

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
Project title	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.

Ohiostivo	Not	Partially	Fully	Commonto
Objective Infrastructure Development	achieved	achieved √	achieved	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
Capacity enhancement of local institution in managing bird- watching tourism and tourism enterprise development activities		√		project sites. Three bird watching tourism promotional trainings, five days homestay 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 areaand 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 are 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 jpurnals.

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 budgete ed versus actual expenditure and the reasons ion for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted	Actual	Difference	Comments
Teem	Amount	Amount	Difference	Comments
Infrastructure	1000.00	1000.00		
Development				
Establish tourism	500.00	500.00		
marketing and visitor				
information center				
Support to rebuild cow-	500.00	500.00		
shed				
Capacity Building of	1390.00	1390.00		
Local Institutions				
Bird-watching training	750.00	730.00	+20	Only three bird watching
for local trekking guides				tourism promotional
(4 in 4 different				trainings were done
seasons)				
Binoculars and Bird-	310.00	300.00	+10	
watching guide books				
Home-stay or local	330.00	360.00	-30	
lodge management and				
hospitality training				
Awareness Raising and	990.00	990.00		
Promotion of Bird-				
watching Tourism	250.00	300.00	F0	
Develop and print awareness materials for	250.00	300.00	-50	
visitor centre				
Prepare & distribute	240.00	210.00	+30	Posters were produced
posters and leaflets	240.00	210.00	130	jointly with other
posters and realiets				organizations too.
Sign posting /	250.00	230.00	+20	Contribution from CFLI
Interpretive display			1 2	was added to produce
				interpretive displays
Community education /	250.00	250.00		
awareness campaigns				
Workshops	450.00	450.00		
Mid-term evaluation	200.00	180.00	+20	
and sharing workshop				
Final evaluation and	250.00	270.00	-20	
sharing workshop				
Total Activity Costs	3830.00	3830.00		



Professional Service	640.00	640.00		
Costs				
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?

- a. 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.
- b. Other tourist attractions are also required to be explored in the vicinity of Ghachowk area.
- c. 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-

























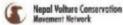














Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN)

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Photographs by: Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri, James Irons, Khadananda Paudel, Bhupal Nepali and BCN photo archives.





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LOCATION AND SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE VULTURE SAFE FEEDING SITE, GHACHOWK, KASKI

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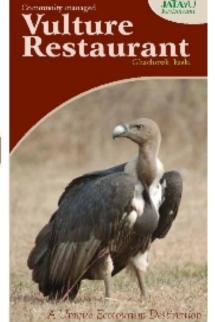
















JATAYU





THE KATHMANDU POST | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011





AVIAN
DELIGHT | Ornithologists, foreigners and tourism entrepreneurs go birdwatching in Pokhara on
Thursday. POST PHOTO: SHIVA SHARMA

