

The project, led by the local NGO Konservasi Alam Maluku Utara (Nature Conservation for North Maluku), undertook a range of activities. These included education activities in primary, junior and high schools; identifying, interviewing and compiling data on bird trappers and traders; and awareness-raising in local communities.

Ten schools were visited during the education campaign, reaching almost 500 school children. The survey of parrot trappers resulted in the identification of 19 active trappers, five passive trappers and two traders. Interviews with them indicated mainly economic reasons for continuing trapping, but also identified a willingness to stop if alternative sources of income could be developed.

Follow-up work is now being designed to build on the relationship established with the trappers, in an attempt to reduce their trapping activities.

Iskandar ABDULLAH
Konservasi Alam Maluku Utara (KAMU)
Kota Ternate – Maluku Utara 97724, Indonesia
<http://konservasi Alam Maluku Utara.wordpress.com>
Email: kamu_js@yahoo.com

Population modelling and conservation of endangered vultures in Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal

Our team was funded by OBC, the Rufford Foundation and the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust to expand Nepal’s vulture conservation programme into the Himalayas. The work was carried out in the high-altitude Annapurna Conservation Area,

where vulture conservation has received less attention compared with the lower lying parts of the country. The team undertook an extensive programme of vulture surveys, evaluation of diclofenac use and training for local conservationists, along with a considerable amount of education and advocacy work in the local communities to promote vulture conservation.

The main vulture species found in the conservation area was the Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*—183 individuals and four active nests. Although this species is not threatened, it does wander to lower altitudes where it may be more vulnerable to diclofenac poisoning. Three other vulture species were recorded in smaller numbers: the Near Threatened Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*, Endangered Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* and Critically Endangered White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*.

Diclofenac was no longer for sale in the Annapurna Conservation Area, thanks to work by the local authorities to prevent this; furthermore, no vulture carcasses were found during the surveys. It was considered likely that Annapurna was diclofenac-free and that vulture populations were healthy and secure. Compared to counts over the last 14 years, it appears that Himalayan Vultures may even have started to increase in the area.

Dikpal Krishna KARMACHARYA
Global Primate Network – Nepal PO BOX 26288
Email: dikpal@primatelife.org



**THE SPECIALIZED
BIRDING
TOUR OPERATOR**

Jetwing ECO HOLIDAYS
SRI LANKA
www.jetwingeco.com