

## Project Update: May 2016

As per the schedule submitted to Rufford, the team was well versed on survey protocols to meet the set objectives of the project. We then set off to carry out reconnaissance survey in the field. The team noticed and practically learned about the nest site selection pattern by white-bellied heron in response to wild fires in the two districts identified as the study areas. During mid-May, the first round of an awareness and sensitisation campaign was carried out at Punakha districts targeting local community inhabiting in proximity to the white-bellied nesting habitats. During the programme people were made aware and sensitised on the following topics:

1. Status and distribution of white-bellied heron.
2. Associated conservation threats and disturbances in its habitat.
3. Mitigation of disturbances at the local level.
4. Conservation implications of this bird.
5. Community support to strengthen its conservation.

For now people are convinced and fired with an enthusiasm to support for the conservation of this bird.

