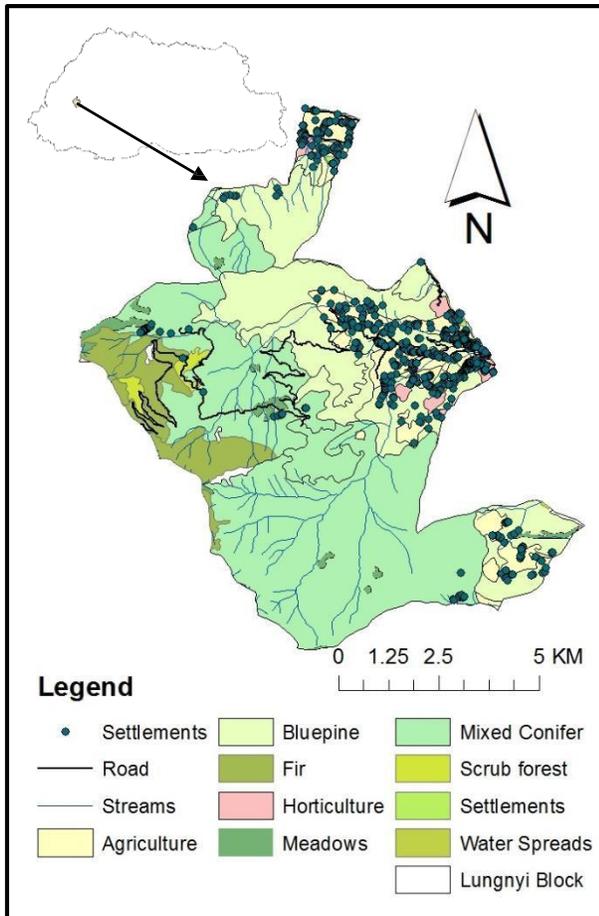


Project Update: June 2017

The pre-monsoon data collection on aquatic macroinvertebrates has been completed. During the data collection, staff of territorial forest division, students from Forest Research Institute (Dehradun, India) and College of Natural Resources (Bhutan) were actively involved.



Macro-invertebrate samples are currently being processed. Identification of specimens for the post-monsoon has been completed. The specimens collected during the pre-monsoon are still in the process of validating its identity by screening through various identification keys and experts. Most of the identified taxa were validated at the family level. Complete taxa lists will be constructed following completion of the final field work due to commence in July 2017 and after the validation of identified specimens from the experts.

The headwaters of Wochhu stream are being used as sources for drinking water and irrigation for paddy fields. Human settlements along the stream courses, farm road constructions, grazing by cattle along stream banks, agriculture farming and extraction of timber for household use are some prominent threats to freshwater habitat conservation.

Fig. 1: Study area



Fig. 2: Some identified taxonomic orders (Post Monsoon)



Fig. 3: Identification and taking picture using digital microscope



Fig. 4: (A) Recording chemical variables of the stream; (B) Recording Geographical Coordinates



Fig. 5: (A) View of Wochu Stream; (B) Field assistants collecting sample