

Project Update: May 2010

The project kick started its activities with a baseline survey. 100 questionnaires were sent to various categories of respondents and two group discussions were held on general understanding of wetlands, their importance, activities carried out in wetlands and reasons for carrying out these activities, threats and whether they feel they cause any harm to wetlands and need for sensitization. Respondents included car washers, brick makers, alcohol brewers and cultivators. A survey also included field tour to identify heavily degraded thus requiring special protection.

Majority of respondents had a fair understanding of the importance of wetlands but could not best explain the dangers arising from their activities. The reason for carrying out activities in a wetland was lack of better alternative employment, the wetland provided easy alternative source of employment. The degraded areas were identified mainly around town and major threats were dumping, car washing, cultivation and construction of housing units.



Left: The Municipality Environment Officer participating in the baseline survey, administering interview to the Manager of a culvert-making factory situated in the wetland. Right: Patrick meeting with car washers during field interview, part of baseline survey, to establish knowledge on wetlands.