

Project Update: January 2015

The project is going on smoothly following the schedule. The following activities have been organized in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts in order to achieve the project objectives.

Inception workshop

Inception workshop with government officials and key veterinary practitioners of Kailali and Kanchanpur was organised at Dhangadhi Kailali on 4th April 2014. Chiefs and representatives from district level stakeholders including government line agencies and local level community-based organisations from Kailali and Kanchanpur districts were present in the programme. Overall history of vulture conservation in Nepal linking up with the need of new project to work on stopping illegal use of diclofenac and building capacity of local NGOs/CBOs for the conservation of vultures in western lowlands of Nepal was discussed during the workshop. Altogether, 56 participants participated in the workshop.



Coordination meetings with stakeholders

Two coordination and interaction meetings were organised in collaboration with local implementing partners of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts in September and November 2014. Chiefs and representatives from district level stakeholders including government line agencies, veterinary pharmacists and practitioners, journalists and local level community-based organisations from Kailali district were present in the programme. The role of stakeholders in minimizing the illegal use of diclofenac and a mechanism to monitor the illegal use of diclofenac was discussed among the participants.



A 1-day district level coordination and interaction meeting was organised jointly with Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta at District Livestock Service Office Mahendranagar on 24th September 2014. Altogether, 22 participants participated in meeting. Another 1-day district level coordination and interaction meeting was organised jointly with Earth, Kailali and Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Khutiya at Dhangadi on 25th November 2014. Altogether, 32 participants participated in meeting.

Trainings to veterinary practitioners

Two training events for vet practitioners were organised in collaboration with Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta and District Livestock Service Office, Kanchanpur at Janakalyad Higher Secondary School premises and District Livestock Service Office, premises on 5th September 2014 and 23rd September 2014 respectively. In the training basically the causes of vulture decline, the importance of vultures, ban of diclofenac and introduction of vulture safe drug-

meloxicam and the role of veterinary practitioners in conservation of vultures were shared. Altogether, 51 participants (15+36) vet practitioners of Kanchanpur district participated in the training.

Trainings to local communities

Training events for the local community were organised in collaboration with Radha Krishna Community Forest User Committee (Bhajani, Kailali) and Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta (Kanchanpur) on 4th September 2014 and 8th January 2015 respectively. During the training, information on the causes of vulture decline, the importance of vultures and the role of local communities in checking the illegal use of diclofenac and protection of vulture nesting sites were shared. Altogether, 56 participants participated in the training programme at Bhajani, Kailali whereas 37 participants from local communities of Dekhatbhuli VDC Parsiya, living close to nesting colony of white-rumped Vulture participated in other training.

Interaction programme with custom officials

To check the illegal importation of diclofenac from Indian markets, a half-day interaction programme with custom officials was organised at custom office Gaddachowki, Kanchanpur on 22nd September 2014. In the interaction programme the issue of stopping illegal use of diclofenac in veterinary practice including its illegal importation was discussed. Altogether, 22 participants participated in the interaction.



Street Drama on the occasion of 6th International Vulture Awareness Day

6th International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) was celebrated in the project area through two street dramas at Syaule, Khutiya and Attariya, Kailali on 6th September 2014. The street dramas were organised in collaboration with Earth, Dhangadi, Samaiji Community Forest User Committee, Khutiya. Altogether, around

600 people were gathered for seeing the dramas. The street dramas were played by Syapal Youth Club members of Attariya, Kailali. The important message disseminated through the drama was: there is an urgent need of conservation of vultures as they are disappearing and use of diclofenac in veterinary practice should be stopped hundred percent to save vultures from extinction.

Posters on “Stop Diclofenac and Use Meloxicam”

In order to sensitise stakeholders on stopping diclofenac and using vulture safe drug meloxicam, 1000 copies of A2 size and 5000 copies of A4 size posters having the message on “Stop Diclofenac and Use Meloxicam” with pictures were published and distributed in the project area.

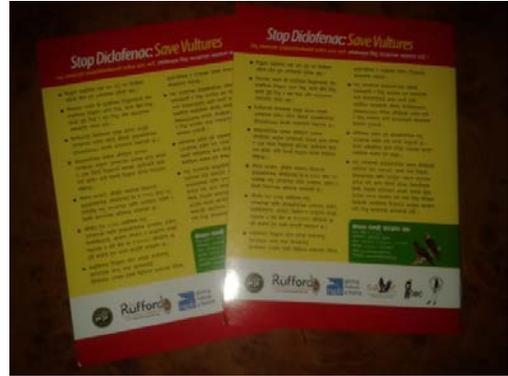


Production of exercise books for school students

In order to sensitise school students through awareness materials, 2000 copies of exercise books for school students having the information on “vulture conservation in Nepal and its importance were produced and distributed in the project area.

A camera was bought from the project fund.

A camera Canon SX50 HS has been bought from the project fund for the field use. This will remain at BCN and will be used in various other vulture conservation projects of BCN.



World Environment Day 2014 celebration

A speech competition was organised in collaboration with Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta and Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve in the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June 2014. Total participants in the programme were 40.

On the same occasion, BCN joined hands with conservation partners National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Nepal), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Nepal) to celebrate World Environment Day 2014 organising various programmes on 5th June 2014 at Jawalakhel, Lalitpur. The programme started with the rally. Representative of government organisations, conservation organisation and students and teachers of different school participated in the ceremony. The posters titled “Stop Diclofenac: Save Vultures” published by BCN was released during the ceremony.

Training to local youths on conservation of vultures

To train local youths living close to nesting sites of white-rumped vulture in Kailali and Kanchanpur, four training events were organised in different places in collaboration with local implementing partners Earth, Dhangadi and Samaiji Community Forest User Group, Khutiya. Local youths were made aware on the causes of vulture decline and need of stopping illegal use of diclofenac and protection of nesting sites of vultures.



S. No.	Date	Name of youth club	Venue	No .of participants
1	27th July 2014	Shree Ekata Eco Youth Club	Beli, Kailali	28
2	28th July 2014	Shree Charpate Youth Club	Khutiya, Kailali	26
3	29th July 2014	Shree Saipal Youth Club	Shreepur, Kailali	25
4	31st July 2014	Shree Kalika Youth Club	Pipladi, Kanchanpur	38
Total no. participants				117

Awareness activities to school students

To create awareness to school students on conservation of the vultures in the project area, 10 secondary and higher secondary schools were selected and the students were trained in identifying vultures, causes of decline, need of vulture conservation and role of students in conserving vultures. Awareness leaflets and posters having message on vulture conservation were distributed to students and schools.



The list of the schools with dates and no. of participants benefitted from the training are listed in the following table:

S. No.	Date	Name of School	Venue	No. of participants
1	28th May 2014	Siddhanath Secondary School	Badaipur, Bhimdutta-18, Kanchanpur	63
2	29th May 2014	Prabhat Bidya Niketan	Badaipur, Bhimdutta-18, Kanchanpur	85
3	23rd June 2014	Shree Panchakriti Baidyanath Secondary School	Baghphanta, Bhimdutta-19, Kanchanpur	31
4	24th June 2014	Laxmi Secondary School	Karibatti, Bhimdutta-18, Kanchanpur	26
5	6th July 2014	Roji Exclusive Secondary School	Banka, Krishnapur-3, Kanchanpur	31
6	24th July 2014	Shree Mahunyal Higher Secondary School	Bhajani, Kailali	50
7	26th July 2014	Shree Rastriya Secondary School	Beli, Kailali	43
8	27th July 2014	Shree Rastriya Secondary School	Beli, Kailali	33
9	28th July 2014	Shree Samaiji Secondary School	Khutiya, Kailali	52
10	29th July 2014	Durga Bhawani Lower Secondary School	Hariharpur, Kailali	24
11	31st July 2014	Shree Kalika Secondary School	Asnaiya, Kanchanpur	28
Total no. participants				466



Learning tour to participants of local CBOs of project area

A learning tour was organized for the representatives of local organisations working for the conservation of vultures in project area. The participants visited Vulture Safe Feeding Site,

Kawasoti (Nawalparasi), the first community managed vulture restaurant, Ghodaghodi Lake, Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Lalmatiya (Dang) and Amaltari homestay of Nawalparasi. Participants were inspired with the community leadership, management and conservation activities that have been done at Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Kawasoti. Twelve individuals including representatives from Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta (NGAS), Kanchanpur, Earth Kailali, Souryadaya Community Forest User Committee Kailali, Samaiji Community Forest User Committee Kailali and cow care taker of Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Kailali.



Eco-tourism Promotion workshop

In order to promote ecotourism of Vulture Safe Feeding Site Khutiya Kailali, a 1-day ecotourism promotion workshop was organised by BCN and Earth at Dhangadi on 24th November 2014. In the workshop, the issue of financial sustainability of Vulture Safe Feeding Site, ways to sustain them and potentiality of ecotourism for the financial sustainability was discussed. Altogether, 27

participants representing different tourism entrepreneurs, district level government stakeholders, hotel owners, journalists, representatives from local community and Maghi homestay of Ghodaghodi took part in the workshop.