



Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

After successful completion of field work at Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park and Phulchowki Mountain Forest, the UK Government's Darwin Initiative-supported project on ecosystem services in Nepal moved into the second year of implementation. This has included the production of a documentary and TV programme, results sharing with local stakeholders, initiation of a rapid review of ecosystem services provided by Nepal's 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), attendance at conferences and production of advocacy materials. Further ecosystem services survey work and data analysis has recently taken place at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve on use of harvested goods and tourism/recreation during a two week field visit. Koshi is Nepal's most important IBA for wetland birds. It is also important for local livelihoods. Data from these three pilot sites is now being written up as case studies. Scientific papers are also being developed.

## Project Update 2

stakeholder groups, to confirm conclusions and interpretation of the data, and to obtain any additional background information on resource use, management and change, we held a follow up community session on 4 November 2011. There were 24 participants from six Forest User Groups, many of whom were the same attendees as last year. After some explanation and clarification, participants agreed with overall data presentation on land cover at current and alternative state, and annual amounts of wild harvested goods, revenue from picnic sites, carbon and water. They agreed that prior to community forestry there was unequal sharing of benefits even among the poor. Under community forestry, harvest rates are more uniform according to individual quotas. It was also agreed that if community forest rights had not been established the likely state of the forest now based on past trends in forest use would have led to forest degradation worsening the availability of wild harvested goods to poor people in communities around the forest and also resulting in a decline in water quality affecting the wider communities.

### Activities

#### Ecosystem Service documentary and TV programme

A documentary on Ecosystem Services has been developed with the help of Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) which was broadcast by Ankhijyal programme in Nepal Television and Anevues Television on Tuesday 22 March 2011. The same documentary has also been translated into English and has been shared among all the Birdlife Partners through an online news story. 50 copies have been produced for dissemination to key officials and interested organisations including DEFRA and Darwin Initiative.

#### Results sharing meeting at Godavari, Phulchowki

The ecosystem services data from Phulchowki Mountain forests (PMF) was analysed by Birdlife International and initial results were produced. In an effort to get continued engagement from the



Ishana Thapa sharing results obtained from surveys conducted at PMF

#### Expert consultation held to conduct rapid appraisal of six IBAs

An expert consultation meeting to conduct a rapid appraisal of six Important Bird Areas (IBAs): Sagarmatha National Park, Jagdishpur Reservoir, Ghodaghodi Lake, Makalu Barun Conservation Area, Annapurna Conservation Area, Mai Valley Forest of Nepal was organised on 3 November 2011. This meeting was organised to



explore ecosystem services and benefits as well as to identify habitats and the future plausible state of these IBAs based on current trends and drivers of change. There was active participation of representatives from various organisations who work in these IBAs who made valuable contributions in scoping ecosystem services in those IBAs. Discussion was also facilitated relating to developing a National Report at the end of this project.



Experts conducting rapid appraisal on IBAs

### Field work at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

Field work was conducted at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve from 5 to 15 November 2011. Surveys on use of harvested goods, cultivated goods and tourism/recreation were conducted using a quick and efficient assessment approach. A consultation workshop was also conducted with stakeholders from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR) on 7 November 2011.



People collecting *Typha*, one of the harvested goods from KTWR.

### Booklet (English) on 'Measuring and Monitoring Ecosystem Services at the Site-scale' produced

A booklet has been produced introducing a new 'toolkit' for measuring ecosystem services at the site scale using methods which are accessible to non-experts and deliver scientifically robust results. It explains some key concepts including the need to consider a 'plausible alternative state' to measure differences

resulting from changes in land management and use, and the importance of identifying beneficiaries and considering the distribution of benefits. Accessible here:

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/sowbps#EStoolkit>

### Nepali leaflet produced

A Nepali brochure on Ecosystem Services has been produced and distributed to various partner organisations and stakeholders at a national and local level.



Nepali brochure on Ecosystem Services

### Ecosystem Services Partnership conference attended

A presentation on the project was made by Jenny Birch (Project Manager) at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ecosystem Services Partnership meeting, Wageningen, Netherlands in October 2011.

[http://www.fsd.nl/esp\\_conference\\_2011](http://www.fsd.nl/esp_conference_2011)

### Forthcoming work

After successful completion of field work at three of our four sites: Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park, Phulchowki Forest and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, we will conduct field work at Rara National Park in 2012 which is another Important Bird Area famous for Rara Lake which is the largest lake of Nepal.

### National Report

In 2012 we will be developing a National Report to provide an overview of the importance of Nepal's network of 27 IBAs for supporting biodiversity and providing ecosystem services for people. This will summarise the information for policy makers to highlight key messages for national decision-making and how this work can contribute towards Nepal's commitment to achieving the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity by 2020.

### For further details, contact:

Jenny Birch, Ecosystem Services Officer, BirdLife International  
[Jenny.birch@birdlife.org](mailto:Jenny.birch@birdlife.org)  
 Ishana Thapa, Senior Conservation Officer, Bird Conservation Nepal  
[ishana@birdlifeenepal.org](mailto:ishana@birdlifeenepal.org)



Together for birds and people