

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Anand Chaudhary
<b>Project title</b>	Community Managed <i>Jatayu</i> (Vulture) Safe Zone for conservation of critically endangered vulture species, Nepal
<b>RSG reference</b>	27.10.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2010-February 2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5744
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:anand@birdlifeneal.org">anand@birdlifeneal.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:anand.chaudhary@yahoo.com">anand.chaudhary@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	18 March 2011

**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
<b>Infrastructure development</b>				
Improving cow rescue centre and grazing area			Fully Achieved	Cow rescue centre has increased capacity to hold 30 additional cattle and an additional 1 ha (approximate) grazing land has been fenced off from the community forests. In Dang project site, an observation tower was constructed through CEPF funding.
Development of information centre and collection/display of relevant information		Partially Achieved		Display and resource materials for information centre were added, however, because of the small room the centre has on rent, it could not be developed extensively. Funding limitations did not allow for renting extra rooms.
<b>Capacity building of community groups and research</b>				
Training for key persons in the community on managing restaurant, monitoring vultures and their nests			Fully Achieved	In additional to one formal training and an observation tour, one-on-one training (coaching) were provided by project personnel to key community members
Monitoring of non-synthetic anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), nest and vultures by locally trained individuals x 2 sites			Fully Achieved	Monitoring work ongoing regularly and additional funds secured from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK to continue monitoring in 2011/12.
Conduct socio-economic and ecological survey of project area		Partially Achieved		An extensive socio-economic survey of the area was completed with administration of 600 questionnaires in two sites. The ecological survey was limited to records of vultures attending carcasses, nest monitoring of vultures and mid-winter water bird count. An exhaustive annual bird survey of project area in Lumbini site which had started prior to the project was completed in May 2010. A more extensive study of other wildlife of the area was planned but could not be executed and result has not been displayed at the information centre as planned.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
<b>Awareness raising and promotion</b>				
Develop and print awareness and promotional materials			Fully Achieved	A poster and two different types of leaflets have been developed, printed and distributed widely, within and beyond the project sites. More could be achieved with co-funding from other organisations. An additional tourism promotion poster is under development.
Coordination meetings with veterinary community x 2 events			Fully Achieved	With co-funding from other organisations, more than two events were organised and project team/community representatives were able to talk one-to-one with individuals of veterinary community and commit them to sign a pledge not to use the drug diclofenac.
Awareness campaigns in and around local community and schools x 10 events			Fully Achieved	12 events were held with the direct participation of 727 individuals that included school awareness, rallies on the occasion of International Vulture Awareness Day September 5, 2010, A poetry competition at school and awareness event for media
Formal declaration of "Diclofenac Free Zone" through a district level workshop			Fully Achieved	Both project districts (Dang and Rupandehi) were formally declared on November 27, 2010 and February 17, 2011 as Diclofenac Free by government with support from veterinary community, media, political parties, community-based organisations and conservation community. Additionally, nine districts have been declared as Diclofenac free by the project team. Dang was the first ever official diclofenac free area in the world.
Tourism promotional workshops x 2 events		Partially Achieved		Tourism promotion workshop and placement of a stall in a tourism fair was completed in Dang. In Rupandehi, the local community requested for a promotional poster to be placed in reception of all hotels of the area instead of the workshop. This would be more sustainable and more likely to attract tourists. The poster is under development.

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

We had applied to a number of other funding sources for similar parallel projects and we received support from SOS Conservation Leadership Programme, UNDP/Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme and Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund/ZSL along with a large Darwin Initiative/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds grant. As all projects involved the same set of personnel without facility for adding team member, we were a little stretched and there were some delays in completing the target activities.

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

- Both project districts were declared as Diclofenac Free Zones through our initiation by the local government, veterinary community, political parties, media, conservation organisations and community-based groups. Dang district was declared the first of its kind in the world. Both these districts make up part of a 21,013 km<sup>2</sup> Vulture Safe Zone, the first of its kind in the world.
- The chief guest at the Diclofenac Free Zone declaration ceremony in Dang, the Chairperson of the Natural Resource Committee of Parliament called a national level meeting attended by 26 parliament members, secretary of two ministries (Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives). Both Ministries committed to take pro-active steps for vulture conservation. As a result the Department of Livestock Services has instructed all district offices under it to make it mandatory to include vulture conservation programme in their annual budget. Our team has now been assigned to prepare a guideline for Diclofenac Free Zone declaration which will be discussed at a national workshop in April 2011 and approved as a government guideline.
- Through this project and a number of parallel projects that was implemented in other areas, a massive sensitisation work was carried out in schools, communities, among veterinary groups and widely through mass media. Thus among the key achievement of this project is that knowledge of vultures, their importance, their decline and cause of decline is widely known across Nepal and especially in the project districts.

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

A number of key activities (declaration of Diclofenac Free Zones; expansion of cow rescue centre and grazing area, monitoring of drug use practices) were led directly by our community-based partners with our technical backup. Awareness activities for veterinarians, for schoolchildren and tourism promotion were carried out jointly by our team and local groups. A university student was trained and engaged to lead the socio-economic research component of the project as a part of his Masters thesis. The questionnaires for socio-economic survey were filled by local youth trained by our team, handing over essential skills as well as providing a small remuneration.

Thus the most important benefit for the local community was the handover of knowledge and skills to the community so that they can continue carrying out activities like nest monitoring, monitoring of vulture species feeding at safe feeding sites and monitoring of drug use. Tourism promotion was implemented towards the end of the project and one component is still to be completed. We believe that these activities will help bring tourists to the project area, adding to the local economy and sustainability of the project sites. The key infrastructure of the project (expansion of cow shed and

grazing area; information centre) are community owned and will continue to benefit them for years to come.

### 5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Vulture conservation is the flagship programme of Bird Conservation Nepal. We were instrumental in preparing Nepal Government's *Vulture Conservation Action Plan for Nepal 2009-2013* and we are focused in supporting the government achieve its targets. In February 2011, an international consortium *Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE)* was launched in Delhi, India and Kathmandu, Nepal with our organisation as part of the core member.

The RSG grant helped fill a gap in the overall conservation of vultures in Nepal. My colleagues at the programme are already brainstorming for a new project to apply for a RSG.

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

We have done exceptionally well in sharing our work with wide coverage in national media and we continue to engage with the media as this is the best means to get vulture conservation message out to a wider audience. Key activities of the project was done in coordination with government line agencies, which has helped widen the implication of our project (detail in section 3).

Our team is working on the data collected from our survey and we hope to publish this in a peer reviewed journal.

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

The project was initially planned to start from November 2009 and end in October 2010. To consider for the actual date of agreement and reception of funds from RSG, I received permission from RSG to change the timeline to start in March 2010 and end in February 2011.

Besides a tourism promotion workshop that was changed with the feedback from community to development of tourism promotional poster, all activities were completed within the project period. We are seeking professional help to develop a good poster and hence we expect the posters to be in place in May 2011.

### 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.

SN	Output/Activity	Budgeted			Actual	Difference	Remarks
		Others	RSG	Total			
1	Infrastructure development of vulture restaurant	1,175.00	1,270.00	2,445.00	3,240.00	-795	
1.1	Improving cow rescue center and grazing area	385	885	1,270.00	1,380.00	-110	
1.2	Construction of observation tower	600		600	1,340.00	-740	Additional cost supported by WWF/TAL

1.3	Development of information center and collection/display of relevant information	190	385	575	520	55	To be used for new poster under development
<b>2</b>	<b>Capacity building of community groups and research</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,495.00</b>	<b>1,658.00</b>	<b>-163</b>	
2.1	Training for key persons in the community on managing restaurant, monitoring vultures and their nests	150	270	420	645	-225	Co-funding from UNDP/GEF/SGP project
2.2	Monitoring of NSAIDs, nest and vultures by locally trained individuals x 2 sites	300	310	610	600	10	
2.3	Conduct socio-economic and ecological survey of project area	80	385	465	413	52	
<b>3</b>	<b>Awareness raising and promotion</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>1,740.00</b>	<b>2,280.00</b>	<b>2,039.00</b>	<b>241</b>	
3.1	Develop and print awareness and promotional materials	230	450	680	551	129	Remaining to be used for new poster under development
3.2	Coordination meetings with veterinary community * 2 events	75	235	310	345	-35	
3.3	Awareness campaigns in and around local community and schools * 10 events	195	230	425	413	12	
3.4	Formal declaration of "Diclofenac Free Zone" through a district level workshop	40	385	425	615	-190	Cost covered by funding from CEPF and UNDP/GEF/SGP
3.5	Tourism promotional workshops * 2 events	-	440	440	215	225	One event. Rest to be diverted to tourism promotion poster

<b>Total Activity Costs</b>		<b>2,245.00</b>	<b>3,975.00</b>	<b>6,220.00</b>	<b>7,037.00</b>	<b>-817</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Professional Service costs</b>	1,000.00	480	1,480.00	1,365.00	115	
4.1	Technical back up from BCN/RSPB staff	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	Kind support
4.2	Field Assistants 2 * 4 months @ 60	-	480	480	365	115	Only one hired for 6 months
<b>5</b>	<b>Daily sustenance and travel</b>	535	385	920	1,158.00	-238	
5.1	Air Travel (6 trips-two way) for team leader	200	100	300	380	-80	Additional cost borne by another project
5.2	Land travel for project personnel	100	50	150	258	-108	
5.3	sustenance during travel	235	235	470	520	-50	
<b>6</b>	<b>Communication and Reporting</b>	235	350	585	546	39	
6.1	Communication	80	115	195	205	-10	
6.2	Stationery	40	80	120	100	20	
6.3	binoculars to monitor vultures x 2	115	115	230	241	-11	
6.4	Report Preparation/dissemination	-	40	40	-	40	To be used to disseminate research report
<b>Total Support Costs</b>		<b>1,770.00</b>	<b>1,215.00</b>	<b>2,985.00</b>	<b>3,069.00</b>	<b>-84</b>	
<b>Total Project Costs</b>		<b>4,015.00</b>	<b>5,190.00</b>	<b>9,205.00</b>	<b>10,106.00</b>	<b>-901</b>	
<b>Overhead expenses</b>			554	554	520	34	purchased laptop
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4,015.00</b>	<b>5,744.00</b>	<b>10,070.85</b>	<b>10,626.00</b>	<b>-867</b>	

*Note: Although it appears that we have overspent, in actual this is not the case as we received co-funding from other sources to help meet the costs. We have some funds saved that will be used for the tourism promotion poster we are developing for our project site.*

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

- a. The Vulture Safe Zone created by this and other projects in southern Nepal needs to be enlarged further as vultures easily fly well over 100 km in search of their food. The larger area should incorporate parts of northern India to create a trans-boundary Vulture Safe Zone. Fortunately, our colleagues in India and international scientists and donor agencies have agreed to this and steps have been initiated to create such an area through Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE).
- b. We need to keep on engaging the key stakeholders (veterinarians, para-veterinarians, veterinary drug sellers, government line agencies, local communities living close to existing nesting sites) in the conservation of vultures.
- c. Veterinary use of human diclofenac is now the key threat to vultures and strong advocacy is needed to legislate measures to make it difficult for vets to use this drug.

- d. With 99.9% of the vulture population gone, other so-called minor threats can now impact the surviving vulture population and these need to be investigated and necessary measures taken based on the investigation.

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

The RSGF logo was used on two different leaflets, a poster and a vulture newsletter produced by the project and PDF copies have been emailed to RSG. They were also used on banners during awareness, tourism promotion, media and Diclofenac Free Zone declaration events and RSGF has received publicity.

**11. Any other comments?**

The work of the Vulture Conservation Programme, Bird Conservation Nepal was recognised during National Conservation Day 2010 with project team member and two of the projects (including the project supported by RSG at Lumbini) won the **Abraham Conservation Award** for outstanding work at the grassroots level.

During the event I was awarded the **Mathew Preece and Yeshi Lama Young Conservation Leader** award. Based on the vulture conservation work done in Nepal, I have now received the prestigious **Fulbright Scholarship** to study Conservation Biology in United States starting fall 2011 and I am committed to continue my work once I return back to my country after completing my studies.