

## Project Update: December 2015

My project has provided its first round training for 12 district administrative leaders (Picture 1) on ecological and socioeconomic roles of wetland habitats, the roles of wetlands for conservation of threatened wildlife with particular emphasis for wattled cranes.



Picture 1: Taken while providing training (21 Nov, 2015)

At end of training the participants mentioned that, they recognised wetlands as wetland in landscape, and encouraged the conversion of the wetlands to croplands. Because of this misunderstanding, many wetlands were converted to croplands for the purpose of growing crops in dry seasons on wetland soils to ensure household food security. Consequently, the associated ecological and socioeconomic values of wetland are lost in the past decades. Now, this training helped us to understand the values of wetlands for the wellbeing our peoples, the environment and biodiversity, and it inspired us conserve the remaining wetlands in the district.

Thus, to ensure sustainable management of wetlands for the wellbeing of people, environment and cranes the participants are decided to conduct volunteer conservation advocacy together with the project. Accordingly, they have selected one village from their district to provide training for the local community. To conduct the planned training and conservation advocacy the participants are delegate two individuals to facilitate the training programme in the selected village and training will be conducted in the coming months.

Picture 2: Taken at the end of thinning (21 Nov, 2015)

