

***Progress Report***

**Migratory Wetland Bird Conservation Program in Chitwan -Annapurna Landscape, Nepal**

**Submitted by**

Paras B. Singh

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## **1. Poster**

The 500 copies posters of migratory wetland birds was reprinted to distribute among participants of this program. Remaining five hundreds poster will be published again on the occasion of migratory bird day.

## **2. Short courses:**

Short Course was designed to aware local people. The course consists of following themes.

1. Birds of Nepal
2. Migratory Birds
3. Causes of Migration
4. Types of habitats during migration (Winter Habitat, Summer Habitat and Stop over habitat)
5. Some local examples of migratory birds
6. Practical actions; listing of birds seen throughout the year and not seen throughout the year

All these materials have been prepared on Microsoft PowerPoint in Nepalese language.

## **3. Community and School Awareness**

### **a. School awareness**

Every year people from far north Nepal migrate southwards for three months to escape extreme winter. During winter temperature drop below -30 degrees. Upper Mustang is one of the remotest areas of Nepal. Even schools are need to be shifted down to Pokhara and Chitwan Valley during three months in winter. Similarly, Choser Higher Secondary School of Upper Mustang has been shifted to Pokhara valley during this winter. We visited the shifted school in Ranipauwa, Pokhara and conducted a day long conservation program. Short course as per designed in section 2 was presented among the student using PowerPoint Slides and projector. Besides short course, a movie on bird migration called Earth Flight made by BBC Earth was shown. At the end of course, the student were asked to list out the birds those are seen throughout the year and during season. They were asked to write why bird migrates and how they can help to save migratory birds. Similar kinds of program was conducted in Shree Pritivi Rupa Higher Secondary School in Lekhanath Municipality in Pokhara Valley.

### **b. Community Awareness**

A day long conservation awareness program was organized for the members of forest user community in Rupa Lake, youth clubs and women groups were presented in the program. The course contents was similar to the short course. However, teaching methods followed were more participatory. Group discussion was conducted to list out the birds, they see during different seasons and habitat. Total 28 participants attended the program. Similarly, two presentations on migratory birds were done in leadership workshop organized by Annapurna Conservation Area Project for the participants of conservation area management committee, tourism management committee, youth

clubs, and forest management committee. Similar, presentations was conducted in Shikha VDC within Annapurna Conservation Area.

### **c. Radio and TV Program**

A short message has been designed to broadcast from Radio and TV. The program contains message of wetland ecosystem. How does migratory birds survive and how they are important?

The fertility of wetland are maintained by the combination of water and nutrients from surrounding watershed. These all information are contained within the message. Ultimate goal of this program is to encourage local people to save wetland birds.

## **4. Eco-friendly Urban Planning**

A workshop was conducted in Beni, Mayagdi in co-ordination with Annapurna Conservation Area Project. A participants from different sectors such as District Development Committee, Metropolitan Planning and Development Office, District Forest Office, District Soil Conservation Office, Parliament Members were presented in the program. During this program, expert presented important of eco-friendly development, the most green cities in the world, birds habitat in human settlement why and how? Nature as refresher and Bird friendly ornamental plants.

At the end of the program, areas that can be developed as green areas and eco-park. Some of decisions are being made to save rivers, wetland from non-degradable wastage. Total 23 participants are presented in wetland

## **5. Tourism Flagship Species and Bird Watching Hot Spot**

A study was conducted for the bird species found in Annapurna Conservation Area and Chitwan Valley to list out the tourism flagship bird species and identify hot spot. Questionnaires were prepared to understand the choice of respondent (birders, bird guide and bird photographer) to select attractive bird species.

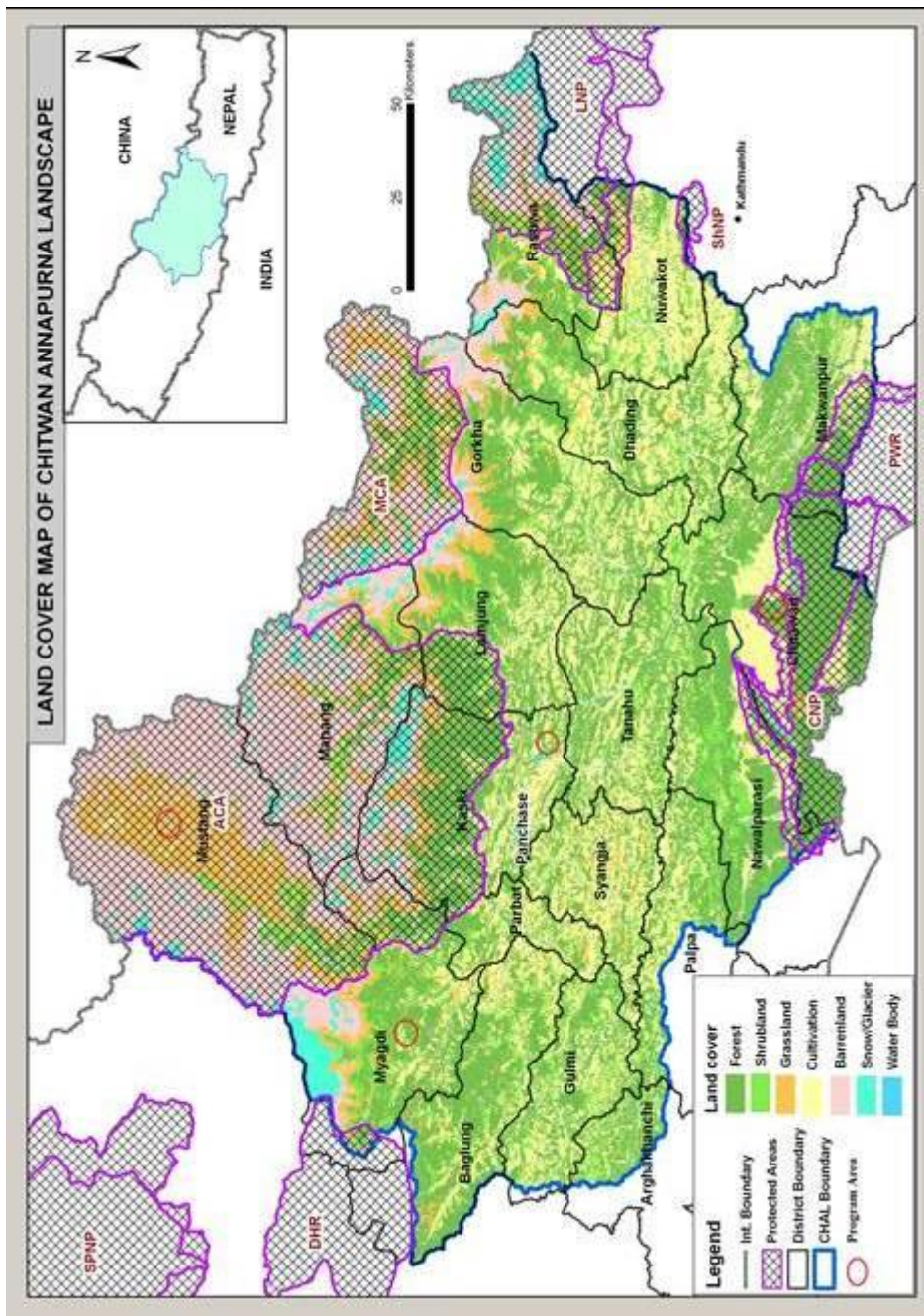
For identifying the most charismatic birds, bird guides and birds experts of Nepal were contacted with pre-designed questionnaires. View of respondents was obtained by sending questionnaires on email. The use of internet for collecting data is gaining wider acceptance in the scientific research (Couper, Kapteyn, Schonlau, & Winter, 2007; Couper et al. 2007). Total 60 respondents were contacted with questionnaires and 42 people replied email with their perception.

First of all, 20-20 attractive birds were finalized with consultation of bird guides and bird experts of Pokhara and Chitwan Valley. Then, these 20-20 birds' colored photos (See figure 2 and 3) were mailed to bird guides and bird experts of Nepal. Using a scale of 0 (low attractiveness) to 10 (high attractiveness) respondent provided score to individual species of birds.

The data for Chitwan valley are under analysis. So far, data of Annapurna Valley has been analyzed. This research is aimed to find out attractive species of birds, flagship species of bird, and map out flagship hotspots. Both primary and secondary data were collected by using online mailing process and discussion with local birders, library search etc. Domestic bird experts and bird guides (n=42) and international Oriental Bird Club (OBC) members and nature photographers (n=91) responded to the questionnaire. Social data were analyzed in tabular form and analyzed with descriptive statistics, weighted score and modified choice experiment method. The study shows that most attractive birds on the basis of physical attributes were found to be Himalayan monal

(*Lophophorus impejanus*) with weighted score 2.25 and Satyr tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*) with 2.21. The study showed that international avitourist have willingness to conserve Himalayan monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*) { \$738.89 } and Satyr tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*) { \$650.91 } respectively. Flagship species of bird is Satyr tragopan (*Tragopan satyra*). Flagship species hotspot were found to be the forest between Tolka and Landruk as well as Chhomrong.

## 6. Program impended area



7. List of birds

Figure 1: 20 species of bird used to survey tourism flagship bird species in Chitwan Valley



Figure 2: 20 species of bird used to survey tourism flagship species in Pokhara Valley

