**Project Update: March 2017**

The project is ongoing and has accomplished the activities according to the proposed schedule. We have currently finished site selection and deployment of acoustic sensors in five different habitat areas of the critically endangered white-bellied heron (*Ardea insignis*) in Bhutan. The deployment locations are selected collaboratively with local people, foresters and field ecologists at each site based on their prior knowledge and experiences. We have deployed acoustic sensors in six different locations (Figure 1):



Figure 1.

| Monitoring Location | GPS Coordinates | Elevation (meters above sea level) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Site 1: Ada lake, WangduePhodrang | Latitude:27°17'30.4"N Longitude:  90° 06'32.5"E | 1249 |
| Site 2: Waklaytar,Tsirang | Latitude: 90° 4'3.36"E, Longitude 90° 4'3.36"E | 473 |
| Site 3: Phibsoo WildLife Sanctuary | Latitude: 26°46' 26.7"N, Longitude:  90° 07'53.3"E | 184 |
| Site 4: Berti Village, Zhemgang | Latitude: 27°09'31.57"N, Longitude:  90° 39'05.67"E | 618 |
| Site 5: Berti midstream, Tingtibi, Zhemgang | Latitude: 27°08' 46.07"N, Longitude:  90° 37'49.12"E | 725 |
| Site 6: Berti Upstream, Tingtibi, Zhemgang | Latitude: 27°08' 30.93"N, Longitude:  90° 36' 26.59"E | 827 |

During the initial site selection field visits, we have also interviewed local people to gather their perspectives and association with the species at different sites (Figure 2).  We are also able to partially fulfil the project objectives to build human capacity in such work. We familiarised and trained some local participant, foresters and ecologists with sensor configuration, deployment and maintenance work (Figure 3).

Figure 2.


Figure 3.

Currently, the sensors are running at each site and we will be gathering long duration sound recordings from all the distributed sites by end of April 2017. We look forward to data analysis and interpretation of the soundscapes of heron habitat areas. Shown below are our collaborative venture to deploy wildlife Song meters at Waklaytar (Figure 4) and Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary (Figure 5) with the help of local community participants.


Figure 4.


Figure 5.