

Project Update: September, 2017

The data collection for this project has been completed. The complete list of macroinvertebrates will be reported once the identified specimens have been validated from the experts. We are nearly at the end of educating and conducting awareness programs in the Woochhu Gewog, schools, colleges and other nearby education institutes with the aim of clarifying the conservation concerns that need to be addressed through outreach. We have also prepared an informative brochures and other photographic guides for promotion of freshwater biodiversity to public. Several copies of this brochure were distributed to the schools to be shared among the teachers and other students that could not attend the workshop/campaign. Some college students received educational talks and training, which allowed them to develop technical skills and knowledge that is lacking in the area.



Figure 1: Recording and enumerating individuals as per their order in the field

Upstream of Woochhu River is fresh and clean. However, in downstream near to town area (Bondey), contamination level is bit high mainly due to anthropogenic activities like town development, agriculture activities, etc... As per our exploration we have found that Woochhu River is populated by representatives of eight orders: Ephemeroptera, Diptera, Plecoptera, Lumbriculida, Trichoptera, Coleoptera, Trombidiformes, Tricladida and Odonata. Of all, Ephemeroptera and Trichoptera is dominant in the Woochhu River.



Figure 2: Specimens preserved in the 70% ethanol

Final report of the project will be published in the journals. We will also distribute project results to different institutions like Ministry of Forests and Agriculture (to be shared among the researchers, foresters, park manager and conservationist), National Environmental Commission, Ugyen Wangchuk Institute for Conservation and Environment, National Biodiversity Centre and Royal University of Bhutan (to be shared among the constituent and affiliated colleges).



Figure 3: Educational talk /presentation