

Strengthen and extension of Participatory Conservation of Critically Endangered Slender-Billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* in Western Mid-hills of Nepal.

Progress Report II
(July to December, 2018)

Applicant ID: **24021-2**



During these 6 months 90% of the project objectives have been completed. Together with the technical help from Pokhara Bird Society, Bird Conservation Nepal and Students from Tribhuvan University we have completed the following targets:

Targets

1. Monitoring the population of SBV and exploring new sites of SBV.
2. Public awareness campaign.
3. Questionnaire survey.
4. IVAD, 2018
5. Book Work.
6. Participation in Pokhara Bird Fair 2018

1. Monitoring Sites

-Visit to upper Ghachowk (1):

With an assistant from IOF Pokhara Suman Ghimire we visited upper Ghachowk for monitoring the vulture movements in those areas. We visited site from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We interviewed 10 local people to know the scenario of past 5 years and now regarding vulture status and carcass disposal practice. There was no record of SBV during our trip to upper Ghachowk.

-Visit to vulture restaurant (2) (August 15 and September 22, 2018)

The vulture restaurant was visited twice during July to December 2018. These two visits were made together with vulture restaurant management committee members for monitoring the different species of vulture visiting vulture restaurant.

-Visit to Khaireni (Near Kotre River) (July 23, 2018 and November 24, 2018)

-Visit to different parts of Kaski (1 Lake, Lachowk)

-Visit to Palpa (July 20, 2018)

-Visit to Bhimaad, Tanahu (October 11, 2018)

First visit to Bhimaad was made making the main highway (Bhimaad to Rampur, Palpa) as transect line for monitoring the vulture movement.

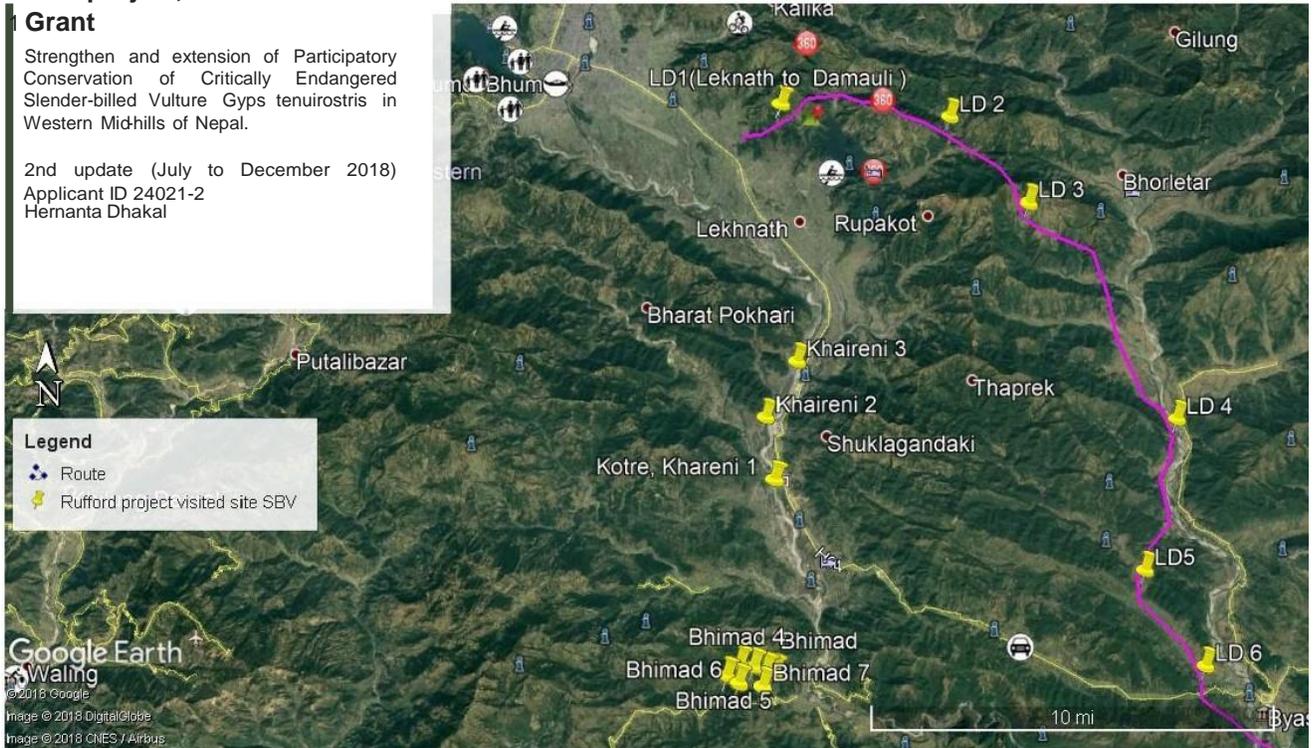
-Visit to Lamjung, Bholetaar (Sept 14, 2018 and November 17, 2018)

-Visit to Kholabesi, Lapsidada, Talbesi-Surketan-Parajulibesi-Neupanebesi-Doipiple-Ranitaari-Damauli (Kaski, Lamjung and Tanahu) December 30, 2018 –Jan 7, 2019)

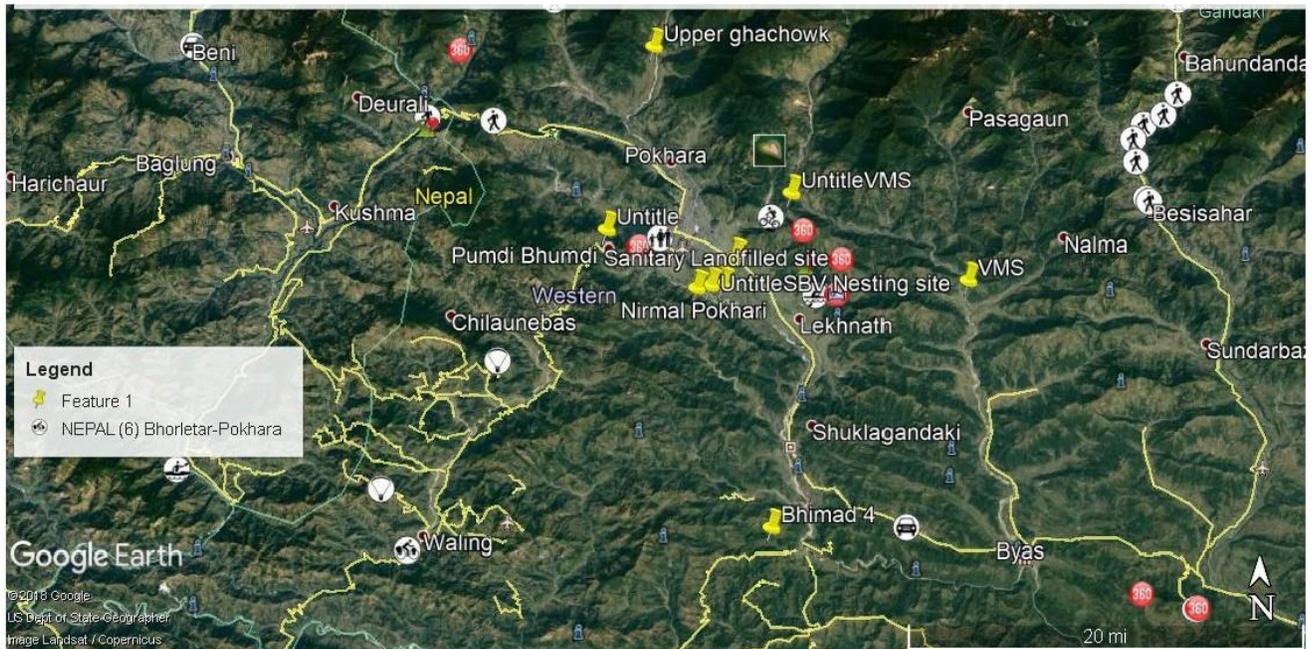
SBV project, Rufford Small Grant

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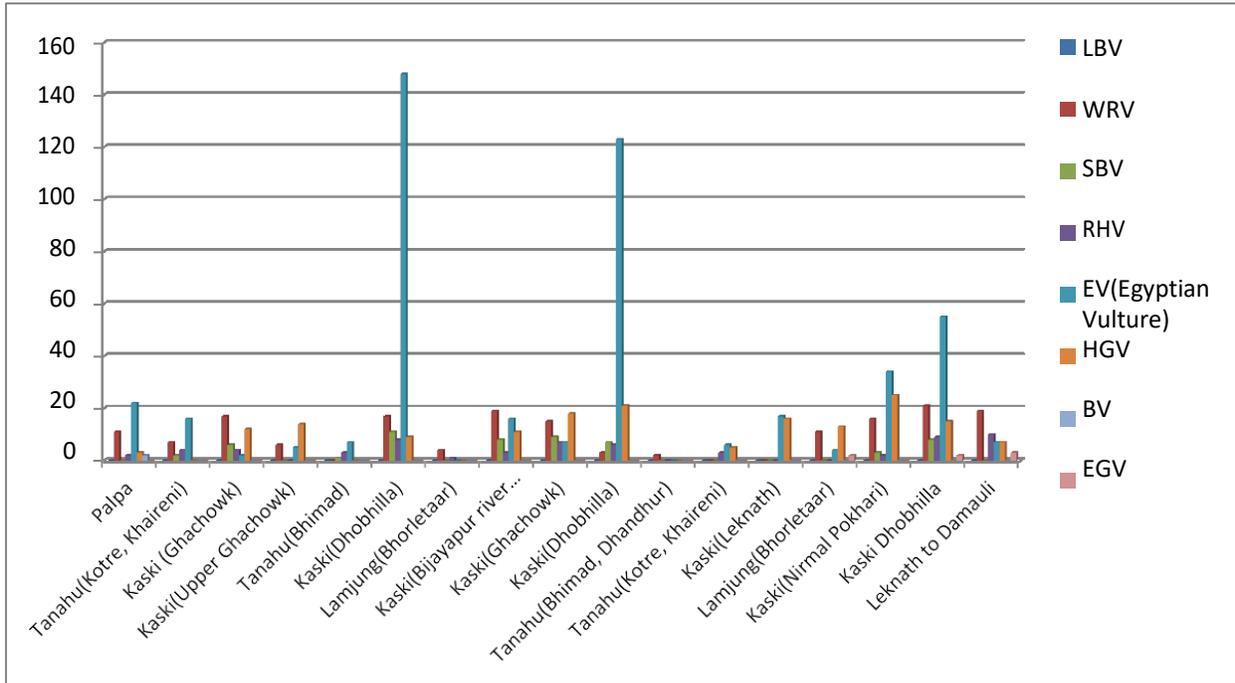
2nd update (July to December 2018)
Applicant ID 24021-2
Hemanta Dhakal



Strengthen and extension of Participatory Conservation of Critically Endangered Slender-billed'



***Results:**



IOF Students and Bird expert Hattan Chaudhary and Krishna Bhusal, monitoring vultures

2. Public Awareness Campaign (2018)

Summary on International Vulture Awareness Week 2018



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 program and Mrs Binita Karki as vice co-ordinator. A week long awareness campaign from 1st Saturday to 2nd Saturday of September 2018 was conducted. Details of week programs conducted are mentioned below.

Day 1: Vulture Monitoring

On the first day of the IVA week, vulture monitoring was conducted at land filled site of Pokhara (i.e. Dhobhilla). Students from Institute of Forestry (IOF), members from BCN, Pokhara branch & members of Pokhara Bird Society (PBS) actively participated in the program. During the monitoring, total 6 species of vultures were sighted.

S.N	Common Name	Scientific Name	Frequency
1	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	17
2	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	8
3	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	11
4	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	148
5	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	9
6	Eurassian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	0

Day 2- Day 6: School Teaching

As we all know that without the awareness to the local people, conservation is almost impossible. Thus, with the objective of disseminating awareness about the status, their role, threat to them and importance of vulture conservation, the school teaching program was carried out from Day 2 to Day 6 to the different schools of Pokhara valley.

SN	School Name
1	SOS Herman Gmeinr School
2	Gandaki Boarding School
3	View Point Boarding School
4	Rainbow School
5	Srijana Secondary School
6	Prativa Secondary School
7	Karunadhi Education Foundation School

Day 7: Poem competition and Photo Exhibition Program

On the last day, different photos (more than 70) of vultures with different actions including themes were exhibited. Similarly, the sketch of vultures that were sketched during IVAD, 2017 were also displayed. About 150 people visited our photo exhibition that include Teacher, Professor, local people and students. After the exhibition program, the poem competition was conducted in which 5 students from 4 schools were awarded. All the participants gave their best performance which roused the audience. At the end of the program, every student was awarded on the basis of decision made by the judges.

SN	Student Name	School Name	Rank
1	Sanjaya Sigdel	Srijana School	1 st
2	Prabin Dhakal	Sainik Aawasiye Mahabidyalaya	2 nd
3	Soniya Sharma	Sainik Aawasiye Mahabidyalaya	3 rd
4	Aayusha Hamal	Global Colligiate School	4 th
5	Agrata Sharma	KEF	4 th





Photo exhibition and Poem competition program at IOF Pokhara, IVAD 2018

Vulture Monitoring at Dhobhilla, Kaski





Vulture Conservation Awareness Program at SOS Herman Gmeinar School (Grade XII students)

3. Questionnaire Survey.

Total 200 respondents from different places were done. From four different district around Kaski (Lamjung, Parbat, Palpa and Tanahu) 50 respondents were selected from each district. The selection of the respondents was opportunistic.

Among 200 respondents 98% respondents are positive towards vulture conservation. 83% respondents say carcass is disposed by burying. Habitat loss, Poisoning, accessibility to carcass, forest fire and human encroachment were found to be major causes of vulture decline. More than 74% respondents agreed that there is decline in the number of vulture as compare to the number of vulture in past 10 years back. Respondents were from age group 15-65 years old. 47% respondents were female and 53% were male.

4. Book Progress:

Final draft is completed. Now book is under revision by Language editor after this book will be again edited by experts and will be send for publication.

5. Participation in Pokhara Bird Fair (3rd to 5th July, 2018)



Picture of Slender-billed vulture taken by Krishna Mani Baral, in the photo exhibition

During the 1st Pokhara Bird Fair 2018, organized by Pokhara Bird Society, 45 pictures of birds in and around Pokhara including Slender-billed vulture and other vultures were framed and presented in Photo Exhibition of the program. The program was for 3 days. More than 3000 people (Students, Local people, government representatives, bird lovers and researchers) visited the photo exhibition program. There was poem competition also. Mr. Hemanta Dhakal (Me) was the master of ceremony in the program. I also presented a paper on status of birds (Vulture) in Pokhara valley.



Together with Rajendra Gurung (President of Bird Conservation Nepal), Me, Honorable Minister of Environment, tourism, wildlife and forestry (Province 4, Nepal) and President of Pokhara Bird Society, Senior Ornithologist Hem Sagar Baral(PhD).