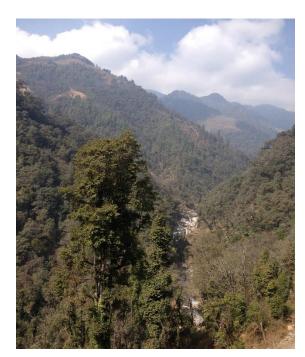**Project Update: June 2017**

The assessment of community structure of water birds and hydropower impact was examined in the central Himalayan region. The water bird survey was carried out along the Chhamkhar River under Bumthang district, from 1st September 2016 to 31st March 2017 using point count method. A total of 488 water birds with 15 species from 10 families were observed during the study. The highest number of birds observed were under Muscicapidae family with four species and lowest Tichodromadidae family with single species. Most water birds (shy birds) were observed in undisturbed area indicating the most preferable habitats of water birds and importance of undisturbed river habitats in conservation of water birds in central Himalayas.

The educational programmes and awareness campaign with public, colleges, schools and institution stakeholders had been conducted successfully. The presentation was also made at College of Natural Resources to disseminate project finding and conservation message to wider communities.

Table 1. The list of Water birds observed during study:

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Bird count
1. Brown dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*	Cinclidae	49
2. Blue whistling thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*	Turdidae	8
3. Common merganser	*Mergus merganser*	Podicipedae	23
4. Great cormorant	*Palacrocorax carbo*	Phalacrocoracidae	10
5. Green sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	Tringinae	9
6. Hodgson's redstart	*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*	Muscicapidae	58
7. Ibisbill	*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*	Recurvirostrinae	49
8. Little forktail	*Enicurus scouleri*	Muscicapidae	4
9. Plumbeous water redstart	*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*	Muscicapidae	55
10. Ruddy shelduck	*Tadorna ferruginea*	Anatidae	103
11. Wallcreeper	*Tichodroma muraria*	Tichodromadidae	3
12. White-collared blackbird	*Turdus albocinctus*	Turdidae	3
13. Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	Motacillinae	84
14. White-capped water redstart	*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*	Muscicapidae	22
15. White-throated dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	Cinclidae	8
Grand Total:			**488**

Left: During field survey. Right: Study area

Left: During survey and data collection. Right: Study area during winter snowfall