

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	Hum Bahadur Gurung
Project title	Strengthening Capacity of Local Institutions for the promotion of Eco-tourism in Ghachowk
RSG reference	11609-1
Reporting period	August 2012 to July 2013
Amount of grant	£ 5995
Your email address	humguru@gmail.com
Date of this report	31 July, 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
Infrastructure Development		✓		Visitor information centre was established and furnished; posters and information on bird and vulture conservation have been posted at the centre. Five Bird watching field guides and two pairs of binoculars have been provided. Support provided to build wall and improve cow shed at vulture restaurant. Interpretive displays and dust bins have been kept at the project sites.
Capacity enhancement of local institution in managing bird-watching tourism and tourism enterprise development activities		✓		Three bird watching tourism promotional trainings, five days home-stay training (with Canada Fund for Local Initiatives) and one local lodge management training were conducted. Home-stay visits, mid- evaluation workshop and final evaluation workshop were conducted.
Awareness raising and promotion of bird-watching tourism			✓	Two awareness programmes on sustainable development and nature conservation was conducted on September 2012. Awareness raising materials (banner, posters, leaflets, key-rings and) were published using RSG logo along with other organizations' logos and distributed in project area and to the other stakeholders.

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

There were no major difficulties occurred during the project implementation, but some coordination problems were solved through meetings.

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

- Through this project along with vulture conservation programme implemented in the area, extensive awareness programmes were carried out in schools, communities, among veterinary groups and widely through mass media. So the key achievement of the project is local people are much aware on the issues of bird tourism and nature conservation.

- Twenty four houses have been listed as home-stays in Ghachowk and they have already started to provide services to the tourists. This is the outcome of regular awareness campaigns on tourism at the site. Capacity building of these home-stays through different trainings and a visit-tour and distribution of some materials required for improving their houses such as bed sheets, bed covers and blankets have really helped them coming up at this stage.
- Tourism promotion activities and improvements of Information centre have been effective in promoting tourism in the area. It has eased the contact processes for tourists interested to visit the site contributing to the increment of tourist number visiting the site. This year, international tourist number to the site has reached to thirty five which was only seventeen last year.

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

A number of key activities (Awareness activities at local level, tourism promotion workshop, homestay training, developing information centre and making interpretive displays and dust bins) were led directly by our community based partners with our technical backup. One bird watching tourism training and a local lodge and hospitality training was led by students of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara in collaboration with Vulture conservation Management Committee of Ghachowk with our technical back up. Rest of the bird watching tourism trainings were jointly conducted by our team, trekking agencies and local groups.

We believe that set up of tourist Information Centre, trainings to local youths on bird watching tourism and trainings to twenty four households on home-stay and hospitality will continue to promote tourism in the project area and will benefit local people as well as vulture conservation programme.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In recent years, tourism industry has been growing rapidly in Nepal. Ghachowk is an entry point for new ecological trekking route to Annapurna Conservation Area. So such kind of projects needs to be continued to other important areas of this new trekking area to sustain nature conservation as well as eco-tourism in Nepal. So I plan to continue this work in other areas of Annapurna Conservation Area.

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

Our works of this project have been covered by many local as well as local media and this will be continued in future too. Final report will be made available at BCN's library. Articles based on the project work will be published through media, national and international journals.

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, publication of awareness materials, all other activities were completed closely to the time frame. Five days home stay training was conducted by BCN in Ghachowk with Canada Fund for

Local Initiatives (CFLI) fund and again Rufford fund for local lodge management and hospitality training was used to conduct the training 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
Infrastructure Development	1000.00	1000.00		
Establish tourism marketing and visitor information center	500.00	500.00		
Support to rebuild cow-shed	500.00	500.00		
Capacity Building of Local Institutions	1390.00	1390.00		
Bird-watching training for local trekking guides (4 in 4 different seasons)	750.00	730.00	+20	Only three bird watching tourism promotional trainings were done
Binoculars and Bird-watching guide books	310.00	300.00	+10	
Home-stay or local lodge management and hospitality training	330.00	360.00	-30	
Awareness Raising and Promotion of Bird-watching Tourism	990.00	990.00		
Develop and print awareness materials for visitor centre	250.00	300.00	-50	
Prepare & distribute posters and leaflets	240.00	210.00	+30	Posters were produced jointly with other organizations too.
Sign posting / Interpretive display	250.00	230.00	+20	Contribution from CFLI was added to produce interpretive displays
Community education / awareness campaigns	250.00	250.00		
Workshops	450.00	450.00		
Mid-term evaluation and sharing workshop	200.00	180.00	+20	
Final evaluation and sharing workshop	250.00	270.00	-20	
Total Activity Costs	3830.00	3830.00		

Professional Service Costs	640.00	640.00		
Technical back up from BCN	400.00	400.00		
Field assistant	240.00	240.00		
Daily Sustenance and Travel	680.00	680.00		
Air Travel for Team Leader (6 trips 2 way)	240.00	250.00	-10	
Land travel for project personnel	200.00	180.00	+20	
Sustenance during travel	240.00	250.00	-10	
Communication and Reporting	300.00	300.00		
Communication	200.00	200.00		
Report preparation and dissemination	100.00	100.00		
Total Support Costs	1620.00	1620.00		
Total Project Costs	5450.00	5450.00		
Overhead Costs (10%)	545.00	545.00		
Grand Total	5995.00	5995.00		

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

- We need to keep on engaging the key stakeholders (hoteliers, trekking agencies, government line agencies and local communities) in the promotion of bird-watching tourism and nature conservation of the area.
- Other tourist attractions are also required to be explored in the vicinity of Ghachowk area.
- Bird-watching tourism promotional trainings need to be continued at Pokhara in order to promote this in other places of Annapurna Conservation area too.

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 (banner, posters, leaflets, key-rings and T-shirts) were published in using RSG logo along with other organizations' logos. RSGF received much publicity through media and these awareness materials during the course of work.

11. Any other comments?

With the success of vulture conservation efforts and the need of sustaining these works, Bird Conservation Nepal in leadership of Mr. Khadananda Paudel has been able to receive Conservation Leadership Award 2013 for implementing a project on lowland of Nepal.



JATAYU SCHOLARSHIPS

Bird Conservation Nepal provides Jatayu Scholarships to university graduates who are undertaking their research on vulture conservation. The objectives of these scholarships are to create an interest of university students in vulture conservation and groom them as vulture conservationists. Annual deadline for scholarship is August 31 and recipients will be notified by September 15.

YOU CAN DONATE!!!

- Food for cattle
- Livelihood supports to locals
- Conservation education for school children

Donations can be provided directly to the Vulture Safe Feeding Site Management Committee at the local site or through Bird Conservation Nepal.

— DEDICATED FOR VULTURE CONSERVATION —



Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN)

P.O. Box 12465
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 00977 1 4417805, 4420213
Fax: 00977 1 4413884
Email: bcn@birdlifenepla.org
Web: www.birdlifenepla.org



VULTURE SAFE ZONES

The concept of Vulture Safe Zones was developed in Nepal in 2003 and is now being implemented in India and Pakistan.

Key Components of Vulture Safe Zones include:

- Identification of key vulture habitats and the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) in these areas.
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The Conservation Movement in Nepal has been instrumental in the development of Vulture Safe Zones.

- Dikholia has been identified as a key vulture habitat in Nepal.
- The Vulture Safe Zone in Dikholia is now being implemented.
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In cooperation with the Vulture Safe Zone Initiative, the Conservation Movement in Nepal has been instrumental in the development of Vulture Safe Zones.

KEY COMPONENTS OF VULTURE SAFE ZONES

- Assessment of the vulture habitat and the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) in these areas.
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LOCATION AND SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE VULTURE SAFE FEEDING SITE, GHACHOWK, KASKI

Shared in Ghachowk DC, Kaski District, the Vulture Safe Feeding Site is in the Annapurna Conservation Area, one of the most ecologically diverse protected areas on Earth. It actually lies on the bank of the Seti River, not far from Pokhara.

How to get there?

- Pokhara to Ghachowk by air (1 hour) or by road (2 hours).
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Special Features and services

- Use of the services of Pokhara: • Scenic views of the Annapurna range and the Annapurna Conservation Area, one of the most ecologically diverse protected areas on Earth.
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IN THE

• Pokhara: • Scenic views of the Annapurna range and the Annapurna Conservation Area, one of the most ecologically diverse protected areas on Earth.

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

• Pokhara: • Scenic views of the Annapurna range and the Annapurna Conservation Area, one of the most ecologically diverse protected areas on Earth.

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Location:

It is 13 km north west of Pokhara.



DEDICATED FOR VULTURE CONSERVATION



The Rufford Small Grants Foundation is a registered charity in the UK.

Communitarian managed Vulture Restaurant

Ghachowk, Kaski

A Unique Ecotourism Destination

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN)

Project: Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Ghachowk, Kaski District, Nepal

Project: Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Ghachowk, Kaski District, Nepal

Project: Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Ghachowk, Kaski District, Nepal





AVIAN DELIGHT

Ornithologists, foreigners and tourism entrepreneurs go birdwatching in Pokhara on Thursday.

POST PHOTO: SHIVA SHARMA

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NEWS

UCPN (Maoist) member slain

Dahal...

Nepali awarded for new fruit ripening technology

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Vulture watching expected to boost tourism

Main threats with to death

Nepali flicks of yore still in demand in Dehradun

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Construction expo

Today Last Day