

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Dikpal Krishna Karmacharya
Project title	Population modeling and participatory conservation of Endangered Vultures in Nepal Himalaya.
RSG reference	15018-2
Reporting period	April 2014 -March 2015
Amount of grant	£5995
Your email address	dikpal.karmacharya@gmail.com, dikpal@primatelife.org
Date of this report	19 March 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
Pilot Survey			√	From 15th to 25th April 2014, preliminary presence-absence survey was carried out from Muktinath of Mustang district to Ghandruk of Kaski district within Annapurna Conservation Area and nearby area of Manasalu Conservation Area covering major landscapes of Himalaya.
Extensive survey and replication			√	From 26th May to 2nd June 2014 the extensive survey was carried out by the well trained local community groups and the team members covering all the potential habitats and replicating the areas of our previous RSG project.
Co-ordination with government authorities, project partners and local community based organisations			√	We established well co-ordinations with District Livestock Service Offices, Local Development Offices, District Development Offices, District Police Offices, VDCs, veterinary practitioners, Green Youth Nepal, Mustang Youth Club and students of Forestry throughout the project period to conduct the project activities continuously.
Capacity building training and workshops for local people			√	The team has implemented three capacity building training and workshops with grand success on 'Wildlife Monitoring and Conservation' in Manang, Mustang and Rupandehi districts on 12th May, 22nd May and 26th September 2014. Altogether 90 local people actively participated in these programmes and enhanced their skills on wildlife monitoring and conservation. After successful completion of capacity building training and workshops, the selected 15 enthusiasts were mobilised to their own VDCs for monitoring the vulture population, nests, breeding behaviours and NSAIDs drugs in their local areas.
Capacity building training and workshop on 'Open GIS' for young conservation practitioners			√	A 1-day training and workshop on 'Open GIS' has been fruitfully concluded with the theme 'Building Capacity for Wildlife Research, Monitoring and Conservation' on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June 2014 in Hotel Pension Basana, Kathmandu. Thirteen

				young conservation practitioners enhanced their skills on modern conservation tools and technologies from the event.
Workshop on "Vulture Conservation Practice and Strategies"			✓	A workshop on "Vulture Conservation Practice and Strategies" was successfully completed in Annapurna Conservation Area Project-Conservation Unit, Ghandruk on 3rd June 2014. The local, national and international volunteers participated in the event. The local farmers Biswash Lama from Ghandruk and Mahendra Budhathoki from Mustang also participated in the event. Twelve representatives from Tribhuvan University, Himalayan Nature, Bird Conservation Nepal, Project Abroad Nepal and conservation volunteers from Germany, Canada, France, England, Australia and local farmers also energetically contributed in the workshop.
National workshop on "Vulture Conservation Action Plan"			✓	On 24th July 2014, a 1-day national workshop on "Vulture Conservation Action Plan" was organised by Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) in collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal in Kathmandu. Altogether, 31 representatives from Department of Drug Administration, Department of Livestock Service Office, Department of Agriculture, WWF-Nepal, ZSL-Nepal, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Himalayan Nature, Central Veterinary Laboratory and Nepal Rangers' Association used the forum to discuss and provide feedback over the draft of the Vulture Conservation Action Plan (2014-2018).
Conservation advocacy			✓	The project supported the various green organizations of forestry campus Pokhara to organise a week-long conservation awareness programme on the occasion of 19th National Wildlife Week, from 14th -20th April 2014, which is celebrated in every first week of Nepali New Year. The programme was followed by a conservation rally, street drama, sanitation, speech competition, quiz competition, bird watching, documentary show and presentations. Approx. 250 students of forestry campus participated actively in the programmes and extended conservation messages among approx. 3200 community members.

Creation of awareness and promotional materials		√	<p>For relevant awareness materials the project developed 250 posters, 3000 leaflets, 1000 pocket calendars, 50 t-shirts, eight awareness flex and 1000 copy of vulture conservation booklets in collaboration with project partners using logos of Rufford Foundation and other supporters which were highlighted and distributed during each activities of the project spreading conservation messages in huge crowds of the people.</p>
Community education and outreach		√	<p>The team organised a vulture conservation education programme for the local farmers, students and teachers of the Mustang district at Dhaulagiri Secondary School on 3rd June 2014. Around 56 farmers, kids and teachers participated in the programme.</p> <p>We celebrated the 'International Vulture Awareness Day' on 6th September 2014 at Bhaktapur Multiple Campus by presenting vulture related work and documentary made by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Saving Asia's Vulture from Extinction (SAVE) consortium. Field visit to nearby Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park was made for 30 participants.</p> <p>http://www.vultureday.org/2014/Organisation.php?code=1655).</p> <p>Similarly, we made conscious to 1,037 local people (including 424 school girls, 288 school boys, from 23 schools, 69 college girls, 47 college boys from two colleges, 19 academic staff, eight students from Tribhuvan University, 63 local women, 119 local men from two local clubs and three committees) regarding importance of Vultures for mankind and nature, their threats and conservation initiatives through documentary shows and slide presentations in Mustang, Manang, Kaski and Bhaktapur districts during project period via school and community outreach activities.</p>
Dissemination		√	<p>All the activities were disseminated via social networks (Facebook and twitter), local FM radios, newsletters and bulletins of the project partners but the compilation of data and analysis is still in progress. Soon after the analysis the manuscript will be submitted to peer-reviewed journal for publication.</p>

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

The project was launched by the well experienced local team members and in collaboration with all the project partners and government authorities, hence, there was no major difficulty emerged during the project, except the deadly snowfall and avalanche due to exceptional weather condition in Annapurna region which has killed 28 people (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29640241>). But, our team members are the local origin from Himalaya, they are well familiar with the harsh environmental conditions of Himalayas, so they remained safe. From this, we have learnt that the involvement of local people in the project is mandatory.

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

- i. Capacity building training and workshop events generated 15 skilled local human resources for the long term monitoring and conservation of endangered vultures in Himalayas. Monitoring of Himalayan Vulture provided first hand data on population modeling (Fig. 1).and distribution modeling (Fig. 2).in Nepal Himalaya which are the most important outcomes of the project. Modeling shows the gradual stability of Himalayan vultures in the area.

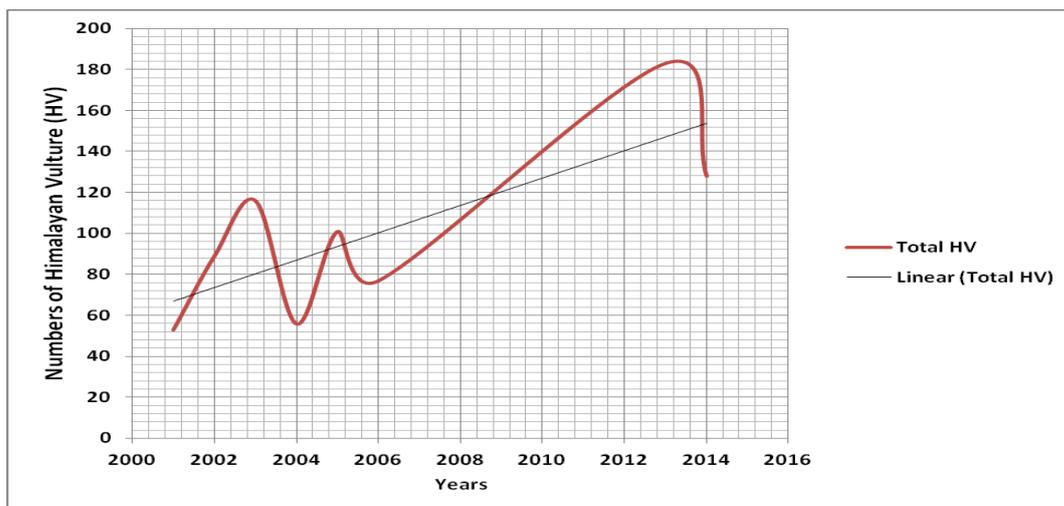


Fig. 1. Population modeling of Himalayan vultures

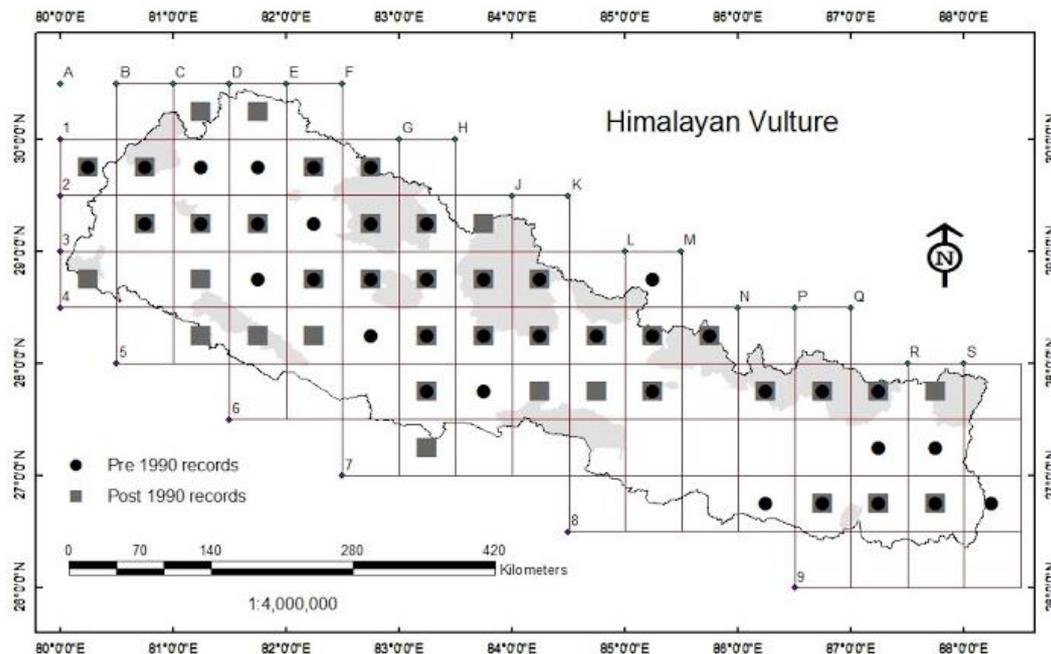


Fig. 2. Distribution mapping of Himalayan vultures in Nepal (Source: Himalayan Nature)

- ii. Community education and outreach extended the conservation messages directly to over 4,700 local people including locals, students, teachers, farmers, politicians, community-based organisation members, local government agencies, livestock service offices, veterinary offices, vet practitioners, pharmacy traders, and media persons through conservation rally, street drama, sanitation programmes, speech competition, quiz competition, bird watching, documentary shows and presentations in schools and communities during various environmental days, which are the major achievements of the project, breaking the records of targeted audience of previous RSG project.
- iii. Nepalese Pharma Company showed very good initiation for the conservation of scavenging birds. Due to continuous conservation advocacies and awareness efforts at least one company, National Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. Nepal (under the brand name Ninja), has stopped production of their 30 ml vials to minimise the environmental impacts and effects of NSAIDs drugs on scavenging vultures.

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 darterted together with local communities, local people and local project partners. Ninety local people enhanced their skills on wildlife monitoring and conservation through capacity building training and workshops. Selected mobilised 15 enthusiasts got sustenance cost for their valuable supports. Two local team members got authorised licence for nature's/ tourist guide and improving their livelihood communally with vulture conservation messages and data recordings. Thirteen local young conservation practitioners and university students enhanced their skills on modern conservation tools and technologies. Local 250 students of forestry campus participated actively in various environmental programmes. Over 4,700 community members directly advanced their conservation knowledge locally.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this project has been completed with grand success in conservation and monitoring of existing scavengers in *in-situ* condition with the advancement over previous project. We are receiving legitimate feedbacks from community members to spread out the conservation work in neighbouring villages of Himalayan region where the significant number of vulture breeding colonies have been discovered recently. Hence, the team and the partners are scheduling for the continuation of parallel efforts in next step to protect these existing majestic birds from being locally extinct and to secure the larger safer landscape for these natural scavengers.

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

Most of our activities have been already highlighted by the media's, local FM radios and daily papers. We are analysing the findings and working on manuscript to publish in reviewed journals. The team is sharing and will share the findings of the project with worldwide communities through presentation in national and international workshops and conferences. The results will be also shared as formal and informal reports and articles in bulletins and newsletters of the governmental and non-governmental project partners. The brief results will be shared with other concerned people through our official websites of GPN Nepal, and online social networks (Facebook and Twitter). The results will be also shared in forms of detailed reports through the supporter; RSG, Oriental Bird Club (OBC), Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust (WWCT), IDEAWILD and SAVE consortium. An updated online METADATA has been already published by Scholar works, University of Alaska, USA (<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 Rufford Foundation grant was used from April 2014 to March 2015 for the proposed works in collaboration with all the project partners and local government authorities. Most of the project activities were completed in time as anticipated duration completing; pilot survey, extensive survey, capacity building training and workshops, co-ordination meetings and community educational outreach events, but it might take few more days to develop a detailed report, short documentary clips and distribution maps which are on the way to finalise.

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 RSG Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Preliminary survey by three team members	470	720	250	The increased expense is due to expansion of the survey area. Additional amount was arranged through WWCT conservation grant.
Travel expense for team from Kathmandu to Annapurna round trip by	96	151	55	All the local buses were over crowded so we reserved the jeep. The extra outlay was covered by local project

jeep				partners.
Sustenance for team for 25 field days	480	345	-135	The local project partners managed local lodging and food for the team. Hence, reduced the sustenance cost.
Extensive survey and monitoring of vultures by 15 locally trained individuals for 2 weeks	2054	2304	250	The increased expenditure is due to expansion of the survey area. Additional amount was arranged through co-funding from OBC conservation grant.
Three capacity building trainings and workshop.	650	900	250	The increased expense is due to addition of one more even. Additional amount was arranged through OBC conservation grant.
Two awareness workshops and advocacy	520	770	250	Extended events were launched with technical supports from project partners and co-funding from OBC conservation grant.
Conservation education and outreach programmes	860	960	100	Additional events were launched through co-funding from OBC conservation grant.
Awareness promotional materials,	390	490	100	Supplementary outreach materials were produced in collaboration with project partners and co-funding from OBC conservation grant.
Consumables, field gears and communication	150	150	xxx	
GIS mapping, analysis, report preparation and dissemination	325	375	50	Slightly increment in cost of GIS maps were accomplished through co-funding from OBC conservation grant
Field equipment: A multimedia projector, laptop computer, digital camera, GPS receiver and spotting scope	xxx	756	756	We have received the listed equipment support for the project from IDEAWILD, USA.
Total	5995	7921		Matching funds were used correspondingly.

Note: Local exchange rate used, GBP 1 = NPR 154

We have successfully received matching fund of GBP 1000 and 250 from Oriental Bird Club, UK (www.orientalbirdclub.org) and Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, UK (www.wwct.org.uk) respectively for the project. We have also received the required field equipments of GBP 756 from IDEAWILD, USA (www.ideawild.org) for long term monitoring and conservation efforts.

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

Recent study showed that the vultures have large home range. They travel up to 200 km in search of food. Hence, to ensure the large safer landscape and to secure safer food for these flagship species similar projects should be urgently stretched out in the entire Himalayan belt through continuous

community based ecological monitoring, training, awareness and engaging local governmental and non-governmental bodies in vulture conservation.

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?

Yes, we have used the Rufford Foundation logo along with the logos of all the supporters and the project partners in every allied material produced during this project. RSGF was publicised via its logo keeping on the prominent position in all the disseminated relevant publications and slides during the presentations in conservation education outreach programs.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Rufford Foundation, Oriental Bird Club (OBC), and Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust (WWCT) for pecuniary supports. My yawning gratitude also goes to IDEAWILD for the field equipment supports. My sincere thanks go to the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) for the research permission. My grateful thanks are also extended to Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Himalayan Nature, WWF-Nepal, Friends of Birds (FOB), and Friends of Nature (FON) for technical supports. I would also like to extend my thanks to District Livestock Service Offices (DLSO), District Forest Office (DFO), District Administration Offices (DAO), Local Development Officers (LDO), District Police Offices (DPO), District Agriculture Development Offices (DADO), Women Development Offices (WDO), District Paravet and Livestock Associations (DPLA), Village Development Committees (VDCs), local community groups, youth groups, media, schools, political representatives, farmers and students for project partnership, collaborations and affinity during entire project period. Loads of appreciations to all the referees for their recommendations and continuous guidance. Lastly, I am very much thankful to all who supported directly or indirectly to accomplish this project. I hope for the similar supports in upcoming times to continue our conservation initiatives. Thank you.