

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	Suman Ghimire
Project title	Survey and Participatory Conservation Initiative for Accipitridae Vultures in Salyan District, Nepal
RSG reference	21833-1
Reporting period	April 2017 – April 2018
Amount of grant	£4990
Your email address	sumanghimire038@gmail.com
Date of this report	12 July, 2018

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
To assess the status and distribution of Accipitridae vultures of Salyan District, Nepal				We surveyed 464 km of road transects three times and sighted 142 individuals of four species of vulture: eight were red headed, 25 were Egyptian, 16 were bearded and 93 were Himalayan vultures.
To generate public consensus in vulture conservation at Salyan district				500 posters and 500 stickers (for students) were produced and distributed. Most of the posters were placed at public places such as forest office and its units, ward offices, hotels, bus stands etc. Additionally, 200 round stickers were produced and stitched at gullies of public vehicles. Interaction programme was done with three community forest user group committees, 11 schools, local leaders and all the respondents who gave their interest in our activities during survey periods. Similarly, one interschool essay writing competition was conducted. We could not conduct Inter School Speech Competition
To identify existing threats to the vultures of Salyan				Indirect poisoning, habitat destruction, food shortage and superstitious belief of local people on vulture are the major threats identified for vulture in Salyan district.
To monitor nests of different vulture species found in Salyan district.				All together 15 nests have been recorded. Only two are occupied and thus identifiable, one is of bearded vulture which is productive and successful. The remaining one is of Egyptian vulture which is occupied but unproductive.
To conduct one-day district level Seminar				25 participants including CDO, DFO, livestock officer, police officer, local

				leaders, line agencies and media participated the programme.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The foremost difficulty that was faced for the effective execution of the project was lack of vehicular roads connecting the remote area of Salyan district. However, we tried our best to gather information on vultures from unreachable areas through public coordination (consultation with the migrated individuals belonging to that area). Nigalchula and Kalapani are the two potential sites for vultures' occurrence however, these sites are not visited due to lack of road access. Local, state and central level elections shifted our community outreach programs.

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

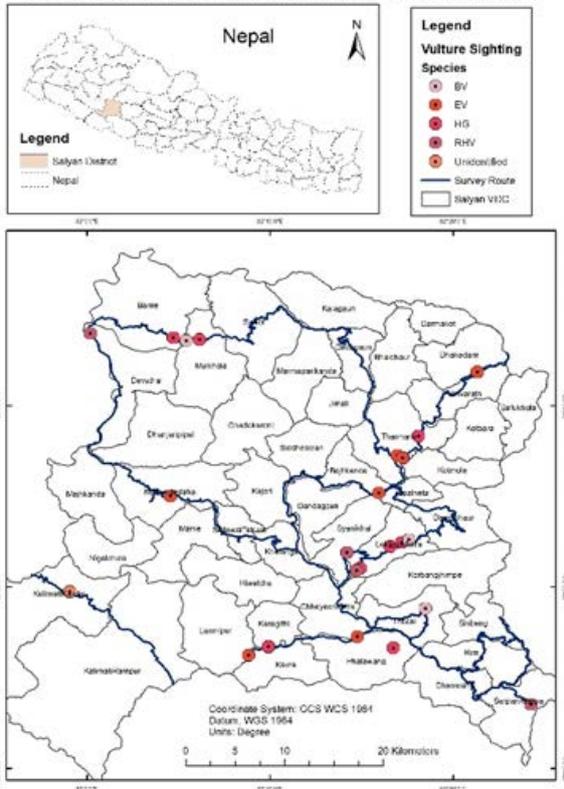
3.1. Status and distribution of vulture of Salyan

142 individuals of 4 different vulture species were recorded in Salyan district for 2017 – 18. Out of which the highest recorded species was Himalayan griffon (93) followed by Egyptian vulture (25), bearded vulture (16) and red – headed vulture (eight). Himalayan griffon and bearded vultures were recorded in all three surveys (June 2017, October 2017 and January – February 2018) but red – headed and Egyptian vultures were sighted only in two surveys (June 2017 and January – February 2018). The main activity that vultures depict in Salyan district is soaring. One Himalayan griffon was found to be roosting on pine (*Pinus roxburghii*) tree. One bearded vulture and two Egyptian vultures were recorded feeding.

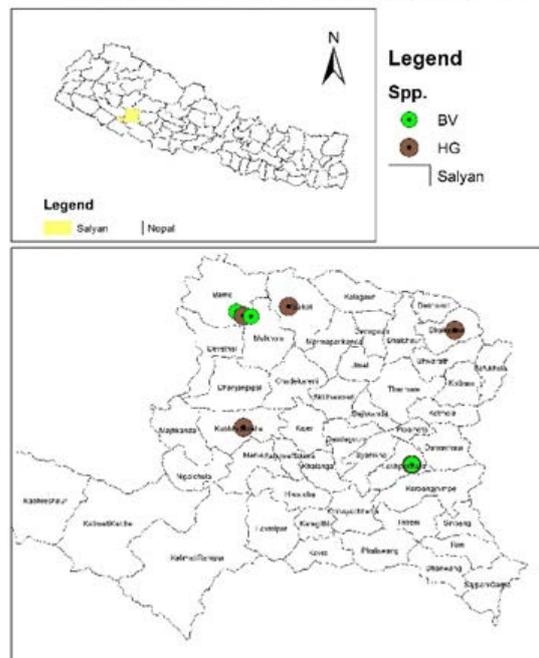
Table 1: Record of vultures in Salyan district June 2017 to Jan – February 2018

S.N	Species		1 st Survey	2 nd Survey	3 rd Survey	Total
	Common Name	Scientific Name				
1	Red headed vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	6	0	2	8
2	Egyptian vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	12	0	13	25
3	Himalayan griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	14	13	66	93
4	Bearded vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	4	6	6	16
Total			36	19	87	142

Survey Routes and Vulture Sighting Point Distribution



Vulture Sighting Point Distribution



Vulture Sighting Point Distribution

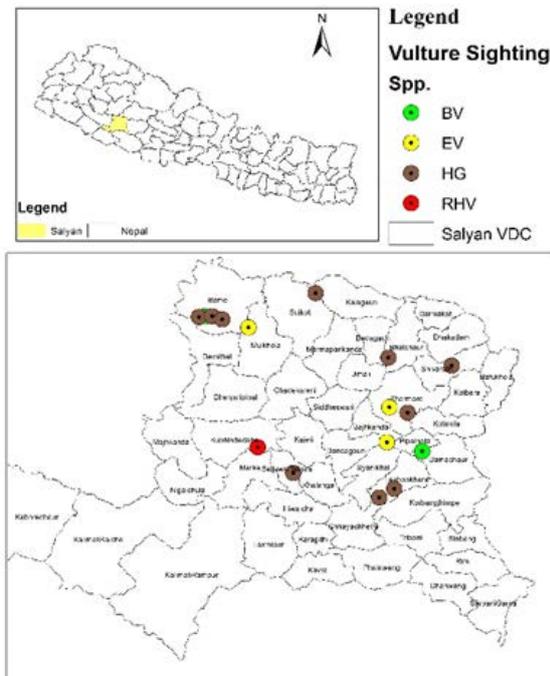


Figure: Seasonal distribution of different vulture species in Salyan district Nepal (Top left – Summer, Right – Autumn, Bottom left – Winter)

3.2. Community Awareness

We generated mass awareness by putting 50 stickers in public buses that run in different roads covering Salyan district. Similarly, we produced and distributed 500 posters to the local people, local government units, NGOs, governmental offices etc., and performed poster presentations at public places. Some posters and 500 stickers were distributed to schoolchildren. We conducted a 1-day interschool essay writing competition on "Role of vultures in Ecosystem" in which 15 students participated from 15 schools located at different parts of Salyan district. Similarly, three group discussions were done with the members of CFUGs at three different locations (Devsthali, Damachaur and Luham). We also distributed some posters and stickers during the annual Nepal Owl Festival 2017 which was conducted at Jiri, Dolakha.

3.3. District level Seminar

After completion of all surveys activities one-day district level seminar was conducted at Khalanga, Salyan in coordination with a local NGO named People Participation for Sustainable Development (PASS, Nepal, Salyan). CDO, DFO, livestock officer, police officer, line agencies and local and national media persons participated in the program. DFO pointed out the lack of sufficient and technical human resource as major problem to implement conservation activities effectively in Salyan district.

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

Less aware people were taught how to distinguish vulture from other raptor species. 10 local people were involved directly in the project as local informer and they were trained to identify the vulture species of Nepal and more intensively recorded species of vulture in Salyan were made known to them from field visit too. Other people got a chance to know about the ecological role of vulture.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Of course we are planning to continue this work. Still people in the western mid-hills of Nepal do not know about the ecological importance of vulture and they think of bearded vulture as other raptors (eagles and kites). We directly saw people throwing stone on a roosting vulture (bearded) and after query we came to know that they thought that bearded vulture may take away their hens and small kids of goat. And during informal talks as well we found about 30% of respondents with negative perception towards vulture. In these regards we are planning to extend our vulture conservation awareness campaign to other adjacent sites as well. Another plan is to train the local informer to handle the basic research equipment (GPS and binocular) and develop them as citizen scientists.

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

At the local level we disseminated our results to all the concerned stakeholder in the seminar. Each organisation has got information about vulture nests (both abandoned and active), site specific threats, sites where there is regular presence of vultures, sites where people possess a more negative attitude towards vulture. Project's findings

were disseminated in Nepal Owl Festival, 2018 and Pokhara Bird Fair, 2018 through poster presentation. Copies of the project report will be submitted to Department of Forest, Department of Wildlife and Bird Conservation Nepal, Kathmandu which will help to disseminate our project results at national level. Further, we are also planning to write scientific articles to publish them on national and international journals.

Project summary has been published in National Newspaper Kantipur Daily: <https://www.kantipurdaily.com/pradesh-6/2018/07/02/153050768001434486.html>

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

During the first quarter of the project only 20% of the project fund was spent which included activities such as preliminary field survey, design of survey routes, summer survey and intensive interaction with local people. The second quarter of the project included activities such as extension materials preparation and distribution, post monsoon survey, searching of nesting sites and their regular monitoring by local informers and 25 % of the project fund was utilized during this period. Winter survey and one community and five school level conservation activities were conducted during the third quarter of the project by utilising 20% of project fund. Remaining 40 % of grant was used in last phase of project for two community awareness activities, five school teaching programmes, one inter-school essay writing competition and a 1-day district level seminar on vulture conservation.

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
Travel cost	120	200	-80	We make 2 more visits to the project site than we planned
Fuel cost	240	290	-50	Increase in rate of petroleum products
Extension materials preparation	600	600	0	
Equipment Hire Charge	130	0	130	Institute of Forestry provided the required equipment free of costs
Lodging and Food	900	900	0	
Allowance for Research assistant and local informers	1050	1050	0	
Awareness Campaign	1550	1550	0	

District Level Seminar	300	500	-200	
Data analysis, Report preparation and disseminations	100	100	0	
Total	4,990	5,190	-200	Extra budget (200) was supported by PASS Nepal, Salyan for Seminar costs.

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

First of all, advocacy is necessary for construction companies (road and cement factory) as these two factors are directly hampering the nesting sites of cliff dwelling vultures. Another concern should be directed towards reduction of human-wildlife conflict and problematic animals should be managed in a bio-friendly way. Jackals and porcupine are the major problematic animals for local farmers and these animals have resulted the use of poison in carcasses. Last but not the least local farmers should be made aware of carcass disposal mechanism which should create a win-win situation for both human and vultures. Most of the people in this region buried the dead livestock as decaying carcasses if thrown in open areas create foul smell in surrounding environment and thus vultures are deprived of food. If we aware the people over here and make them to throw the carcasses in open areas (public lands) far from the human settlements, then vulture will get food and people will also not have suffered from foul smell.

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

Of course the logo of Rufford Foundation was used in community outreach materials which includes posters (500 pieces), student stickers (500 pieces), Stickers for government offices, NGOs, CBOs and public buses (200). Further logo was also used in banners used during interaction with community forests user groups and Inter-school essay writing competition. Additionally, we used the logo in the posters presented in Nepal Owl Festival, 2018 and Pokhara Bird Fair, 2018. Similarly, the cover slides used during presentation with students and communities also include the logo of Rufford Foundation. The logo was also used in the certificates provided to the students participating essay writing competition. During the field survey government officers and local asked us from where we arranged the fund for such studies and we discuss and praise the Rufford Foundation for the financial support. Similarly, students and local NGOs interested in wildlife conservation and research activities were informed about the application procedure for Rufford Foundation.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Name	Role
Kamal Ghimire	Provided us the previous records of vulture and most potential sites from his experiences and sightings. He also designed an overall road map for the survey.
Deepak Raj Praksh Jung Shai Thakuri	Helped in monitoring nests at Bame areas and designing the detailed road map for survey in Western part of Salyan District.
Shankhar Puri	Arrange CFUGs members during interaction program Full time support during essay writing competition
Prateek Pandey	Assist in all road surveys
Chiranjeevi Khanal	Assist in summer survey of two sites Kalimati Kalche and Kalimati Rampur Assist during district seminar on vulture conservation
Narayan Bahadur Thapa	Assist in 1 st and 3 rd field activities at Luham Collect nests information from different part of district by communicating regularly with CFUGs
Gyaneshwor K.C.	Provide information about old nesting habitat and help in identification of old nests we recorded

Local volunteers:

Help in Nest Monitoring - Provide information how regularly are vulture soaring around their sites

Name	Place
Prem Bahadur Budathoki	Dhorchaur
Tara Bahadur Aire	Jamire, Kubinde Daha
Keshab Basnet	Kafalpani
Dilli Bahadur Pun	Banghat
Tulsiram Oli	Laxmipur
Gopal Pun	Sal Danda
Lal Bahadur Budathoki	Yekpakhe, Simwang
Gorelal Bohara	Kapurkot - 6
Rupa Pun Magar	Dhamdhame
Hum Bahadur B.K.	Mokhola



Left: Bearded Vulture in its nest situated in Chiurgainda village, Bame, (Elevation: 1156 m). Right: Egyptian Vulture.



Left: Major Threats to vultures in Slayan (in left picture the red circles indicate the old nests of vultures). Right: Nest of Egyptian vultures below which there is a trap for porcupines.



Left: Interaction with Community Forests User Groups' Committee Members. Right: School Teaching.



Left: Students Participating on Inter School Essay Writing Competition. Right: Motivating Local Children in Bird Conservation.



Participants of Seminar on Vulture Conservation.