

# Strengthen and Extension of Participatory Conservation of Critically Endangered Slender-Billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* in Western Mid-Hills of Nepal

Progress Report I  
(April-June, 2018)



## Targets

1. Preliminary visit of Millennium trekking trail, Ghachowk and Palpa.
2. Vulture monitoring at different sites of Kaski.
3. Nest Monitoring at Dhobhilla, Kaski.
4. Questionnaire Survey.
5. Book writing.

## Details

### **1. Preliminary visit to Millennium Trek trail, Ghachowk and Palpa. Millennium Trek trail Survey**

Preliminary survey was conducted along the Millennium trekking trail. A team of experts conducted a preliminary survey along the Millennium trekking trail. Since there have been no such survey conducted in previous days. Different site allocated to conduct bird watching and for further scientific study of Avian Fauna. Survey was carried along the trekking trail as transect line.

The bird Survey was carried on to Nepal's first Mid Hill Trek which is connecting Tanahun

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and Syangja District of State No 4. The route has shown in Map-. Gears like ZEISS Terra Ed 8x42 waterproof binocular, Bushnell 8x42 binocular, Canon 7D Mark II + Tamron 150-600mm lens, Nikon D3100 + 70-300mm lens, Garmin GPS and field guides Birds of Nepal Revised Edition by Grimmett R et al. (2016) was used in field survey.

Total of 114 bird species was sighted including Spiny Babbler which is only one Endemic Species of entire the country. Total of 4 nationally threatened species was sighted; Red Jungle Fowl *Gallus gallus*, Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens*, Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*, White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*. Similarly, 3 species globally threatened was recorded; White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Red-headed Vulture *Scrogyus calvus* and Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*.

No record of Slender-billed vulture during the visit. The visit was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

### We conducted five Vulture Conservation awareness camps at

1. Janapremi Higher Secondary School, Phirphire Village Development Committee, Lamagaun, Tanahu, Nepal (Figure 1).
2. Rajasthal mothers group(Figure2)
3. Kolma local community group.
4. Ghaderi homestay management group.
5. Raipur local partners (Local government representatives, local peoples, School teachers, etc.)



Figure 1: Vulture Conservation Awareness program with students of Janapremi Secondary School, Tanahu.



Figure 2: Program at Rajasthal,



Figure 3: Program at Rajasthal

During the visit we distributed 500 brochures, 200 leaflets, 10 posters and 2 flex prints, which included the information about vultures.



Figure 4: Vulture Conservation Awareness materials and free distribution of those materials.



Figure 5: Palpa Visit

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Preliminary survey was conducted along the highway from Syangja to Palpa (6<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2018).

## 2. Vulture Monitoring, Awareness Camps and Training Workshops in Kaski.

This time Ghachowk, Kaski was visited twice. On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 first visit was done. It was a vulture identification class to 23 students of B.Sc. 2<sup>nd</sup> year Biology of Prithivi Narayan Campus.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 second visit was done for vulture movement monitoring and questionnaire survey. In second visit, 7 selected students from B.Sc. 2<sup>nd</sup> year Biology of Prithivi Narayan Campus and 3 experts from Pokhara Bird Society participated. Total 78 vultures of 6 species (Red headed, Slender-billed, White-rumped, Cinereous, Egyptian and Himalayan griffon) and 9 of them were SBV sighted during the carcass feed during the first visit.



Figure 6: Ghachowk Visit

In second visit we encountered 68 individuals of vultures. 5 species (Red headed, Slender-billed, White-rumped, Egyptian and Himalayan griffon) were only sighted among them 8 of them were SBV.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Vulture conservation awareness interaction program was conducted in Baajhi Pokhari, Kaski. The program was coordinated with Khadananda Poudel (RuffordGrante, [https://www.rufford.org/projects/khadananda\\_paudel\\_1](https://www.rufford.org/projects/khadananda_paudel_1)). The program was organized by Moolban Community Forest Users Group and Dream Youth Club. Total 28 participants were in the program. Pokhara Bird Society and students from Institute of Forestry volunteered the program.



Figure 7: Vulture Conservation Awareness Camp at Baajhi Pokhari, Kaski.

Together with Institute of Forestry, Kaski, National Wildlife week was celebrated conducting a rally. During the program information regarding SBV was also presented in banners (Figure 8). Vulture Awareness camp was also conducted in Bhujrung Khola among school students.



Figure 8: Banner demonstration during National Wildlife Week 2018.

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Figure 9: Vulture Awareness program during Wildlife week 2018 in Bhujrung Khola

### 3. Nest Monitoring

We have been regularly visiting the sites in 1<sup>st</sup> Rufford project, Sanitary Land filled Site, Dhobhilla (Nesting site of SBV), Proposed International Airport Site and Ghachowk. These sites have good movement of vultures. SBV nest is still active and after first breeding success this is second breeding period of SBV in the same nest.

### 4. Questionnaire Survey

We conducted questionnaire survey along the Millennium trekking trail, Palpa, upper Ghachowk area. Around 30 respondents were selected randomly along the Millennium trek trail for questionnaire survey. 10 respondents from Palpa and 10 from upper Ghachowk area.



Figure 10: Questionnaire survey , Field assistant taking questionnaire survey at Lamagaun, Tanahau.

## 5. Book writing

40% book work is completed. Very soon book will be published and distributed.