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Summary

Global freshwater biodiversity is under threat from overexploitation, water pollution, flow modification, destruction or degradation of habitat and invasion by exotic species. Despite this only few broad scale conservation planning efforts have targeted the freshwater ecosystem and biodiversity, and freshwater biodiversity is an afterthought for most of the policymakers, water resource managers, and even conservationists. Besides, there has been minimal consideration of freshwater ecosystems in identifying and designing protected areas. In Bhutan too the current conservation policy lacks clear directive on freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, and hence aquatic biodiversity has remained a gap even after 18 years of formulating the first Biodiversity Action Plan in 1997. Therefore, current study will review the current protected area system, analyse conservation related policies in the country to identify the opportunities and challenges for freshwater ecosystem and biodiversity conservation within and outside existing protected areas, and explore way forward for optimum use of existing PAs for freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

Research Expertise

- Odonata diversity in Bhutan
- Freshwater macroinvertebrates of Bhutan
- Freshwater biodiversity conservation