

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Hemanta Dhakal
Project Title	Strengthen and extension of Participatory Conservation of Critically Endangered Slender-billed Vulture <i>Gyps tenuirostris</i> in Western Mid-hills of Nepal.
Application ID	24021-2
Grant Amount	€4984
Email Address	hdforecology@gmail.com
Date of this Report	29 July 2019

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	achieved	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Study the population distribution of Slender-billed vulture, monitoring nests recorded and effort to explore more nests.					
Threat analysis and recommend possible solution					
Conduct community conservation awareness program and publish a hand book on vultures of Nepal.					
To collect the detail information about the possibilities of SBV by trapping and GPS – GSM tagging SBV and training from Bird Conservation Nepal.					

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

Monitoring and conservation awareness camps were not a difficult task as I got a lot of local support to get through it. Convincing people not to cut down trees especially tall, big and old ones was also unforeseen difficulties. The publication of the book "Vultures of Nepal" Nepali version was a great task which took twice more than the target time. Help from senior ornithologist, Pokhara Bird Society and Bird Conservation Nepal make it easy to tackle in each difficulty that arose during the project.

Monitoring vulture activities in steep cliff was also one of the unforeseen difficulties. The problem was tackled by the use of high magnified DSLR, binoculars and telescope.

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

a). Publication of the book "Vultures of Nepal "Nepali version.

Publication of book Vultures of Nepal, took long time. This book is in Nepali language with effective and many illustrations that can be easily understood by a layman who can read Nepali. Detail description of each species their distribution, identification character with proper photographs and distribution area is clearly mention in this book. Detail story about the decline of Vultures their habitats and future threats are also described with photographs. Book, Vultures of Nepal was finally printed and unveils in closing ceremony of Nepal Bird Fair 2019, July 4th-6th at Hotel Barahi, Lakeside, Pokhara, Nepal. After the inauguration ceremony the book was distributed to participant from different parts of the country. The book is free of cost.



Left: Cover page of book Vultures of Nepal in Nepal Bird Fair. Right: Honorable minister Bikas Lamsal, Ministry of Forest, Environment, Tourism and Industry, Gandaki Province, Special Guest Dr. Hem Sagar Baral, senior Bird guide Hari KC and Manshanta Ghimire, President of Pokhara Bird Society, together Inaugurating Book Vultures of Nepal in Closing Ceremony of Nepal Bird Fair 2019.

b). Record of a nest of SBV and nesting colony.

Another critically endangered White rumped vulture *Gyps bengalensis* (10 nests), 22 nests of Egyptian vulture (Endangered species) was also one of the most important outcomes of the project.

c). Awareness camps target completed successfully with 400 questionnaire respondents from four different districts.

We conducted all these awareness and conservation campaign programme by coordination with Pokhara Bird Society, Bird Conservation Nepal, Community Forest users groups, District forest Office, District Livestock Service Office, Vet Practitioners, students and local Stakeholders.

We conducted seven vulture conservation awareness camps at

1. Janapremi Higher Secondary School, Phirphire Village Development Committee, Lamagaun, Tanahu, Nepal.
2. Rajasthal mothers group, Rajasthal, Tanahu.
3. Kolma local community group,
4. Ghaderi homestay management group.
5. Raipur local partners (Local government representatives, local peoples, School teachers, etc.)
6. Nirmal Pokharai, Kaski.
7. Bhimad, Tanahu (local stakeholders, local people and school students).
8. One-day district level stakeholder workshop was organised at Syanjya (along the millennium trek trail).
9. Awareness camp and workshop was organised at Upper Ghachowk, Kaski.

ii. Celebration of International Vulture Awareness day:

On the occasion of International Vulture Awareness (IVA) week, Pokhara Bird Society (PBS) in collaboration with Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Pokhara Branch formed a team with Mr Hemanta Dhakal as the coordinator of the programme and Mrs Binita Karki as vice co-ordinator. A week long awareness campaign from 1st Saturday to 2nd Saturday of September 2018 was conducted.

iii. Celebration of Wild life Week 2019:

On the Occasion of National Wildlife Week 2019, Students of Forestry Campus Pokhara, celebrated wildlife week performing different activities of vulture and other wildlife awareness program in different parts of Pokhara. I was also invited for paper presentation on vultures of Nepal.

iv. Participation in Two Bird Fairs

Pokhara Bird Fair in 2018 and Nepal Bird Fair 2019. In both the bird fair message of the project to conserve vultures were delivered through posters, pamphlets, book, photographs, poems and discussion too. We have targeted more than 2000 people.

v. Questionnaire Survey

We conducted questionnaire survey supported by students from Institute of Forestry and volunteers from Pokhara Bird Society. Total 400 respondents were selected and the method followed was opportunistic. Respondents were of age group 14-65 both male and female. 47% respondents were female and rest were male.

vi. To collect the detail information about the possibilities of SBV by trapping and GPS–GSM tagging SBV and training from Bird Conservation Nepal

I was able to participate in two workshops regarding the GPS –GSM tagging and monitoring the activities of white rumped vulture, workshops conducted by Bird Conservation Nepal, Pokhara branch.

Limitation: We were unable to organise workshop at Chitre and Bhadaure Dada. Instead of that we conducted workshop in public schools in Pokhara and Hemja.

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

We visited almost 30 different villages from five different districts. Before we visited those places people were unaware about the vultures, their decline and their role in nature. First thing people were benefited was the knowledge about vulture. Book distributed to locals also benefited them to broaden their mind regarding information on vulture and their status. I have also distributed few books to different libraries of Schools and colleges in and around Kaski.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I am looking forward to study behaviour ecology of SBV through telemetry GPS tagging as a part of my further research and study in future.

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

Through publication, I am planning to share the results.

Already some of the local newspaper have highlighted and published some articles regarding need of vulture conservation. We are also working on the paper to publish it in a scientific journal. I have presented the research ideas and outcomes with my senior researchers and university students in almost three seminars through paper presentations. I also presented the paper Status of Vultures in Pokhara in Bird fair 2018 and 2019, both organised in Pokhara in front of big mass of researchers, stakeholders, wildlife photographers, bird lovers, government officers, local representatives etc. I will be continuing the effort of sharing my research outputs, especially through paper and poster presentation, journal article and news articles.

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

I started this project in April 2018, with a target to complete it in March 2019. I completed all my targets of awareness camps and monitoring but publication of book was delayed due to some technical problems. I completed the publication of book and its distribution by July 2019. It took 16 months to complete my whole targets of the project.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Food and Accommodation	1216	1358	+142	Local People provided us accommodation and food free of cost during our trip to Damauli and Millennium trek)
Transportation	1520	1440	-80	
Stakeholder Workshop, Awareness Campaign and community trainings (8 x 20£)	1000	1000		
Assistant Cost Monitoring of SBV For Questionnaire survey and Awareness program	398	348	-50	Total cost for assistant was supported by Pokhara Bird Society (PBS). 2 volunteers from PBS supported.

Stationary	200	200		
For studying the possibilities to study the behaviour of SBV by trapping and GPS –GSM tagging SBV)		150	+150	Training cost was supported by BCN(2 training)
Publication Book " Vultures Of Nepal"5=(500 copies x 2.4 £)	650	200		
TOTALS	4984	4696	-288	

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

Regular awareness programs should be encouraged in future too. Responsible department and government authorities should also be encouraged for addressing vulture conservation program in local budget that will be applicable in proper implementation of Vulture Action Plan. Food scarcity could be other serious threats to vulture in future; a better mitigation method should be planned.

Need of more scientific studies in behavioural ecology of vulture, even though very few projects are running.

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

All the programmes were conducted with the use The Rufford Foundation logo.

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

Hemanta Dhakal-

Project leader; lead in overall Projects.

Binod Kunwar:

Field Assistant; assisted during field work, questionnaire survey, monitoring vulture.

Manshanta Ghimire:

Bird Expert; helped us during the project for vulture and nest monitoring work. Also supported during awareness camps. He is also president of Pokhara Bird Society. He is also Co-author of the Book Vultures of Nepal.

Janardhan Mainali:

GIS Expert; guided us in analytical part of the data, especially forming questionnaire format and data entry and analysis. He is also helping on the analysis of data for the scientific journal which is under review.

Milan Baral and his friends:

Bachelor level Students of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Tribhuvan University; Worked

as Volunteer during Awareness camps and questionnaire survey.

Krishna Mani Baral:

Newspaper reporter; supporting the project by writing and publishing news regarding Vulture conservation and our activities in the conservation.

Bhim Ghimire:

Senior newspaper from Kantiour Daily. Supported in editing the language in book Vultures of Nepal. He also helps to publish articles regarding our research work.
Referees

Dr. Hari Prasad Sharma, John Martin and **Krishna Prasad Bhusal** Supervisor;
Supervision and guidance during the project

Krishna Prasad Bhusal:

He is also co-author of book Vultures of Nepal.