

Project Update: September 2016

Training of research assistants and Field reconnaissance survey

Two days training on survey protocols for 10 field staff as research assistants has been completed. The training focused mainly on the methods to be used, birdwatching and identification techniques and filling the data collection formats. Two days reconnaissance survey for entire study area has been also completed with several practical sessions.



Figure 1 & 2. Two days training and Reconnaissance survey

Public awareness meeting

The first public awareness meeting with community and few institutional persons has been completed. The discussion was focused on conservation of water birds, dam impact on water and sharing and acquiring of indigenous knowledge on importance of water birds from the local peoples. The people were also introduced on the existence of water birds community. The people were informed about the upcoming project and its objectives. Some of the social and cultural values of the water birds were also stressed during the community awareness meeting. Since an idea is first of kind and quite new, people came up with different responses before supporting this new conservation approach.



Figure 3 & 4. Institutional and community people present their views during the awareness

Commencement of field survey

A field survey was conducted in upper region of Chamkhar River from September 2016 to assess the water bird species diversity and it's still under process of study in same place. Many water bird species were recorded and only four water bird species belonging to four families, *Mergus merganser* (Podicipedae), *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* (Recurvirostrinae), *Tadorna ferruginea* (Anatidae) and *Palacroconax carbo* (Phalacrocoracidae), have been identified so far.



Figure 5, 6, 7 & 8. *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*, *Mergus merganser* and *Palacroconax carbo*