

Project Update: January 2016

We have done biodiversity conservation planning in all the five proposed villages. Convergence with government agencies and civil societies is going on to implement proposed work as per schedule. Community-based institutions system for biodiversity conservation has been set up and running systemically. The experience sharing workshop with academicians and conservation practitioner to improve prepared village biodiversity conservation plans has been scheduled in the first week of February 2016. After the workshop, I will send the final project report. The project updates for September-November 2015 are as follow:

Tor neolissochilus local name '*mahaseer*' is an endangered fish species found in the Ram Ganga River. In the breeding session, the fish migrate upwards direction and downwards in the onset of winter to release their eggs. During planning exercise, we came to know that fish hunters with few local people make a trap (single outlet stone-mud barrier locally known goda) in the river. Therefore, the fish ambush while moving downwards. We with local community spotted such four fish hunting units and came forward to stop this. Local institutions registered a complaint against fishermen and did protest to stop this illegal activity. As a result of the protest, the government agreed to make a proper arrangement to stop unrestrained fish hunting. Additionally, Fisheries Department of the state government gave a written agreement to us to establish fish ponds for local community whose income fully dependent on fish to sustain their livelihood.



Picture 1: Single outlet stone-mud barrier to catch fish '*goda*'. Picture 2: Discussion meeting to protect '*Tor neolissochilus*'.