

## Project Update: March 2017

### 1<sup>st</sup> Update Reminder (August to mid-September)

First phase recall: We conducted a 2-day awareness campaign and training session including some university students. We also did monitoring of vultures in vulture safe feeding sites and landfill site in Pokhara.



*Vulture soaring during carcass feeding in vulture safe feeding site, Ghachowk*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Update (Late September to mid-November)

Second phase recall: We conducted a questionnaire survey (100 respondents) after finalising the questionnaire format. All necessary awareness materials were designed and prepared during this phase. Vulture awareness campaigns were conducted in different sites of Kaski, i.e. Deepang and Chapakot. During those campaigns 200 brochures, 30 posters, three flex print and 500 leaflets have been distributed among local people, stakeholders, school students, university students, journalists, community forest users groups and vulture experts. Regular monitoring of vulture at different sites also continued. We have good opportunity to make people from different sectors to participate in the monitoring of vulture in vulture safe feeding site in Ghachowk and landfill site in Pokhara. This phase we had observed four carcass feeding at vulture safe feeding site, Ghachowk and two carcass feeding in Pokhara- 14, Majeripatan (proposed regional airport site in Pokhara).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Update (November 2016 to February 2017)

In these 4 months we targeted following activities:

1. Conduct questionnaire survey.
2. Conduct conservation awareness programme to the community people and stakeholders and awareness materials distribution.
3. NSAIDs monitoring.
4. Monitoring of slender billed population in different parts of Kaski.
5. Exploring probable sites for new nest of SBV.

#### 1. Questionnaire survey

We conducted questionnaire survey at Damsadi, Phedipatan, Hemja, Kristi, Ghachowk, Chapakot, Narayanthan, and Deepang. A total of 200 respondents were selected randomly from those places of Kaski. Detail about the respondent's feedback will be concluded after entering and analysing the in upcoming days.

2. Conduct conservation awareness programme to the community people and stakeholders and awareness materials distribution.

This time we were lucky enough to participate in Third Mountain Festival (December 2016), First Science Exhibition (January 2017) and Third Jungle Festival (February 2017) in Pokhara. We also participated in Nepal Owl Festival in Kapilvastu and Bird Fair organized by Bird Conservation Nepal at Ghodaghodi lake Kapilbastu.

The organising committee of all the programme agreed our proposal and provided us the space and stall for displaying posters and flex which includes information regarding vultures in Kaski and their conservation status. We distributed around 4000 brochures, 100 posters and displayed different information in six flex prints (1000 brochures from Rufford, 3000 from Bird Conservation Nepal, 100 posters from Bird Conservation Nepal and flex from Rufford)

Third Mountain Festival was organised for 2 days (10th and 11th December 2016) and was at International Mountain Museum, Pokhara. We were supported by Pokhara Bird Society, Bird Conservation Nepal and Institute of Forestry Kaski. Bird Conservation Nepal supported us by providing the distributing materials and Pokhara Bird society and IOF Kaski supported us by providing Volunteers for two days. Around 5000 people visited the stall. The programme was inaugurated by Environment Minister.

First Science Exhibition in Pokhara was organised by students of Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. It was the inter-school competition about their invention and ideas in science and technology. Twenty-two higher secondary schools participated in the programme. We had a stall at right corner of the programme and our awareness materials were well displayed. Around 7000 students visited the programme and we were able to distribute 1200 brochures, 40 posters and six flexes. The programme was conducted for 2 days and we were supported by Bird Conservation Nepal with distributing materials and Pokhara Bird society and students from Institute of Forestry, volunteered.

This time our team was successful to participate in Nepal Owl Festival 2017 on February 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Jagdispur Lake, Kapilbastu around 350 km southwest of Kaski. We were representing our work progress on slender-billed vulture in Kaski, supported by Rufford. The programme was conducted by Friends of Nature and was co-ordinated by the local community. Many researchers working in wildlife conservation in Nepal participated in the programme. The programme was visited by more than 10,000 people.

Pokhara Bird Society volunteers participated in the Bird Fair (February 14th 2017) organised by Bird Conservation Nepal at Ghodaghodi Lake and displayed some of our work on vulture conservation in Kaski.

The most interesting awareness campaign was conducted at the Jungle Festival 2017, Pokhara. The organiser, Parichaye Advertising, was convinced to provide us a big area to display our materials. This programme ran for 10 days from February 23rd to March 4th 2017. Even though the programme was to promote entertainment, many students were interested in our work in birds and their conservation. Our materials were displayed together with the materials from Prithivi Narayan Campus and Pokhara Bird Society. Fifty students studying BSc from Zoology Department, Prithivi Narayan Campus volunteered for the program for 10 days

together with me and few members of Pokhara Bird Society. This programme was visited by more than 20,000 people.

In all those programmes we tried our best to provide the information regarding vultures and birds. People who visited our stall were made aware about the status of slender-billed vulture and other species of vultures in Kaski.

### 3. NSAIDs monitoring

This time we managed to visit some vet shops. The vet practitioners were positive about our work regarding the vulture conservation efforts and agreed to support us in any way. During our informal interview with seven vet practitioners, there was zero use of Diclofenac and they were aware about the impact of the use of Diclofenac. They were also aware that Nepal Government had banned this medicine for using in domestic animals. Kaski district is one of the Diclofenac-free zone in Nepal.

### 4. Monitoring of slender billed population in different parts of Kaski

Still we didn't record any nests of SBV. During our monitoring and search of nests of SBV we recorded one nest of RHV (Chapakot) and two nests of WRV (Chapakot and Deepang).

Vulture monitoring data sheet September - 2016 To February 2017, Kaski, Nepal

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YEAR	Date	Site	SBV	RHV	WRV	Egyptian Vulture	Himalayan Griffon vulture	Eurasian griffon	Cinereous Vulture	Bearded Vulture	total
2016	04/09	Ghachowk	11	9	32	12	13	0	0	0	77
	05/09	Ghachowk	3	6	21	53	0	0	0	0	85
	19/09	Damsadi	1	1	2	4	1	0	0	0	9
	24/09	Deepang	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
	30/09	Thulakharka (austrian Camp)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
	02/10	Ghachowk	14	9	38	3	6	0	0	0	70
	10/10	Lachowk and Hemja	2	3	10	12	1	0	0	1	29
	17/10	Dhobilla and Landfilled site	4	0	4	115	0	0	0	0	123
	18/10	Ghachowk	9	8	32	2	2	0	0	0	53
	21/10	Landfilled Site	3	2	2	31	0	0	0	0	38





Third Mountain Festival, Pokhara 2016



Nepal Owl Festival, 2017 (Together with Senior Conservationist (Carol Inskipp, Hemsagar Baral Krishna Mani Baral))







Prithivi Narayan Campus



Jungle Festival, 2017



