

## Project Update: June 2011

1. A field visit was conducted from the last week of May 2011 to third week of June 2011. Initially, a cursory survey was done to locate and assess the habitats of the smooth coated otter as identified by the first phase research. This helped us to determine the sample sites both for water quality analysis and forthcoming detailed study of habitat variables and population status in the months of November 2011 to January 2012 when the activities of otters become high.

Altogether water samples from 12 sites were collected, identified as otter habitats and located in the areas lying from Sikrauli to Bhosarghat. The samples were taken to the laboratory in Kathmandu on the same day, the results of which have been already received. The camera trapping which is one of our main activities will be carried out during this period in consultation with Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal Government.

A training programme on awareness about otter conservation for the park staff is also scheduled for September 2011. For this, we are currently preparing the training materials and arranging necessary coordination with field posts.

2. The progress update period was also a great opportunity for us to meet with the Grants Director of RSG, Mr Josh Cole in Kathmandu. The interaction programme with Mr Cole that was participated by grantees in the presence of DNPWC officials was very productive in sorting out the problems faced by the grantees. A number of issues that were raised both from the grantees as well as by government authorities were discussed. The visit of Mr Cole will definitely boost the contribution of RSG programs in Nepal.

