

# IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATING CONSERVATION EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS IN GAURISHANKAR CONSERVATION AREA

THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT      JULY 2022



# PREFACE

This report is third quarterly report submitted to the Rufford Foundation about the project "*Implementing and evaluating conservation education interventions in Gaurishankar Conservation Area*" by the Greenhood Nepal. This quarter include project activities like focus group discussions and poster campaign conducted at Chuchure, Ramechhap district of Nepal.

All the photographs included in this report were taken by **Niru Basnet, Somy Bhattarai** and **Sabitri Rai**.

# QUARTERLY UPDATES

Monsoon season is the rainy season in Nepal which usually starts from the second week of July to the fourth week of September. These months are wettest and humid where it rains daily. This season is best for farmers of Nepal who plant paddy in their farmlands which needs a lot of water.

With heavy rainfall roads mainly in hilly areas get highly impacted. Due to the onset of monsoon season at Nepal during the project's third quarter, project sites especially Gumdel were impacted. Gumdel, being rural along with poor road construction and non-operational roads during these months hindered teams from conducting third quarter projected activities like each FGD and poster campaign at Gumdel.

Taking this issue critically along with keeping safety of the team members in mind, the team planned to conduct third quarter project activities only in Chuchure. Even the roads to Chuchure were challenging as shown in the photographs below. Monsoon season also hinders schools. Schools at Ramechhap would be close in this season for a month due to monsoon rainfall. Despite these challenges, the team successfully completed projected activities in Chuchure in time.



Road conditions to Chuchure from Kathmandu. JCB backhoe loader clearing debris collected in riverways in the downstage right image.

# QUARTERLY UPDATES

While assessing the challenging scenario due to the monsoon season, our team visited schools of Chuchure only. We selected the four schools of Chuchure where we had conducted the Conservation School series namely at,

1. **Shree Shiva Basic School,**
2. **Shree Seti Devi Secondary School,**
3. **Shree Jatteshwory Secondary School** and
4. **Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School.**

Team also kept the responses in the questionnaire at context as well as consulted with the students about their consent to participate in the activities. Along that team also inquired students regarding their interests to participate in the follow-up voluntary conservation actions. Their responses were taken into account. Majority of all had chosen to participate in the focus group discussions (FGDs) and poster campaign in the post-test questionnaire and in-person meetings. Therefore, FGDs along with poster campaigns were conducted.

Shree Shiva Basic School and Shree Seti Devi Secondary School jointly conducted the activities at Shivalaya (Chuchure) whereas Shree Jatteshwory Secondary School and Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School jointly conducted the activities at Garjang (Chuchure). Four students from each school represented in these activities. Their consents were also taken. Two FGDs and poster campaigns were conducted at Shivalaya and Garjang.

Students successfully led the focus group discussion (FGD) at Shivalaya and Garjang of Chuchure, Ramechhap district. School visits by the team helped the student to refresh the Conservation School learnings. Along that student interactions also helped to harness the confidence and build team rapport among the students.

The team has completed following activities in project's third quarter.

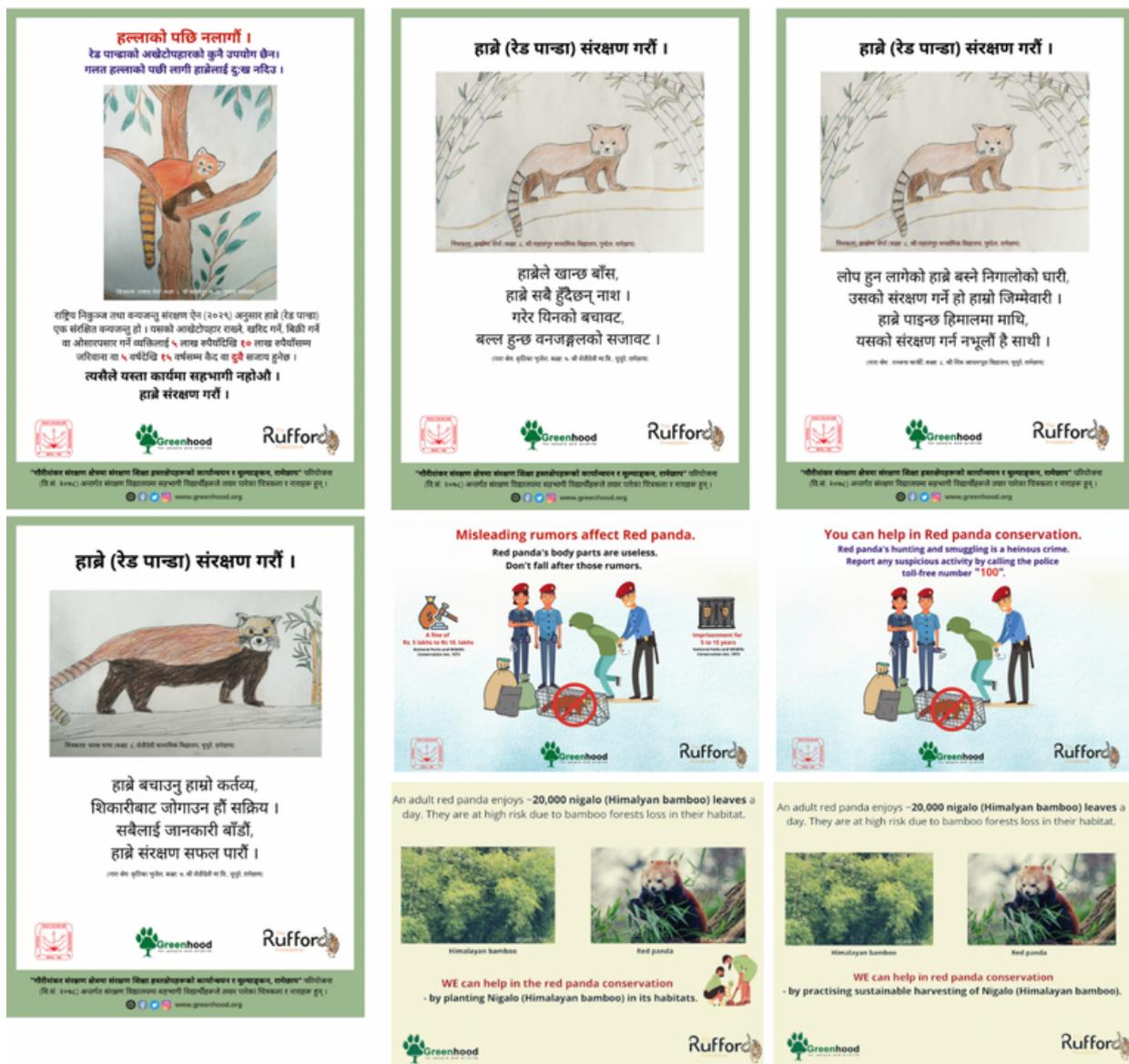
## **Activities completed**

1. **Identifying students' interests to participate in the follow-up voluntary conservation actions (presentation to local government, FGDs, Editorial writing).**
2. **Student-led activities**
  - **Focus group discussion (n=2)**
  - **Poster campaign (n=2)**

# PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS FOR POSTER CAMPAIGN

The team developed posters (in Nepali language) from the art workshops conducted during the Conservation School series and social media posts (in English and Nepali language). 200 posters were printed where 16 different types of posters were developed. The posters with drawings were adorned with slogans written by the school students during the Conservation School series at Chuchure and Gumdel. The slogans express the red panda's diet, habitats, and requests for its conservation.

Team also prepared other awareness posters with conservation messages to comply with laws of the Government of Nepal if one commits wildlife crime.

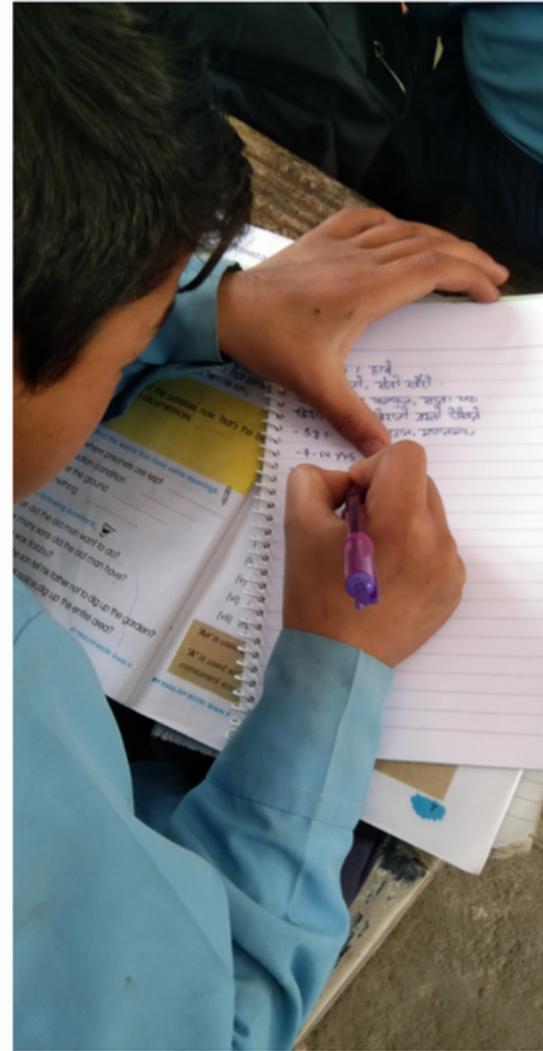


These are the eight different types of posters were developed for the poster campaign.

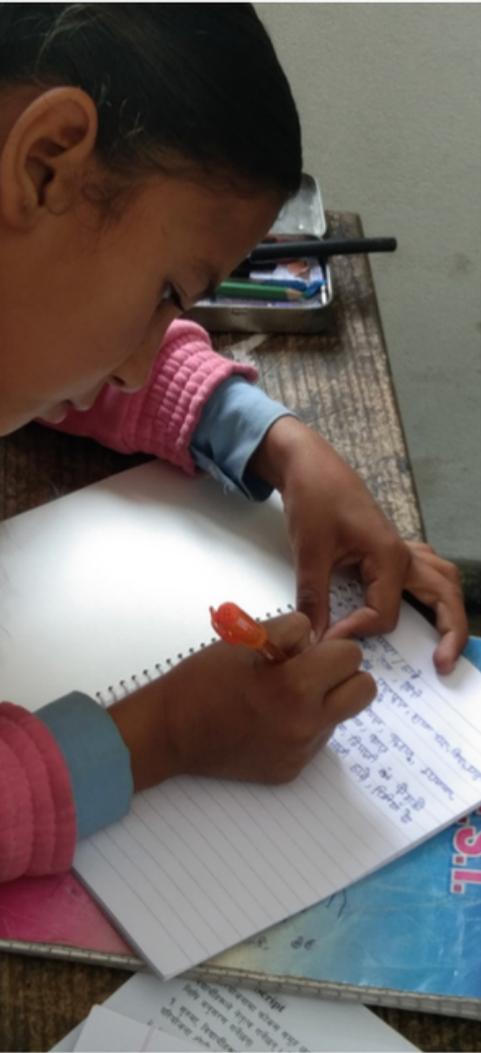
# MENTORING STUDENTS

Students from four different schools of Shivalaya and Gargang of Chuchure participated in this event. At first, the team revisited learnings from the Conservation School series about the Red panda among the students of four different schools. The students were enthusiastic to answer the red panda's questions by the trainers. Mentors were ecstatic to learn that they retained the learnings from the Conservation School.

After that, the team mentored the students on how to conduct any awareness activities visiting every school. We provided FGD script to each student for preparation for their talk. In addition to it, students were also facilitated before the FGDs. Team tried to aid the confidence of the students. Similarly conservation posters developed were also shared with the students with adding more knowledge among them. For instance, the difference between the Chinese red panda and Himalayan red panda as shown in the upstage left photograph.



# MENTORING STUDENTS



Students voluntarily participated to be speakers focus group discussion (FGD) about the red panda. Team presented the lay-out for their talk and provided FGD script to each student. Team categorised the discussions into following topics,

## Red panda's

- introduction
- diet
- distribution and habitats
- reproduction habits
- threats and conservation challenges
- conservation solution and activities

Students were mentored on how to deliver their portion in an effective manner to the audience. This helped students along mentor/s on mainstreaming the content for the event. Students were assured by the team that trainer would help them during the FGD. This aided their confidence which resulted into successful completion of student-led activities.



# STUDENTS INTERACTION

Among four schools there were two joint collaborations among the school students. Shree Shiva Basic School and Shree Seti Devi Secondary School jointly conducted FGD and poster campaign at Shivalaya (Chuchure) whereas Shree Jatteshwory Secondary School and Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School jointly conducted in Garjang (Chuchure).

Students introduce themselves and socialise with other fellow speakers. They discussed with each other how to conduct the FGD and poster campaign. They also demonstrated their portion of talk in front of fellow students.



Students of Shiva Basic School and Seti Devi Secondary School interacting with each other and discussing about the content for FGD in tea house of Shivalaya, Chuchure



Students of **Bhalepokhari Basic School** and **Jatteshwory Secondary School** interacting with each other and discussing about the content for FGD in tea house of Garjang, Chuchure

# FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Four different schools of Chuchure successfully conducted focus group discussion. Two FGD were conducted at Chuchure, one at Shivalaya and another at Garjang. Students led the programs at Shivalaya and Garjang. Each site had Secondary-level students and Basic-level students Local residents participated in the events.



Students of Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School and Jatteshwory Secondary School posing for a photograph at Garjang



Students of Shree Shiva Basic School and Seti Devi Secondary School posing for a photograph at Shivalaya

# FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION AT SHIVALAYA, CHUCHURE

Students from Shree Shiva Basic School and Shree Seti Devi Secondary School jointly conducted focus group discussion at Shivalya.

Local residents participated in the discussion where students presented very well about red pandas topics as planned.

Other local participants praised presentations by students and requested to participate in similar events in future as well.

Students of Shree Shiva Basic School also participated in the FGD. All participants accoladed the speakers appreciating speakers presentation which was many facts about red panda.



# FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION AT GARJANG, CHUCHURE

Students from Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School and Shree Jatteshwory Secondary School jointly conducted focus group discussion.

Local residents participated in the discussion where students presented very well about red panda. Other participants (from local conservation committee) also informed about their conservation actions to the students.

Overall it was an interactive session.



# POSTERS DISTRIBUTION

We handed the conservation posters to every school authority and students along with the local residents. A set of posters were also handed to staff of the Gaurishankar Conservation Area Region Office at Shivalaya (Ramechhap).

Schools pasted the posters in different classes, libraries, and offices.



Posters given to school students



Shree Shiva Basic School, Shivalaya



Shree Seti Devi Secondary School, Sangwadanda



Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School, Garjang



Shree Jatteshwory Secondary School, Garjang



Poster given to an elderly person at Garjang



Poster handed to the official of Gaurishankar Conservation Area Region Office at Shivalaya

# POSTERS CAMPAIGN AT SHIVALAYA, CHUCHURE



Student of Shree Seti Devi pasting poster in his class



Student of Shree Shiva Basic School pasting poster at Tourist help desk



Students helping team member to paste poster



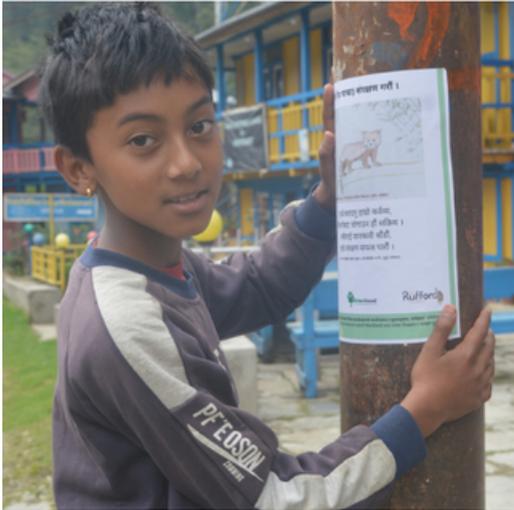
Student observing pasted poster at Shivalaya



Student of Shree Shiva Basic pasting poster

# POSTER CAMPAIGN AT SHIVALAYA, CHUCHURE

Students actively participated in the poster campaign. They assisted the project team members in pasting the posters at different strategic points at Shivalaya.



# POSTER CAMPAIGN AT STRATEGIC POINTS OF CHUCHURE



Poster at Shivalaya Bazaar, Chuchure



Poster at Tourist Information Centre & Joint Check Post, Chuchure



Poster at gate of Shree Shiva Basic School, Chuchure



Poster near Gauri-Shankar Conservation's region office, Chuchure



Team members pasting posters at the local government office, Chuchure

# POSTER CAMPAIGN AT SHIVALAYA, CHUCHURE

Students started the campaign from the ground of Shree Shiva Basic School, Shivalaya (Chuchure). They carried posters along hand made pamphlets.



# POSTER CAMPAIGN AT GARJANG, CHUCHURE

Students actively participated in the poster campaign. They assisted the project team members in pasting the posters at different strategic points like markets including their own classrooms at Garjang.

School authority also assisted in pasting the posters in the teacher's staff room.



Student of Shree Bhale Pokhari observing poster in their classroom



Student of Shree Bhale Pokhari and Shree Jatteshwory pasting posters in the Garjang



Student of Shree Bhale Pokhari pasting poster in their School premises



Teacher of Shree Bhale Pokhari pasting poster in the office



Student of Shree Jatteshwory pasting poster in their classroom

# POSTER CAMPAIGN AT GARJANG, CHUCHURE



Pasting posters at different shops at Garjang, Chuchure



Poster campaign conducted done by school stud by school students of Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School & Shree Jatteshwory Secondary School at Garjang, Chuchure



Team member describing the poster to an elderly person at Garjang's marketplace, Chuchure



Poster at resting house near Garjang, Chuchure

# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

- Students who participated in the FGDs and led the poster campaigns were awarded with certificate of appreciation.



Students of Shree Shiva Basic School posing with their certificate of appreciation



Students of Shree Seti Devi Secondary School posing with their certificate of appreciation



Student of Shree Bhale Pokhari Basic School handed certificate of appreciation



Student of Shree Jatteswory Secondary School handed certificate of appreciation

# CHALLENGES

- School will be closed from 3rd week of June nearly for a month due to the monsoon season. Team had to schedule the project activities by first week of June. And since the project activities aligned with on-set of the monsoon season. It was challenging for the team to visit and carry-out the work. It was a little arduous to carry out the student-led programs like focus group discussion and poster campaigns at project sites.
- In addition to it, at this hour paddy cultivation is practiced widely. This limited local residents' participation in the focus group discussions. We faced minor challenges in regard to people's participation during our programs.

## MEETING HAPPY FACES



**Kritika Bhujel**, grade 8 student of Shree Seti Devi Secondary School, Chuchure posing with posters that has her slogans. Her two slogans were selected for the posters which contains students drawings. She was ecstatic to learn that her slogans were selected for posters.

**Paras Thapa**, grade 9 student of Shree Seti Devi Secondary School, Chuchure posing with posters that has his drawing in his classroom. He shared that he felt proud & happy.



## **FURTHER PLANS**

- Output sharing workshop will be conducted among the relevant stakeholders in the last quarter.
- The posters developed in third quarter will be shared on Greenhood Nepal's social media posts in the last quarter.
- A set of posters developed will be submitted to the head office of the Gaurishankar Conservation Area at Shingati, Dolakha district.