

Project Update: July 2008

As a part of the project, community consultations and eco-club orientations are being carried out. Recently focused group discussions were carried with the local community based anti-poaching operations (CBAPO) teams in the area. The discussions focused on threats and issues on freshwater conservation. Major freshwater species like endangered dolphins, critically endangered gharials and vulnerable otters were covered in the discussions. Members of the CBAPO elaborated on previous status, distribution and present situation of these animal populations in the area.

Sighting their local level knowledge on these species and the geography of the area, members of the CBAPO will also mobilized for the final survey of otters in the area. For this purpose also, these individuals were oriented on the survey techniques for otters.

As a part of awareness and orientations for conservation of freshwater ecosystem, posters have been developed and printed. The poster covers major aquatic animals like dolphin, gharial and otter. It briefly described ecology of each animal and also presents a list of possible actions that can be taken by local communities for conservation of these species and the freshwater ecosystem as a whole. These posters have been distributed to eco-club members and people residing in the close proximity of the river system.



Seasonal settlements like these destroy Otter habitats during the low water levels



A youth reads the poster on aquatic animals of Karnali River during a focussed group discussion



Consultation with the local communities



Members of Community based anti-poaching team participate in a discussion with the Lead researcher to identify threats and issues