fleets on all Tours** - Using Electric Vehicles (EVs) during tours offers significant benefits aligned with the nation's sustainability ethos. EVs reduce carbon emissions, supporting Bhutan's commitment to remaining carbon neutral and preserving its pristine environment.
- **Human Powered Activity** per day for a minimum of 1.5 hours - such as hiking and biking, directly contribute to sustainable tourism by minimising carbon emissions and environmental impact. These activities promote health and wellness, offer immersive cultural and natural experiences, and support local economies by engaging with community-based services, embodying Bhutan's principles of environmental conservation and Gross National Happiness.



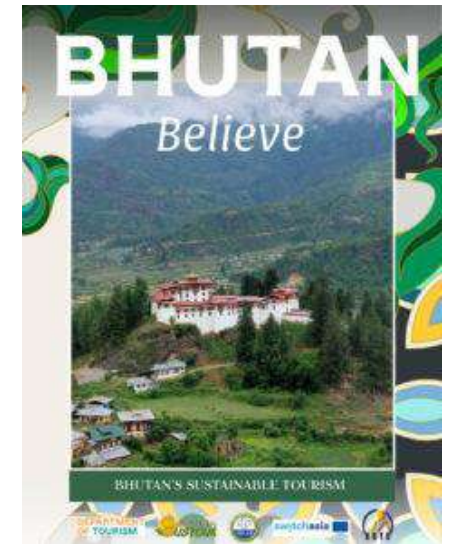
## Product and Packages Impact Actions

- ❑ **Locally Owned Accommodations & Restaurants** - Staying in local hotels and dining at local restaurants enriches the tourism experience by fostering authentic cultural exchanges and providing insights into Bhutanese lifestyle and cuisine. It supports local economies, sustains traditional crafts and culinary heritage, and promotes sustainable tourism practices by reducing the carbon footprint associated with international chains.
- ❑ **Stay at Certified Bhutan Green Hotels** - Staying in certified green hotels in Bhutan supports environmental conservation through energy efficiency and use of renewable resources, enriches your travel experience by immersing you in authentic Bhutanese culture, and promotes local economies by sourcing locally.
- ❑ For more information regarding the Bhutan Low Carbon Tours, please contact SUSTOUR.



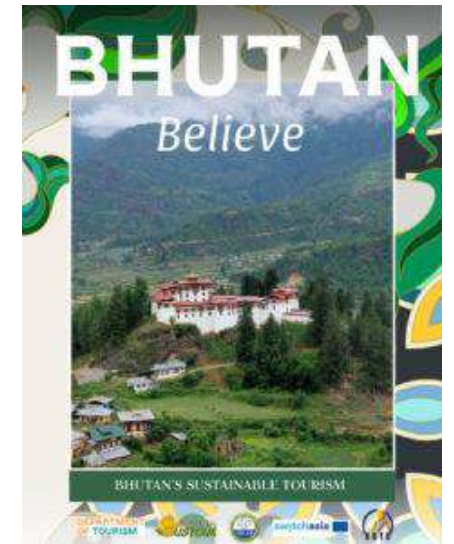
## Examples of Packages Reviewed

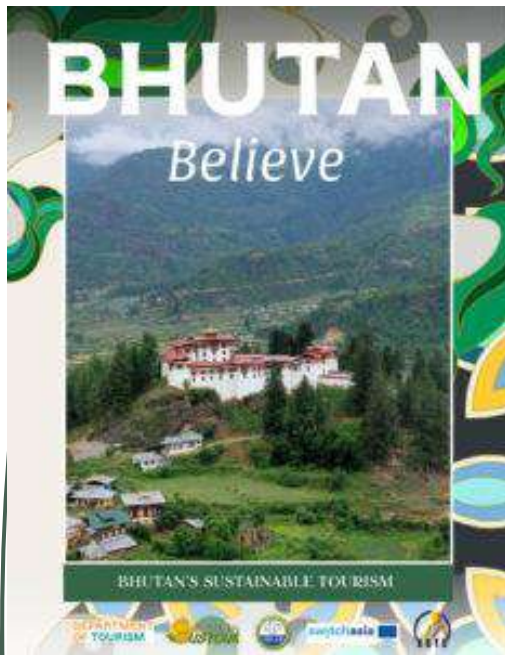
- Classic Bhutan – 10 days – Thimpu – Gangtey – Punakha – Paro - Haa
  - Pre-2020 typical GHG emissions = 479kgCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - Low Carbon Tour option = 176kgCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Bhutan in Style – 7 days – Thimpu – Punakha – Paro
  - Pre-2020 typical GHG emissions = 4378kgCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - Low Carbon Tour option = 144kgCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Druk Path Trek – 11 days – Paro – 4 nights Camping – Thimpu – Punakha – Paro
  - Pre-2020 typical GHG emissions = 340kgCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - Low Carbon Tour option = 118kgCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Overall average reductions attained -63%, with a range of -56% to -66%.
- Simple choices can have BIG impacts!



## Specific Impact Outcomes

- Bhutan ALoS is 7 days. For our 6 packages the average is 8.2 days representing an average in-country spend increase of 17%.
- Pre-2020 itinerary average GHG emissions came from 24% land transport – 50% Accommodation / 20% food / 7% Activities & Waste.
- By making Low Carbon Choices we could reduce emissions by 63% from an average of 341kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/clientday to 128kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/clientday.
- New Low Carbon Itineraries: 0% from land transport / 66% Accommodation / 26% Food / 9% Activities and Waste.
- Now the emphasis is on accommodation reductions through the Bhutan Green Hotel Standard.
- Perfect Bhutan, 7 days, average 15.55kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/day, whereas average EU per capita GHG emissions = 21.3kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/day

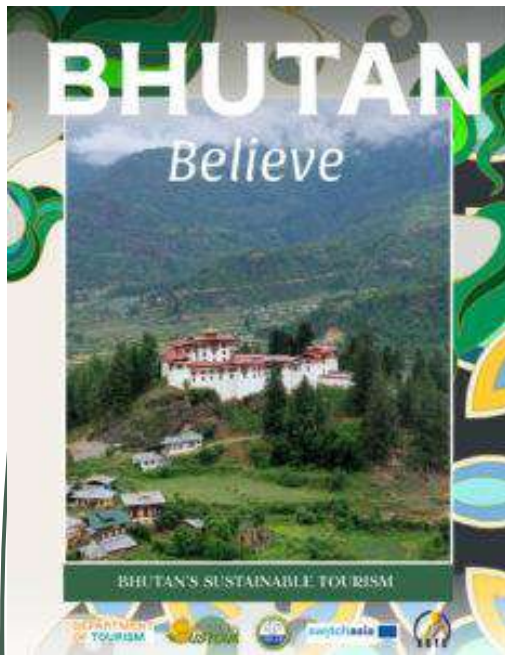




Bhutan Low carbon products and packages – more information:

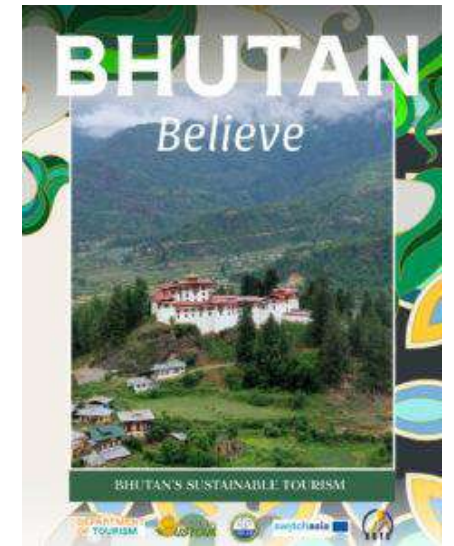
Robin Boustead, [r.boustead@travelife.info](mailto:r.boustead@travelife.info)

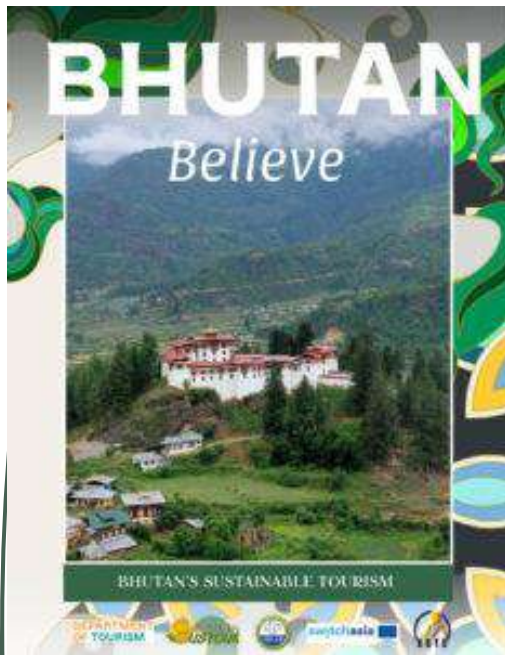




Sustainable Development Fee –  
where does the visa fee go?

Mr. Tashi Tenzin, Department of Tourism (07.03.2024)





# Pathways for a Green Bhutan - Interactive Panel Discussion