

## Project Update: December 2010

We have now successfully completed data collection from the river mouth of Arno Garo River and its tributaries. An awareness creation workshop was conducted on 29 October 2010 in Maksegnit town, a district town located near Arno Garo River. Relevant stakeholders including fishermen, development agents and experts of the agricultural and environmental offices participated in the workshop. Lectures were given on status of the fish and fisheries of Lake Tana, migratory behaviour of *Labeobarbus* spp. of Lake Tana and fish and fisheries of Arno Garo River. The last one was a progress report on the data we have, so far, collected from Arno Garo River. There was a lively discussion on all sorts of problems and threats on the fish and fisheries of Lake Tana and Arno Garo River. The prominent ones include fishing during times of migration of *Labeobarbus* spp., sand excavation from Arno Garo River and smaller tributaries that serve as important breeding grounds for fishes and lack of awareness on the importance (biodiversity and economic) of conservation of the *Labeobarbus* spp. on the part of fishermen, experts of related fields and decision makers. It was interesting to note that some experts working in the animal sector are not even aware of the migratory behaviour of the *Labeobarbus* spp. The fishermen presented their problems of having no adequate fishing gears and trainings as well as the issue of illegal fishermen and illegal gear that operates in Lake Tana.

