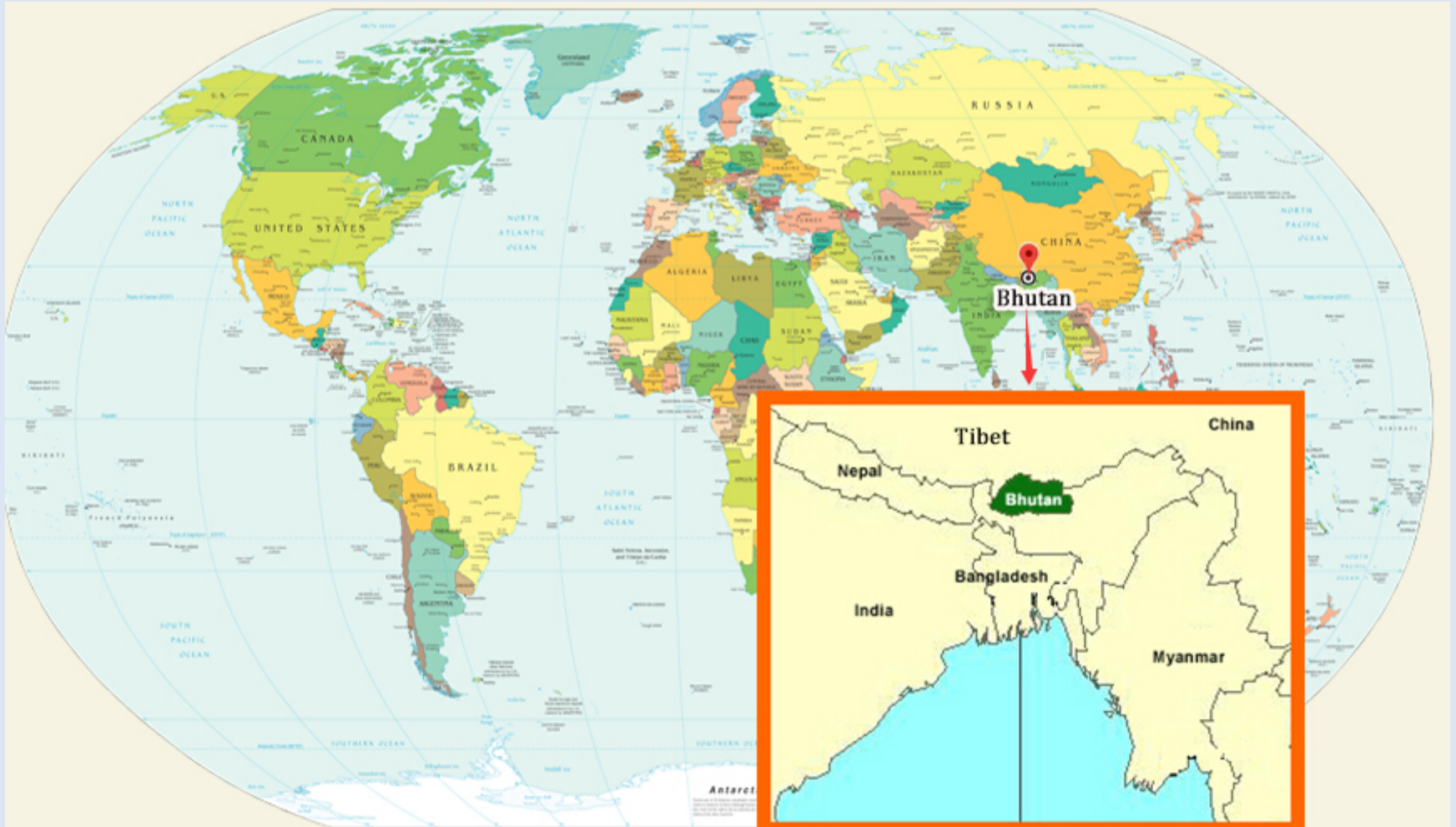




Bhutan and Gross National Happiness

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Bhutan – A small country in the Himalayas



Bhutan – The facts

Name: Bhutan, Druk Yul in Bhutanese language, land of the thunder dragon

Capital: Thimphu

Government: parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Area: 38.394 km²

Population: 750.125

Density: 19 per km² (196th)

Currency: Ngultrim

Buddhism: Buddhismus

GDP: 2.780 EUR per capita (130th)

How was Gross National Happiness (GNH) started...

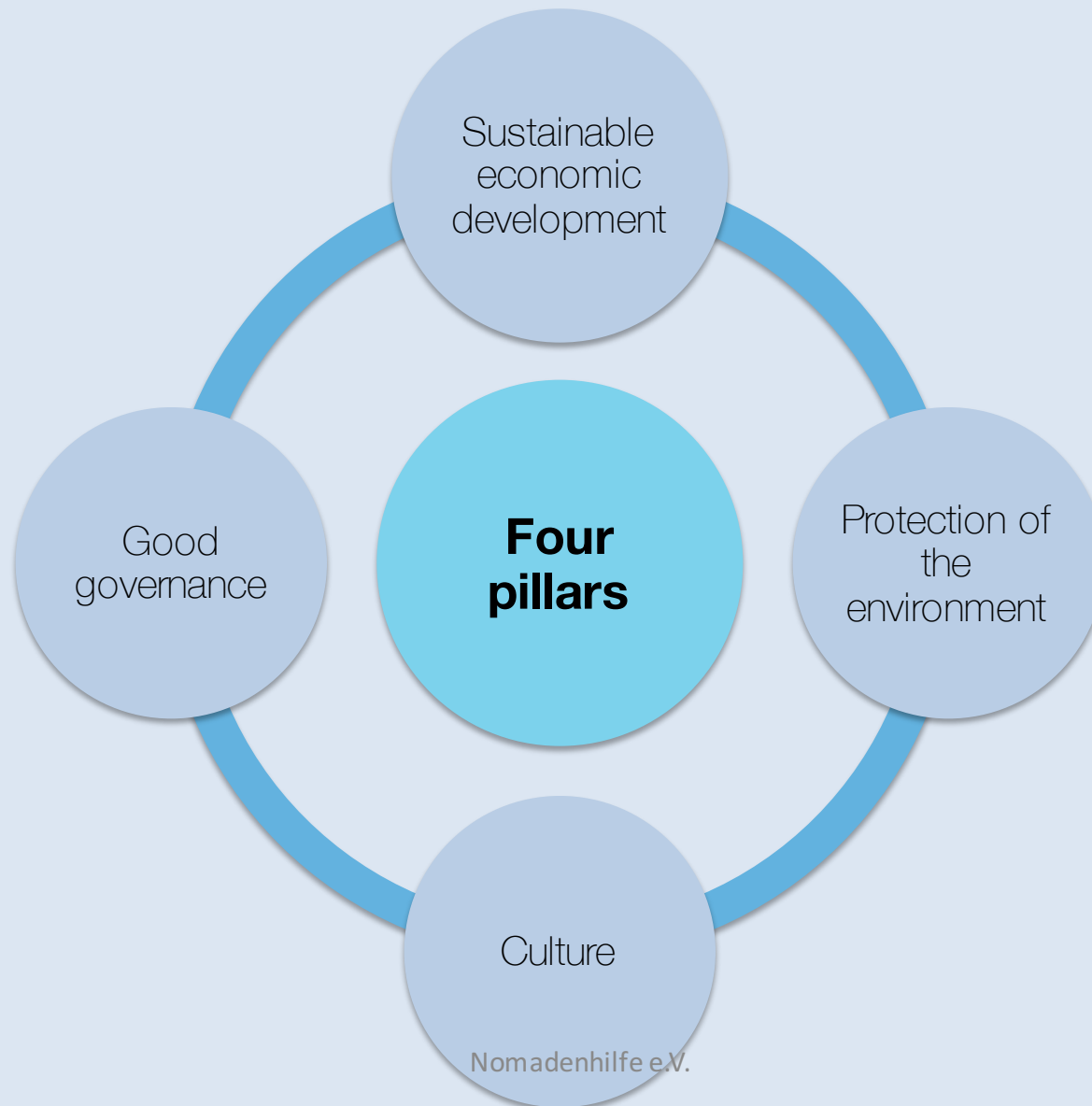
„If the government cannot create happiness for their people,
there is no purpose for the government to exist“

Bhutan, 1729



„Gross national happiness is more important than
gross national product“,
Jigme Sangye Wangchuk, 4. king of Bhutan, 1972

... and what does it mean?





GNH surveys

1.1 – PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

Sense of happiness and satisfaction

Q14. Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?

<i>Hap</i>	Not at all										Very happy
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Q15. Please think deeply and tell me, what are the most important things (sources) that will make you lead a truly happy life?

	Record Answer Below	Code
<i>HapSc1</i>		
<i>HapSc2</i>		
<i>HapSc3</i>		
<i>HapSc4</i>		
<i>HapSc5</i>		

Q16. How happy did you feel yesterday?

<i>yhap</i>	Not at all										Very happy
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Q17. What is your desired happiness condition?

<i>dhap</i>	Not at all										Very happy
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Q18. Taking all things together, how happy would you say you will be in the future, say within five years from now?

<i>fhap</i>	Less happier than now					Same happy as now			More happier than now				
	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0			1	2	3	4	5

1.4 – EDUCATION

Historical literacy

Q63. How would you rate your knowledge and understanding of the following?

		Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
Legend1	Local legends and folktales	5	4	3	2	1
Legend2	Historical events of our kings	5	4	3	2	1
Legend3	National Day (<i>Gyalyong Duechhen</i>)	5	4	3	2	1
Legend9	Names of the five Kings of Bhutan	5	4	3	2	1

Q64. How aware are you about Gross National Happiness (*Gyalyong Gakid Palzom*)?

gnh1	Yes, I have heard of it and have a good understanding of what it is	Yes, I have heard of it and have some understanding about what it is	Yes, I have heard of it but I'm unsure what it is	Not at all
	4	3	2	1

Cultural literacy

Q65. How would you rate your knowledge and understanding of the following?

		Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
Fest1	Local <i>tshechu</i> /festivals conducted every year (e.g., <i>lomba</i> , <i>kharam</i> , <i>lha</i> , <i>roop</i> , <i>kharphe</i> , <i>chodpa</i> , etc.)	5	4	3	2	1
Fest3	Traditional Bhutanese songs (<i>zhungdra</i> and <i>boedra</i>). (Do you know the lyrics to some of the traditional songs?)	5	4	3	2	1

Civic literacy

Q66. Do you know the minimum age to be eligible to vote in elections?

PtNm		◀Record age in years. [Enter "888" for Don't know]
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Q67. Do you know the names of the four political parties who contested in the primary round in 2013?

PdNm1	None	One party	Two parties	Three parties	Four parties
	0	1	2	3	4

1.6 – GOOD GOVERNANCE

Participation in *zomdue*

Q80. In the past 12 months, have you attended a *zomdue*?

<i>Zom1</i>	Yes	No	Not applicable
	2	1	9
If 'No' or 'Not applicable', Go To Q84			

Q81. How many times, in the past 12 months, have you attended *zomdue* at...

<i>Zom2</i>	Village/ <i>chiwog</i> level		◀Record number of times (If not applicable enter 99)
<i>Zom3</i>	Gewog level		◀Record number of times (If not applicable enter 99)
<i>Zom6</i>	Thromdey level		◀Record number of times (If not applicable enter 99)

Q82. Did you speak at the *zomdue*?

<i>Zom4</i>	Yes	No
	2	1
If 'No', Go to Q84		

Q83. How often did you speak?

<i>Zom5</i>	Every time	Most of the times	Sometimes
	3	2	1

<http://www.grossnationalhappiness.com/Questionnaire/Questionnaire2014.pdf>

1. Protection of the environment



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Protection of the environment – What does that mean?

- > At least 60 percent of the country have to be forests. At the moment its even 70 percent.
- > Bhutan is the only carbon negative land in the world
- > ecological diversity: animals, plants
- > Bhutan is the country with the highest proportion of national parks.
- > Bhutan is planning to be the first only organic country in the worlds
- > plastic bags are forbidden

2. A sustainable socio-economic development



A sustainable socio-economic development – What does that mean?

- > Bhutan still belongs to the least developed countries (LDCs), 12 percent of the population living below the poverty line.
- > The government is trying to support people in need: central schools, subsidies for remote areas...
- > A high effort is made to offer a good school education to all children of the country
- > Economic projects often concentrate on local goods and culture.
- > All economic projects have to be in line with the concept of GNH and environmental protection.

3. Conservation of culture



Conservation of culture – What does it mean?

- > From early childhood on children are introduced to their own culture: songs and dances, traditional clothes instead of school uniforms, meditation in schools
- > Religious festivals and celebration of the king's family members' birthday
- > traditional clothes are obligatory in many situations
- > A lot of monasteries and temples
- > Media promote Bhutanese culture: Bhutanese films on TV, in cinema...

4. Good governance



Good governance – What does it mean?

- > A democracy since 2008
- > The king's family still plays a very important role and is engaged in many areas.
- > The king and also the ministers try to keep close contact to the people. They travel through the country a lot and visit remote areas.

GNH's role in the world





Similar goals everywhere

The main goals of GNH are similar to the main goals of global concepts, like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many countries try to develop their own happiness concept.