

Project Update: February 2010

Background

The project focuses on Rapti River Section (Saurah and Meghauri), Bishazari Section (Bishazari Lake) and Narayani Section (Laukhani, Pithauri) around Chitwan National Park. This project includes workshops for teachers and other influential people, a programme for tribal people, a radio programme, and the publication of posters and display board. To date, the programme for students and teachers has been completed. However, the programme for tribal people (Musar and Tharu) and the display board are still outstanding. The implementation of the awareness programme especially for teacher and students in Rapti River Section and Bishazari Section was completed in March 2009. The programme in Narayani Section (Laukhani Area) was completed on December 30 2009.

Programme for students

Laukhani Area is inhabited by Tharu, Musar and migrants from hills. Tharu and Musar are the indigenous people of the region. Laukhani Area is one of the best sites for wetlands birds in Chitwan and local people of the area are highly dependent on natural resources. Three schools were selected; Nepal Rastriya Lower Secondary, Sanudevi Primary School-Pithauri and Shanti Nikuja Higher Secondary Schools. A total of 141 students participated in the awareness programme.



The awareness program was conducted for 2 full days at each school (1100 to 1530 hrs). The programmes were designed in such way that attention of students could be received effectively. During the programme, students were taught the following topics.

- Birds - evolution, characteristics, importance, types.
- Threats to birds. How birds might become extinct?
- Extinct birds of Nepal within last 100 years.
- Globally and nationally threatened birds of Nepal.
- Wetlands - importance, important wetlands of Nepal, conservation issues.
- Chitwan National Park, Laukhani Area and your role for conservation.

Posters of globally threatened birds of Nepal, threatened wetland birds of Nepal and upstream downstream connect us all, and a brochure of all protected areas of Nepal were distributed among students at the end of the programme.

Programme for teachers and youth club

A 2-day awareness programme was conducted for the teachers and representatives of youth club. A total of 12 teachers from three schools and two members of the Youth Club gathered at Shanti Nikuj Higher Secondary School. The contents of the program were designed according to demands of the teachers. Before commencement of the programme, teachers were requested to send their queries regarding to wetland bird and wildlife conservation. Accordingly, the following programme was conducted:

- Threatened wetland birds of Nepal.
- Migration of birds: Demoiselle crane, common merganser and ruddy shelduck.
- Impact of climate change on birds and nature.
- Role of teachers and youth clubs for conservation.
- Birdwatching and identification.
- At the end of the program, the floor was opened for discussion.



FM radio programme

The FM radio programme, Conservation Campaign (Samrachhan Abhiyan), was broadcast from Vijaya FM 101.6 MHz, Gaidakot, Nawal Parasi district in collaboration with other Rufford Grantees Mr. Suman Bhatarai and Mr. Dol Raj Thanet to convey the message of conservation amongst the public. The FM radio station is located within the Chitwan Valley. A total of 40 episodes were broadcast, the last in December 2009.

Essay competition

An essay competition programme was organized at Nepal Rastriya Lower Secondary School to understand student's skill and examine their perception of nature conservation. A total of nine

students participated in the programme. The topic of essay competition was “Hamro Batabaran, Hamro Jivan” (Our environment; our life).

