

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Dikpal Krishna Karmacharya
Project title	Extensive exploration and conservation of Himalayan vulture in Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA).
RSG reference	11654-1
Reporting period	December 2012 to November 2013
Amount of grant	£5950
Your email address	<a href="mailto:dikpal.karmacharya@gmail.com">dikpal.karmacharya@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:dikpal@primatelife.org">dikpal@primatelife.org</a>
Date of this report	December 2013

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Capacity building of local community			√	Three capacity building training events for local community groups from seven conservation units covering 57 VDCs of ACA were conducted successfully with field-based observation making them able to carry out monitoring and conservation activities in local level.
Extensive exploration and research monitoring			√	Preliminary survey was done by the team identifying potential vulture colonies and extensive replications were made by locally trained field biologists using direct sighting technique on road transects.
Coordination with government authorities and monitoring of veterinary drug-NSAIDs			√	Co-ordination with District Livestock Service Offices (DLSOs), Local Development Offices (LDOs), District Development Offices (DDOs), District Police Offices (DPOs), VDCs and veterinary practitioners of Manang and Mustang was well established conducting continuous monitoring of banned NSAIDs veterinary drug - diclofenac.
Production of awareness and promotional materials			√	Relevant awareness materials (posters, leaflets, pocket calendars, T-shirts, awareness flex, hoarding boards) were developed using logos of Rufford Foundation and other project partners which were distributed during each activities of the project. Outreach materials were also attached on the notice board of most of the schools, hotels and restaurants of the project area. These were also kept in the information centres of ACA and other conservation agencies spreading conservation messages in mass.
Awareness campaigns and educational outreach			√	Project supported for celebration of World Environment Day, International Vulture Awareness Day, and Wildlife Week in Pokhara in coordination with 10 local environmental organisations organising conservation rally, street drama, documentary shows, birding and presentations. Vulture conservation slides were presented in seven local schools and two community groups. More than 2,500 people including local students, farmers and community organisation members got benefit

				from the events.
Formal declaration of "Diclofenac Free Zone" through district level workshops			√	Manang and Mustang districts of ACA were formally declared as 'Diclofenac Free Districts' by government's Chief Officers from DLSOs, LDOs, DDOs, DPOs which were jointly organized by Global Primate Network (GPN)-Nepal, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) and DLSO with support from veterinary community, media, political parties, community-based organisations and local conservation agencies.
Publication and dissemination			√	All the activities of project were disseminated in the forms of formal and informal reports and articles by partner organisations in local FM, radio, daily papers and bulletins. Moreover, the field data was gladly accepted and successfully published as online <b>METADATA</b> by Scholar Works, University of Alaska making the global access of data for concern researchers and decision makers. ( <a href="https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/bitstream/handle/11122/2592/Vultures%20Annapurna_FH4.xml.html?sequence=6">https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/bitstream/handle/11122/2592/Vultures%20Annapurna_FH4.xml.html?sequence=6</a> )

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

The project was launched as per pre planned schedule following checklists in collaboration with all the project partners and government authorities, hence, there were no major difficulties emerged during the project, except the minority geographical and climatic difficulties in Himalayan region.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- **Capacity building of local community and educational outreach:**  
 Three national level capacity building workshops produced local experts. More than 80 local youths got benefit from the events. They lifted up their expertise in vulture identification and monitoring protocols for further survey. > 2,500 people including local students, farmers and community organisation members enhanced their knowledge on ecological importance of vulture, emerging threats and mitigation measures in local level via rallies, street dramas, presentations and slide shows in schools and communities during various eco days, which are the major achievements of the project.
- **Extensive exploration, publication and dissemination:**  
 All the data obtained from extensive exploration and scientific monitoring of vulture and other ornithological survey have been published online as **METADATA** ([https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/bitstream/handle/11122/2592/Vultures%20Annapurna\\_FH4.xml.html?sequence=6](https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/bitstream/handle/11122/2592/Vultures%20Annapurna_FH4.xml.html?sequence=6)) and are now available for concerned researchers and authorities for developing management policies. The link has been disseminated through social networks (Facebook, Twitter) and posted on the official website of Global Primate Network-Nepal ([www.primatelife.org](http://www.primatelife.org)). The project was partially supported by Oriental Bird Club

(OBC), UK ([www.orientalbirdclub.org](http://www.orientalbirdclub.org)) and Ideawild, USA ([www.ideawild.org](http://www.ideawild.org)). Technical report will be submitted to all the partner and donor agencies very soon. Manuscript is on the way for peer review journals.

- **Declaration of "Diclofenac Free Districts":**

Two districts of Nepal beyond the Himalaya - Manang and Mustang of ACA has been formally declared as 'Diclofenac Free Districts' by government's Chief Officers from DLSOs, LDOs, DDOs, DPOs in collaboration with GPN, BCN and NTNC with support from veterinary community, media, political parties, community-based organisations and local conservation agencies, adding the huge area (7,629 km<sup>2</sup>) in existing vulture safe zone providing wide range of safer habitat for breathing vultures achieving the key outcomes of the project.

#### **4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project (if relevant).**

All the activities of the project were dartsed together with local communities, local people and local project partners. They advanced their conservation knowledge and monitoring skills applying continuously in coming days. Most of them have started their profession as nature's guide serving to tourist and improving their livelihoods mutually with vulture conservation messages and data recordings.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, this project has been very successful in conservation and monitoring of scavenging vultures in *in situ* condition. The team and the partners are planning to apply further grants for the expansion of similar efforts continuously in coming times to protect these existing majestic birds from being extinct.

#### **6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

All the results of project will be shared in the forms of formal and informal reports and articles in bulletins and newsletters of the government and non-government project partners (DNPWC, NTNC, BCN, ACA, DLSO, DFO, DDO, LDO and VDCs). The project is supporting two university students for their Bachelor's degree dissertation, hence, the findings will be shared with huge students through university library, library of department of zoology and environmental science in the forms of dissertations. The results will be also shared with concerned researchers through presentation in national and international workshops and conferences. The technical report will be shared through online social networks (Facebook and Twitter) and websites of GPN Nepal and the donors (RSG, OBC and Ideawild). A manuscript will be submitted for peer reviewed journals. An online **METADATA** has been already published by Scholar works, University of Alaska (<https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/handle/11122/2592>) sharing the results with global access.

#### **7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The RSG was used from December 2012 to November 2013 for the scheduled works following checklist in collaboration with all the project partners and government authorities. Overall project completed in time as anticipated duration completing; capacity building training and workshops,

development of relevant materials, educational outreach events, campaigns, formal declaration of DFZ, scientific monitoring of species and NSAIDs in local level and dissemination of results.

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Capacity building training and workshops for local government bodies and community groups, three events.	960	1145	185	Increased expense is due to addition of extra resource persons to make the events more effective.
Developing awareness and promotional materials (posters, awareness leaflets, pocket calendars, hoarding boards, T-shirts, awareness flexes) for long term flow of conservation messages in mass	965	1165	-200	Produced additional materials to attach on the notice boards of hotels, schools and information centres.
Field level conservation educations, five awareness campaigns celebrating eco days, seven school programmes, two community programs enhancing conservation knowledge of large number of local students and farmers.	400	550	-150	Increased educational outreach events to convey the conservation messages up to optimum audiences
Co-ordination meetings with Government officials from veterinary office, forest office, local vet practitioners, local drug traders to stop use of diclofenac, two events.	200	400	-200	Unexpected expense due to expensive travel cost for the participants from remote areas.
Extensive exploration and monitoring of vultures. 120 days by two locally trained people.	2304	2544	-240	Due to geographical and climatic difficulties, the field work was extended for two weeks.
Two university students from department of Zoology, Bhaktapur Multiple Campus were supported for their Bachelor's degree dissertation on vulture conservation.	400	400	XXX	
Declaration of "Diclofenac Free Zone" through a Formal workshop.	100	300	-200	This workshop was organized jointly by GPN-Nepal, BCN and DLSO. Additional expenses

				were covered by partner organizations.
Data management, analysis, report preparation, compilation and dissemination.	250	250	XXX	
<b>Lodging, food and travel</b>	321	550	-229	Additional expenses for the team were supported by local project partners.
<b>Communication and consumables</b>	50	75	-25	Rapid consumption of GPS battery due to coldness.
<b>Equipment supports</b> A multimedia projector, laptop computer and a digital camera for educational outreach events, presentations, documentary shows, data entry and data analysis.	XXX	856	-856	We have received the listed equipment support for the project from IDEAWILD, USA. <a href="http://www.ideawild.org">www.ideawild.org</a>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5950</b>	<b>8235</b>	<b>-2285*</b>	Extra expenses managed via matching grants and local supports (details as below).
<b>*Balance sheet</b>				
<b>Statements</b>	<b>Total Grants amount</b>		<b>Total Expense amount</b>	
Grants From RSG	5950		5950	
Grants From OBC (1000)+ Equipment supports From IDEAWILD (856)+ Supports From local partners (229)+ Supports From project partners (200)	2285		2285	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8235</b>		<b>8235</b>	

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

Vultures are the natural scavengers having large home range, hence, similar conservation efforts, monitoring of vulture and NSAIDs, capacity building and training for local people, awareness and advocacy works must be expanded in nearby area to ensure larger safe and diclofenac free habitat for existing majestic birds.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

All the relevant publications and materials relating to the project were published using RSG logo in a prominent position along with other partner organisations' logos. Such materials were distributed, attached and disseminated throughout the project period publicising conservation messages and RSGF in mass.

**11. Any other comments?**

My sincere thanks go to the Rufford Foundation and OBC for financial supports and Ideawild for equipment supports for key conservation project in Nepal. Similarly, heartfelt gratitude goes to project partners DNPWC, NTNC, ACAP, BCN and local partners DLSO, DFO, DDO, LDO of Manang and Mustang for continuous supports in conserving vanishing vultures during the entire project periods. Lots of appreciations to my referees for their recommendations and continuous guidance. Lastly, I will expand the similar efforts continuously in coming times jointly with local communities and conservation organisations to protect the species for nature for people. Thank you.