

## Project Update: December 2006

### Section I

**1. Site selection and community group identification:** An informal meeting was organized with officials of Lekhnath municipality and a local NGO, LI-BIRD working in the area to assess potential project sites for program intervention. The project team visited Rupa lake Restoration and Fisheries Cooperative to explore major pocket areas in lake and watershed areas that attribute in deteriorating ecology of Rupa Lake. A preliminary field visit was done in lake and watershed area before finalizing project sites. 5 pocket areas of Majhthana and Hansapur VDCs (Jyamire, Betyani, Kaure and Ditha Gaun) in watershed and 4 pocket areas of Lekhnath municipality and Rupakot VDC (Sundari Danda, Sisteni, Bhangara and Jamankuna) in lake areas were identified as per the suggestions and feedbacks from local line agencies and direct field observation. Altogether 7 CBOs, 3 women groups and 3 youth clubs were identified for project intervention.

**Table 1.** List of project groups identified for program implementation

SN	Names of groups	Address
<b>Watershed areas</b>		
1	Jyamire CBO	Majhthana VDC-5
2	Betyani CBO	Majhthana VDC-4
3	Kaure CBO	Hansapur VDC-9
4	Ditha Gaun CBO	Hansapur VDC-7
5	Kholabesi CBO	LM-10
6	Sri Trishana Youth Club	Majhthana VDC-5
<b>Lake areas</b>		
7	Sundari Danda Women group	LM-11
8	Bimirekuna Fish Enclosure group	"
9	Unatisil Women group	LM-13
10	Jamankuna Women group	Rupakot VDC-6
11	Janasakti Youth Club	"
12	Rupa Sprinkle CBO	Rupakot VDC-6
13	Sahansil Youth Club	"

### Section II

**1. Project orientation and farmers' need assessment:** The identified groups in project sites were oriented about the project objectives and activities during initial group visit in various project areas. Farmer's need assessment was done in a series of FGD for an effective implementation of the project activities and to address their requirements. The output of farmers need assessment are listed below-

- a) Farm manure management and compost making
- b) Technical backstopping in sustainable farming practices
- c) Training on insect pest management
- d) Training on bio-fertilizer and pesticide making
- e) Seasonal vegetable seeds, fodders and grasses
- f) Adult education program

As per the output obtained, the project team decided to incorporate some of the activities and make certain adjustments in planed activities that had been submitted to Rufford small grant during the project inception. These are- farm manure management and compost making, training on IPM, bio-fertilizer and pesticide making, seasonal diversity kit (vegetable seeds) distribution.

### **Section III**

**1. Habitat conservation of bird diversity, white lotus and wild rice:** Unnatisil women group, Bimirekuna fish enclosure group and Janasakti youth club were identified for habitat conservation of bird diversity, white lotus and wild rice respectively. During the field visit it was observed that green bio-fence around Rupa Lake that also surrounds wild rice conservation area required maintenance for protection from external influences (human activities, livestock etc). Therefore, an agreement had been done with Janasakti youth club for bio-fencing management in coming rainy season. Species like- *Sajiwan*, *Asuro*, *Simali* etc will be used as bio-fence.

**2. Finalized content of conservation board to conserve spawning area of Sahar Fish:** 3 potential areas at watershed areas of Rupa Lake had been identified where local communities kill *Sahar* fish using electric current and poisons while they migrate upstream for spawning. Thus, 3 conservation boards have been finalized to awareness raising for conservation of *Sahar* fish spawning area.

**3. Drafted community friendly leaflet on importance of white lotus:** A community friendly leaflet on "Introduction and importance of white lotus" had been drafted through information gathering from Bimirekuna fish enclosure group members at Sundari Danda, Lekhnath municipality. The group had been managing white lotus diversity since many years and provided us local knowledge they perceived.



Project orientation and need assessment meeting at Jyamire, Majhathana VDC-5



Bio-fence around Rupa Lake requiring maintenance