

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

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

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole
Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Khadananda Paudel
Project title	Protecting the critically endangered vultures of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Kailali District, Nepal through community-based integrated approaches.
RSG reference	13628-1
Reporting period	April 2015
Amount of grant	£ 5,874
Your email address	khadananda@birdlifeneपाल.org , knpaudel@gmail.com
Date of this report	30 April, 2015

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
<p>To minimise the illegal use of diclofenac and promote safe alternative NSAIDs and to minimise disturbances in the nesting areas minimised through extensive awareness activities.</p>			✓	<p>Inception workshop with government officials and veterinary practitioners of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts was organised at Dhangadhi Kailali in April 2014.</p> <p>Two coordination and interaction meetings were organised in collaboration with local implementing partners of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts in September and November 2014.</p> <p>Three trainings to vet practitioners were organised in collaboration with Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta and District Livestock Service Office, Kanchanpur in Kailali and Kanchanpur in September 2014 and February 2015.</p> <p>Two training sessions for the local community were organised in collaboration with Radha Krishna Community Forest User Committee (Bhajani, Kailali) and Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta (Kanchanpur) in Bhajani, Kailali and Parsiya, Kanchanpur in September 2014 and January 2015 respectively.</p> <p>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 in September 2014.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Four training sessions were organized in different</p>

			<p>places of Kailali and Kanchanpur in collaboration with local implementing partners Earth, Dhangadi, Samaiji Community Forest User Group, Khutiya and Nature Guide Association Suklaphanta, Kanchanpur. 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.</p> <p>Ten 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.</p>
<p>To enhance the capacity of local community groups, local government bodies and local youths to raise funds for vulture conservation, promote tourism at vulture safe feeding site and discourage the use of diclofenac locally.</p>		✓	<p>Training on “Vulture Safe Zone management” was organised in collaboration with Nature Guide Association Suklapanta at Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve on 24th February 2015. Altogether 38 participants were participated in the training.</p> <p>A learning tour was organised 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.</p> <p>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 24 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.</p> <p>Door and windows maintenance work has been done at observation hide which is located at the Vulture safe feeding site, Kailali in February 2014. Two flex boards having information on vultures of Nepal have been posted at two walls of observation hide.</p>

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

There were no major difficulties occurred during the project implementation.

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

Awareness and advocacy

Extensive awareness programmes were carried out with school students, local communities and veterinary professionals during the project implementation. The project remained crucial in raising awareness among key stakeholders. Government line agencies have been advocated on vulture conservation issues. Raised awareness level of key stakeholders has helped the record of new nesting colonies in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve.

In breeding season 2013/14 there were 11 active nests of white-rumped vulture *Gyps bengalensis* recorded from Kanchanpur (nine from Parsiya and two from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve; 75 active nests of white-rumped vulture from Kailali (58 from Khutiya, four from Beli, five from Samaiji Community Forest, five from Johanpur and three from Patela).

Likely in breeding season 2013/14 there are 43 active nests of white-rumped vulture *Gyps bengalensis* and two nests of slender-billed vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* recorded from Kanchanpur (12 from Parsiya; 15 white-rumped vulture and two slender-billed vulture from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and 16 nests from Bansa; 59 active nests of white-rumped vulture from Kailali (45 from Khutiya, three from Beli, five from Samaiji Community Forest, five from Johanpur and one from Patela).

Capacity building

Capacity building of local CBOs, local farmers, veterinary practitioners and local youths have been instrumental in building their capacities in order to continue vulture conservation activities locally. Capacity building is also believed to become important in reducing the illegal usage of diclofenac in the area and report the monitoring of vultures in the area.

Key stakeholders engagement

There was significant participation of key stakeholders in the coordination meetings and training. They were also involved in most of the activities of this project. Undercover survey of veterinary NSAIDs which was carried out in November-December 2014 didn't record any diclofenac availability in veterinary pharmacies of western Nepal including project districts. The engagement of key stakeholders during project implementation will support monitor and discourage illegal use of diclofenac in the project area.

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

Mostly the local communities and local stakeholders were benefitted through capacity building training and awareness campaigns. Local CBOs were also involved in implementation of project activities. Local communities will be able to continue monitoring of vultures and diclofenac usage in the project area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Concept of Vulture Safe Zone pioneered in Nepal and is being highlighted in South Asia due to its success achieved so far. Involving local community in Vulture Safe Zone management has been instrumental in reducing the rate of decline of white-rumped vulture in Nepal. Yet, the success achieved so far in conservation of vultures needs institutionalisation and sustainability that is why the project needs to be continued.

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

The project activities for the conservation of vultures in Nepal have received attention from many local and national media and those media have been disseminating vulture conservation message out to a wider audience. The engagement of the media will be continued. Further, the information on project will also be disseminated through the final project report.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Overall project completed in time as anticipated duration for the project was March 2014 to February 2015 except, Vulture Safe Zone workshop was conducted in February 2015.

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
Workshop/Meeting/Training	2000.00	1950.00	50	Not significant
Awareness	2150.00	2103.00	(47)	Not significant
Salary	240.00	247.00	(7)	Not significant
Travel & Subsistence	550.00	550.00	0	Not significant
Assets	200.00	297.00	(97)	Not significant
Communication	100.00	93.00	7	Not significant
Report Prep & Dissemination	90.00	90.00	0	
Overhead	534.00	534.00	0	
TOTAL	5864.00	5864.00		

Local exchange rate used 1 GBP = 161.68 Nrs

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

- Vulture Safe Zone in Nepal should be institutionalised and sustained to reduce the decline of vultures and to prepare ground for releasing white-rumped vultures from Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Nepal.
- The trans-boundary approach needs to be initiated for the conservation of vultures in Nepal and India as vultures travel long distance in search of food.
- Massive awareness and strong advocacy works are still required to discourage the illegal use of human diclofenac in veterinary practices.

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

Through this project, 1000 copies of A2 size and 5000 copies of A4 size posters having the message on “Stop Diclofenac and Use Meloxicam” and 2000 copies of exercise books having the information on “vulture conservation in Nepal and its importance” were published in using RSGF logo along with other organisations’ logos and distributed in the project area. RSGF received much publicity through media and these awareness materials during the course of work.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank Rufford Small Grants Foundation for supporting this project which aims to reduce rate of decline of critically endangered vultures in Nepal.