

## Project Update: November 2016

Data collection on vegetation structure and composition in the nesting habitats of WBH was done in Punakha district starting from September 2016. Social interviews were also carried out alongside. Secondary data on fire incidence was gathered from the Divisional Forest Office, Punakha. A second and third round of awareness and sensitisation meetings was held in October and November 2016 respectively. The local people and inhabitants along the Punatshangchhu River stretch participated in it. They were educated and sensitized on:

- Status and distribution of white-bellied heron.
- Common conservation threats and disturbances in its habitats.
- Community's roles in conserving the bird and their habitats.
- Conservation implications of this bird species.

Positive pointers of this round of awareness and sensitisation meetings are that people are now much enthusiastic and cooperative to supporting the bird and their habitats from disturbances. While everything worked well, the team found a carcass of WBH during the time of survey. The cause of its mortality could not be ascertained as it was completely rotten except for its beaks. Hopefully this might also help in the future research process regarding the bird.

Attached here are some of the photographs of the activities carried out within the 3rd quarter of the project.



Doing vegetation survey at Tshekhathang in Punakha



2nd round of awareness and sensitization meeting



Forestry official helping in conducting awareness to the community



Group photo with the community people during 2nd round awareness meeting



3rd round of awareness and sensitisation meeting



A carcass found during the vegetation survey