

Project Update: July 2011

During first week of June 2011, we had completed annual work plan. MOU was signed with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) wildlife department for the close coordination of field activities. Publishing material with RSGF logo were designed and printed. Orientation of project was given to the new project team through one day workshop on 25th June. We organised the inception ceremony on 12th July 2011 in the project area. About 100 participants from general public were invited in this ceremony. About 100 school students, 21 wildlife watchers of AJ&K wildlife department also attend this ceremony.

This session was followed by three days capacity building workshop of wildlife staff from July 13th-15th 2011. Fifteen wildlife field workers, six community activists of Breath foundation took part in the training. The subjects of the training were: conservation and Islam, role of community participation, distribution of wildlife species in Neelum Valley, habitat degradation and local threats to the wildlife habitat, Importance of species in a balanced ecosystem, census techniques of important wildlife species, values of wildlife in the area, role of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Act, 1975 in conservation.

In interactive sessions the trainer understood what biodiversity is and viewed different ways of conservation approaches. Working in groups, participants of the training learnt about implementation strategy of current RSG project. According to feedback the training got appreciation and excellent mark.

