

## Project Update: December 2014

From 15th to 25th April 2014, a preliminary presence-absence survey was carried out from Muktinath of Mustang district to Ghandruk of Kaski district within Annapurna Conservation Area and nearby area of Manasalu Conservation Area covering major landscapes of Himalaya. The extensive survey was carried out by the well trained local community groups and the team members covering all the potential habitats and replicating the areas of our previous RSG project from 26th May to 2nd June 2014.

The team has implemented three capacity building training and workshops with great success on 'Wildlife Monitoring and Conservation' in Manang, Mustang and Rupandehi districts on 12th May, 22nd May and 26th September 2014. Altogether 90 people (30 in each) actively participated in these programmes. After successful completion of capacity building training and workshops, they were mobilised to their own VDCs for monitoring the vulture population, nests, breeding behaviours and NSAIDs drugs in local level.



A workshop on "Vulture Conservation Practice and Strategies" was successfully completed in Annapurna Conservation Area Project-Conservation Unit, Ghandruk on 3rd June 2014. The local, national and international volunteers participated in the event. The local farmers Biswash Lama from Ghandruk and Mahendra Budhathoki from Mustang also participated in the event. Twelve representatives from Tribhuvan University, Himalayan Nature, Bird Conservation Nepal and Project abroad Nepal, conservation volunteers from Germany, Canada, France, England, Australia and local farmers also participated in the workshop.



A 1-day training and workshop on 'Open GIS' has been fruitfully concluded with the theme 'Building Capacity for Wildlife Research, Monitoring and Conservation' on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June 2014 in Hotel Pension Basana, Kathmandu. Thirteen young conservation practitioners enhanced their skills from the event.

On 24th July 2014, a 1-day national workshop on "Vulture Conservation Action Plan" was organised by Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) in collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal in Kathmandu. Altogether, 31 representatives from Department of Drug Administration, Department of Livestock Service Office, Department of Agriculture, WWF-Nepal, ZSL-Nepal, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Himalayan Nature, Central Veterinary Laboratory and Nepal Rangers' Association used the forum to discuss and provide feedback over the draft of the Vulture Conservation Action Plan (2014-2018).

Nepalese Pharma Company showed very good initiation for the conservation of scavenging birds. Due to conservation advocacies and awareness efforts at least one company, National Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. Nepal (under the brand name Ninja), has stopped production of their 30 ml vials to minimise the environmental impacts and effects of NSAIDs drugs on scavenging vultures.

We supported the various green organizations of forestry campus Pokhara to organise a



week-long conservation awareness programme on the occasion of 19th National Wildlife Week from 14th - 20th April 2014, which is celebrated in every first week of Nepali New Year. The programme was followed by a conservation rally, street drama, sanitation, speech competition, quiz competition, bird watching,

documentary show and presentations. Approx. 250 students of forestry campus participated actively in the programmes.

The team participated in Birdathon (bird race) during 'World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) organised by BCN at Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park on 10th May 2014. Forty participants including local students, journalists and bird lovers participated in the bird race.



The team organised a vulture conservation education programme for the local farmers, students and teachers of the Mustang district at Dhaulagiri Secondary School on 3rd June 2014. Around 56 farmers, kids and teachers participated in the programme. Bird posters and fliers with key messages of bird conservation were distributed to the participants. Vulture conservation documentary was also shown in the programme.