

Project Update: October 2016

After receiving of grant in September, 2016 I started to implement the project activities as timed in the research proposal. Training on social and vegetation surveys was conducted. A total of 10 field staff partook in the training for three days. The participants were well equipped with the protocols to carry out the surveys on the project titled "Habitat assessment at the upcoming captive breeding site of White-Bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*) at Burichu". Field visit was also conducted at the research sites to get the practical knowledge.

In the mid of October, 2016 conducted a first round of awareness and sensitization campaign. People residing in and around the study areas viz Changchey, Salamji and Burichu attended the programme. The programme focused on the following key topics as below:

- Overview of White-bellied heron's status and distribution in Bhutan and other range countries.
- Conservation threats to the bird and its habitats
- Captive Breeding of WBH and its significance
- Community engagement in WBH conservation

People actively participated in the programme and assured to render their full support and cooperation for the research project.

