

## Rufford 1<sup>st</sup> Booster Project update (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Project ID – 41641-B

**Boosting nationwide vulture conservation by connecting people, government and development projects through monitoring and awareness workshops.**



**April to June, 2024**



## Targeted programs from April to June, 2024

- **Provincial Workshops**
- **School and University Students Awareness**
- **Selection of undergraduate students for Nest, Vulture and NSAIDs monitoring**
- **NSAIDs monitoring and Vulture Population monitoring**
- **Preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester financial update and progress report and its submission to Pokhara Bird Society, Social Welfare Fund and Rufford.**

### **A. April 2024 (12 April, 2024)**

Provincial level, Vulture Awareness programs/Workshops (Gandaki Province).

Targeting our objective for vulture conservation to make the representatives from different government and non-government departments involved in developmental projects that directly or indirectly have influence on the vulture and their conservation challenges were invited in the workshop. The program was organized by Pokhara Bird Society in coordination with Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Gandaki Province.

The program was conducted in April 12, 2024 at the Hotel Pokhara Batika, Lakeside, Pokhara, Gandaki Province. Representatives from

1. Pokhara Metropolitan City
2. Pokhara Regional International Airport
3. Road Department, Gandaki Province
4. The Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development
5. Nepal Bar Association, Gandaki Province
6. Nepal Telecom, Gandaki Province
7. Pokhara- Mugling road extension project, Pokhara office
8. Institute of Forestry, Pokhara Campus
9. Prithivi Narayan Campus, Zoology Department, Pokhara
10. Gandaki Academy of Science and Technology (GPAST)
11. Sukhla Gandaki Municipality, Tanahau
12. Putalibazar Municipality, Syanja
13. Byas Municipality, Tanahau
14. Division forest office, Tanahau
15. Division Forest Office, Kaksi
16. Division forest office, Syanja
17. Vulture Restaurant Management committee, Nawwalpur
18. Vulture Restaurant Management Committee, Ghachowk, Kaski
19. Community forest office, Gandaki Province
20. Western Regional Engineering College, Kaksi
21. Li-Bird, Pokhara
22. District Police office, Kaski
23. District Administrative Office, Kaksi

24. Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Hariyo Karka, Pokhara
25. Friends of Nature (FON), Nepal
26. Nepal paragliding Association, Pokhara
27. Pro-public Nepal
28. Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN)
29. Newspaper reports
30. Nepal Zoological Society, Gandaki Province
31. Local organization for Research and development, Pokhara
32. Aankhijhyal Pvt. Ltd.

The program was chaired by president of Pokhara Bird Society and Dr. Ramchandra Kadel, Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Gandaki Province was invited as the Chief Guest of the program. Total 48 participants from 32 organizations participated in the program (Annex 1). The program was inaugurated by Chief guest by unveiling of the mobile application launched by Aankhijhyal Technologies ([www.aankhijhyal.com.np](http://www.aankhijhyal.com.np)) with full patent right of Pokhara Bird Society. The application was named as Wings watcher and will be helpful in recording and monitoring Aankhijhyal technologies.



Discussion during provincial vulture workshop



Two presentations on vulture, conservation challenges, conservation efforts and vulture distribution were presented by Hemanta Dhakal and Deu Bdr. Rana (Field Researcher, Bird Conservation Nepal). A detailed discussion was made regarding the challenges of vulture conservation in Gandaki Province after the presentations. Dr. Ramchandra Kadel, Secretary of MoFITE also highlighted the possible mitigation methods and role of government to conserve vulture and address the issues of vulture conservation in his closing remarks. Program Chairperson, Mr. Manshanta Ghimire concluded the discussion and program, mentioning that issues like electrocution, collision, poisoning, carcass accessibility and habitat destruction were major threats and challenges in vulture conservation in Gandaki province. The issues with faulty EIA and IEE were also one of the major threats to vultures.



Discussion during workshop with Gandaki Provincial Government representatives, Stakeholders, Researchers, Development projects representatives and local representatives.

**B. May, 2024**

### 1. Information exchange program at Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Chitwan:

One day research ideas and information exchange program were conducted during the workshop organized by Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan. International Participation from William and Mary viz. Professor Mary C. (Department Head, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Virginia USA), Troy (Senior Scientist, VIMS, USA) and Shannon (PhD scholar at VIMS, USA), Senior professors from AFU from different departments (Fisheries, Aquaculture, Veterinary, and Agriculture) participated in the program. I presented on the importance of the role of vulture in nature and how can we help from our side to protect vultures. Posters of Vultures were distributed to all participants.



Vulture information sharing with International scientists and professor

### 2. Vulture awareness workshop among Veterinary Students

Students from Veterinary science of the AFU was also given few hours of lecturer. They were happy to know the status of vultures in Nepal and their role in nature. Most of the participants reflected their positive response to conserve vultures and their role in conserving vultures in future. Around 40 students participated in the program and vulture posters were distributed to all participants. Few enthusiastic students were selected after the program for NSAIDs monitoring in Lumbini Province.





Awareness program at Agriculture and Forestry University.

**C. June, 2024 (School awareness programs and workshops)**

**June 5 and 18,**

Just like in other months, this month me and my team visited some schools and colleges to promote the vulture awareness programs. More than 500 students from different schools were aware about the need of vulture conservation. In total 567 posters of vulture were distributed Gyan Bhumi Secondary School and Kantipur Academy of Science and technology, Gandaki province.



Awareness program at Gyanganga Secondary School



Awareness program at Gyanganga Secondary School



Awareness program at Kantipur Academy of Science and Technology



**June 6, 2024**

Interaction and identification training to undergraduate forestry students of Tribhuvan University: Two hours presentation to undergraduate students were given on the topics Raptors of Nepal. I presented the techniques of identification of raptors as well as vultures and the status of vultures in Nepal. I also selected 10 students from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara Campus, Tribhuvan University, for NSAIDs monitoring, vulture nest monitoring and Vulture Population monitoring for upcoming days.



Undergraduate Students of Forestry Campus getting some information about vulture

**June 27, 2024**

Participation in USAIDS funded program of Jal Jangal, Where I presented the necessary role of Nepal Government and stakeholders in conservation of vultures in future. The environment safeguards and its necessity during development projects were also discussed to reduce the incidents and accidents related with wildlife.





My presentation for the need of environmental safeguards to protect species like Vultures at USAID program

**June 30, 2024**

Participation in National Conservation Forum, organized by IUCN, Nepal. I represented the program as IUCN Species Survival Commission National Focal person for Nepal. The necessary role of IUCN and IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist group in conservation of vultures was put forwarded in few logical points during the program from my side as a speaker representing all IUCN SSC Vulture specialist group members.



MR Dhakal as IUCN SSC vulture specialist group member, presenting the need of strong policy to conserve Threatened species of Nepal during National Conservation Forum workshop organized by IUCN, Nepal.

During the month June 2024 We also started the NSAIDs monitoring by the help of veterinary undergraduates' students selected during the awareness workshops in Agriculture and Forestry University. Final report on NSAIDs and vulture population monitoring will be submitted in next updates.

### July 2024

Submission of January to June update summary of Rufford Project to Social Welfare Council, Nepal.

Thank You



Vulture conservation team meet during the program organized by IOF, Pokhara Campus



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