

## **Project Update: August 2016**

Data collection has begun effective from 2nd June 2016. The first 3 months were used for collection of data on vegetation structure and composition along with the questionnaire surveys. Besides that, secondary data were also gathered from Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) and Divisional Forest Office, Wangduephodrang and Forest Fire Management Section of the Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS). This round of data collection covered the entire nesting habitat range of white-bellied heron in Athang Gewog under Wangdiphodrang district with fire history within the past 10 years. While the survey team carried out the field works as per the survey protocol reflected in the proposal, the community people residing near to the nesting habitats of WBH were also made the most use to conduct the field surveys. Yet, the major impediment faced during the data collection period in this study sites were a few unreachable nesting sites of WBH making some of the vegetation data collection next to impossible. Other than that, everything worked successfully and looking forward for the same in the remaining months as well.

Attached here are some of the photographs of the activities carried out.



Survey team on the way to Athang Gewog



Construction of bridge to get across to the nest sites in Athang Gewog



Vegetation data collection



Social survey with the community people