

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Dr Sagar Paudel
Project title	Participatory conservation of critically endangered vulture species through community managed “Vulture Safe Zone” in Far West.
RSG reference	10702-1
Reporting period	July 2012 to June 2013
Amount of grant	£5830
Your email address	sagarpaudel@gmail.com
Date of this report	27th September 2013

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
Capacity building of local government bodies and community groups			✓	<p>Two training sessions were organised in Baitadi and Dadeldhura in September 2012 to train stakeholders (advocate government line agencies on Vulture Safe Zone management and train local community people on vulture nest monitoring and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs).</p> <p>In June 2013, a Vulture Safe Zone workshop was conducted in Baitadi to discuss the vulture issues and the achievements achieved so far in conservation of vultures in Baitadi and Dadeldhura. The workshop was much focused on the roles of every stakeholder for sustaining vulture conservation works in Baitadi and Dadeldhura.</p>
Scientific Monitoring and Surveys			✓	<p>Regular monitoring of nesting colony of Himalayan griffon at Khodpe (Baitadi) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in Baitadi and Dadeldhura was done during the project period.</p> <p>During the breeding season 2012-13, six out of eight pairs of Himalayan griffons were able to fledge their chicks. So overall breeding success was 75%. A road count survey that was conducted in May 2013 recorded altogether 53 number of four species of vultures (Himalayan griffon- 39, red-headed vulture -2, lammergeir- 6 and Egyptian vulture- 6) on the transect Dadeldhura to Gokule (Dadeldhura and Baitadi districts)</p> <p>Sixteen vet pharmacies in Baitadi district and 21 vet pharmacies in Dadeldhura were monitored in collaboration with District Livestock Service Offices of Baitadi and Dadeldhura but no diclofenac were found in those pharmacies.</p> <p>100 questionnaires were administrated in September 2012 and another 100 questionnaires were surveyed at the end of the project on June 2013 to measure the attitude of local people and see changes brought by the project. The survey suggests that peoples' awareness level on vulture conservation has been positively changed by the project.</p>
Awareness, advocacy and government engaging			✓	<p>Two coordination meetings were conducted in September 2012 and June 2013.</p> <p>Twenty awareness activities (10 in each district) were conducted in September 2012.</p> <p>Vulture conservation message was broadcasted</p>

				<p>through Farwest FM in order to assist with community awareness, three times a day for a month.</p> <p>Awareness raising materials (5000 leaflets and 1000 stickers) were published using RSG logo along with other organisations' logos and distributed to the concerned stakeholders.</p>
Diclofenac Free Zone Declaration			✓	<p>In order to stop the illegal use of diclofenac after its ban by Government of Nepal in 2006, Baitadi and Dadeldhura districts were declared as Diclofenac Free Zones (DFZs) on 20th and 22nd December 2012 respectively. The districts were declared as DFZ after monitoring the diclofenac in veterinary pharmacies and where the absence of diclofenac in the district is confirmed through the monitoring. These two districts were declared as DFZ on the stewardship of local government line agencies and leadership of District Livestock Service Office. This was coordinated by BCN and supported by veterinary professionals, drug sellers, political parties and media. As expansion and up scaling of Diclofenac Free Zones, these districts added 3057 km² Diclofenac Free Area to the previous vulture safe zone of Nepal.</p> <p>Two hoarding boards containing the message of Diclofenac Free Zone have been placed in Baitadi and Dadeldhura districts.</p>

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

There were no major difficulties except the travel to the project sites became difficult in rainy season due to flood and landslide.

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

- Expansion of Diclofenac Free Zones in Far western region on Nepal:** Baitadi and Dadeldhura districts have been declared as Diclofenac Free Zones in coordination with the local government, veterinary community, political parties, media, conservation organisations and community-based groups of Baitadi and Dadeldhura districts. Both these districts make up part of a 62 316 km² Diclofenac Free Zone.
- Awareness level of key stakeholders on vulture conservation issues improved:** Key stakeholders for vulture conservation in area are involved in most of the activities of this project has not only made them aware on the issues of vulture conservation but also paved a path to carry out activities for conservation of vultures from their level in Baitadi and Dadeldhura. School students are made aware on the issues so that they will spread the message of vulture conservation, veterinary practitioners and farmers are trained on the role of both in vulture conservation which will create a monitoring mechanism for the illegal use of diclofenac in the area. Government line agencies have been advocated on vulture conservation issues so that they have been monitoring illegal use of the drug diclofenac in the project area.

- **The project site is foraging area for five species of vultures and no diclofenac was found in those areas:** Five species of vultures: white-rumped vulture, red-headed vulture, Himalayan griffon, lammergeier and Egyptian vulture have been recorded foraging in Baitadi and Dadeldhura. Himalayan griffons have been breeding in these areas. Regular monitoring of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in area revealed that there diclofenac was not available in veterinary pharmacies of Baitadi and Dadeldhura 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; monitoring of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), nest monitoring of Himalayan griffon, coordination meetings school awareness activities and Vulture Safe Zone Workshop) were conducted in coordination and joint efforts of local groups and local government line agencies. Thus the most important benefit for the local community was the awareness on need of vulture conservation and skills on monitoring of vultures and NSAIDs to the local community so that they can continue these activities in their areas. Awareness and advocacy works accomplished will be useful to support their activities for vulture conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Vulture conservation activities in Nepal are being highlighted worldwide due to the nature of work and success achieved so far. Involving local community in various vulture conservation activities such as monitoring of vultures and NSAIDs, providing safe food for vultures through community managed vulture safe feeding sites etc. has been supporting the vulture conservation programme to reach beyond the output level. This has created an ownership of vulture conservation to local people and hence our programme has been running to the path of sustainability of vulture conservation works in Nepal. Moreover, two papers published in 2011 (Chaudhary *et al.* 2011) and 2012 (Prakash *et al.* 2012) have shown that decline of white-rumped Vulture has been slowed down in Nepal and India which is a good sign for our programme. Thus, engaging community and other stakeholders and more awareness and advocacy works to strengthen vulture safe zones needs to be continued.

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

The works of this project have been covered by local and national media during the project period and interviews and articles regarding the project will also be covered by media in future too. Furthermore, information of this project will be disseminated through final report.

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

Overall project completed in time as anticipated duration for the project was August 2012 to July 2013 except, final coordination and sharing workshop was conducted in June 2013.

8. Budget: Please provide breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Capacity Building of Community groups	700.00	700.00		
Training on VSFS management and monitoring of vulture, nest and veterinary drugs for key persons from community and local governments bodies x 1 event x 2 district x £ 350	700.00	700.00		
Scientific Monitoring and Survey	1,820.00	1,820.00		
Monitoring of vultures, their nest and veterinary drugs by locally trained individuals x 2 sites x 2 districts x £ 200	800.00	850.00	-50	
Monitoring of veterinary drug by District Diclofenac monitoring committee x 1 event x 2 district x £ 250	500.00	500.00		
Baseline and end line surveys x 2 event x 2 district x £ 130	520.00	470.00	+50	
Awareness, Advocacy and Government engaging	900.00	900.00		
Develop and print awareness materials x a pack of 5000 leaflets x £ 100	100.00	120.00	-20	
Coordination meetings with vet community x 2 events x 2 district x £150	600.00	550.00	+50	
Awareness campaigns in and around local community and schools x 10 (5+ 5) events x 2 district x £ 10	200.00	230.00	-30	
Diclofenac Free Zone Declaration	1,350.00	1,350.00		
Formal Declaration of " Diclofenac Free Zone " through district level workshop x 1 event x 2 district £ 425	950.00	900.00	+50	
Hoarding Board on DFZ x 2 sites x 2 district x £ 100	400.00	450.00	-50	
Project Personnel cost	410.00	410.00		
Salary for field assistant x 3 months x £ 70	210.00	210.00		
Land travel for project personnel	100.00	100.00		
Sustenance during travel and field work	100.00	100.00		
Reporting, Communication and Dissemination	120.00	120.00		
Communication	40.00	40.00		
Reporting and Dissemination	80.00	80.00		
Total Project cost	5,300.00	5,300.00		
Overhead (10 %)	530.00	530.00		
Total cost	5,830.00	5,830.00		

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

- a. The vulture safe zone created by this and other projects in far western Nepal needs further expansion for the vultures to forage in safer areas.
- b. Key stakeholders for vulture conservation (community people, veterinary practitioners and government line agencies) needs to be engaged continuously in vulture conservation issues for the sustainability of vulture conservation works in Nepal.
- c. Much awareness and advocacy works are still required to discourage the illegal use of human diclofenac in veterinary practices.

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?

Awareness raising materials (5000 leaflets, 100 T-shirts, 1000 vulture restaurants brochures, 1000 stickers and 1000 rectangle stickers) were published in using RSG logo along with other organisations' logos and distributed to the concerned stakeholders. RSGF received much publicity through media and these awareness materials during the course of work.

11. Any other comments?

Our sincere thanks go to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation supporting an effort of conserving vanishing vultures in Nepal.