

# The Konkan Vulture Project: Monitoring and Awareness Drives at Identified Vulture Feeding Grounds

(Application ID: 18650-2)

Progress Report - 2

June 2016 – December 2016



## Introduction

Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra (SNM) is implementing the Konkan Vulture Project from January 2016. Foundation of this work was laid in our earlier programmes funded by the Rufford SGP (20XX) and Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund of the Conservation International (2013-15). Based on our previous work, we have shortlisted 12 locations for vulture monitoring. Out of these, five locations are nesting and feeding locations whereas the remaining seven are exclusively feeding locations. We have described these locations in the first progress report of this project, submitted in July 2016. Objectives of the ongoing project are as follows;

- Monitoring of the vulture nesting and feeding locations with help of the community rangers.
- Conducting awareness programmes on importance of diclofenac free cattle, in and around these locations.
- Encouraging safe disposal of cattle carcass, diclofenac free and at specific, fenced location so that food base for vultures is assured.

The present progress report covers six months starting from July 2016 to December 2016.

## Vulture monitoring

As mentioned in the earlier progress report, there are two types of practices of disposal of dead cattle. The dead cattle are either dumped at a specific location or at a random location in nearby open area, at a safe distance from human habitation. Out of all locations, five are nesting plus feeding locations. Remaining are the feeding locations. Sighting of the vultures at the feeding locations, in the report period (July to December 2016), is presented in the following table.

SN	Monitoring cluster	Number of vultures sighted at the feeding location					
		Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	Anjarle	2	-	-	-	-	-
2	Borkhat	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Chirgaon	-	8	-	50, 13	-	-
4	Nanemachi	5	-	-	12, 10	-	-
5	Patnus	5	7	-	-	-	-
6	Shrivardhan	10	2	12	15	15	31
7	Vihali	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Monitoring clusters

There are 6 nesting sites as mentioned in the earlier progress report. In the non breeding season, they also serve as the roosting sites. We have identified certain locations where in the dead cattle

are disposed off in open. Vultures are sighted feeding on the dead cattle. The community rangers collect information on the dead cattle and vulture sighting in their area and pass it on. The locations wherein vultures are located/sighted is visited for confirmation. A group of villages adjacent to the nesting location and wherein open dumping of dead cattle is practiced constitute a monitoring cluster. Each cluster is named after the nesting site in that cluster. The monitoring clusters are as follows. Vultures, both long billed and white backed are sighted in these clusters.

SN	Cluster	District	Villages in the cluster
1	Anjarle	Ratnagiri	Anjarle, Sukondi, Kangwai
2	Borkhat	Ratnagiri	Borkhat, Gothe, Kalkavane, Devhare, Malegaon
3	Chirgaon	Raigad	Chirgaon, Kharsai, Revali, Kanghar, Chardhore, Dehen, Usarkond Surai, Sai, Morba, Vihule, Borle, Kakal, Jun Mangaon, Wape, Wadgaon kond, Krushnanagar, Tamhane Shirke, Songhar, Dongaroli, Pedhambe
4	Nanemachi	Raigad	Nanemachi, Karnavadi, Dahiwad, Mangharun, Pane Waghete, Mandle, Sav, Devaghar kond
5	Patnus	Raigad	Patnus, Panhalghar, Lonshi, Purar, Waghoshi, Unegaon
6	Shrivardhan	Raigad	Shrivardhan, Shiste, Diveagar, Shekhadi, Valwati Aravi, Dandguri, Kherdi, Chikhalap, Dhangar Malai, Madhaliwadi, Kasarkond, Varvatane (Kond), Kasarkond, Borlo, Nanglol, Devkhol Rasalwadi, Naviwadi
7	Vihali	Ratnagiri	Vihali, Shingari, Kalabani, Dhavade, Humbari, Beed, Birmani, Wadgaon Bk., Wadghaon Kh., Nandivali wadibeldar

#### Vulture nesting

The table below is a comparative account of active nesting in June 2016 and in December 2016. It is observed that the number has declined at all locations. Nevertheless, the nesting season is still ongoing at the time of writing this report (December 2016). Therefore it is possible that active nests may get added.

Sr. No.	Nesting Location	Name of vulture Species	Number of nests	
			June 2016	December 2016
1	Shrivardhan	White-backed	28	18
2	Chirgaon	White-backed	20	13
3	Nanemachi	Long-billed	5	4
4	Ranawadi	Long-billed	3	1
5	Vihali	Long-billed	6	6
6	Patnus	Long-billed	15	9
	<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>51</b>



Photo1: Vultures roosting at Chirgaon on a Mango tree



Photo2: Close shot of vultures roosting on a Mango tree at Chirgaon

## **Awareness generation**

During the report period, community level meetings were conducted in 51 villages. In these meetings information on significance of diclofenac drugs, its negative effect on the vultures and efforts needed to save the vultures was shared. Handbills were distributed to the meeting participants.

A workshop on vulture conservation was conducted in Shrivardhan on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016. This workshop was attended by the frontline staff of the forest department, coconut plantation owners and general community members.

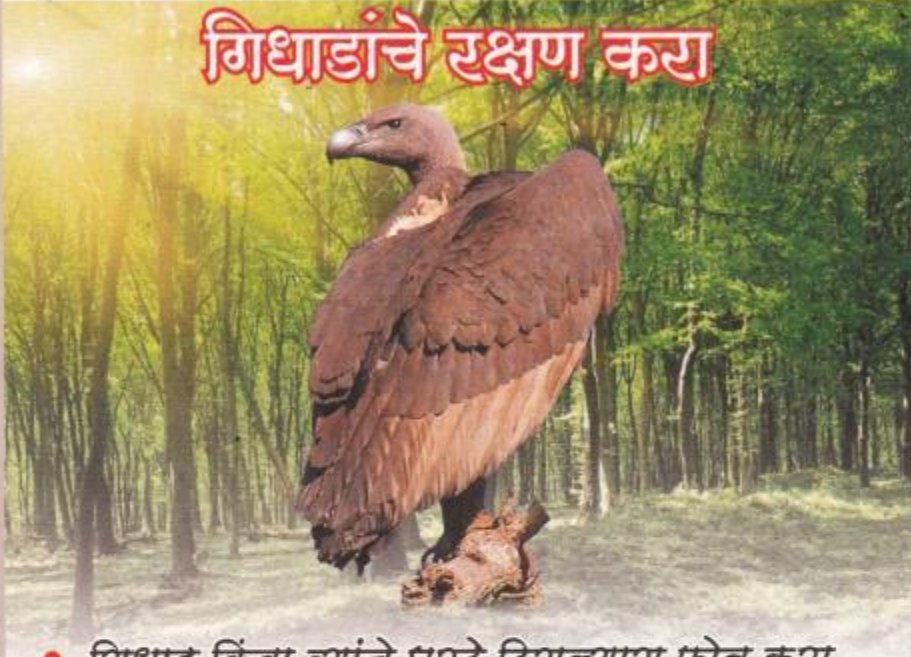
Posters in local language (Marathi) developed in the earlier Rufford project, on vulture conservation with the logo of Rufford are displayed at the shops that dispense veterinary medicines and also at the veterinary clinics. They are also displayed at the community meeting venue.



Photo 3: Poster used for awareness generation



## गिधाडांचे रक्षण करा



- गिधाड किंवा त्यांचे घरटे दिसल्यास फोन करा.
- गिधाडांच्या घरट्यांना संरक्षण द्या.
- पर्यावरण साखळीतील महत्त्वाचा दुवा वाचवा.
- गुरांना योग्य वैद्यकीय मदत द्या व डायक्लोफिनॉक वापरू नका.

आपला सहभाग अत्यंत महत्त्वाचा आहे.



**सह्याद्री निसर्ग मित्र**

11, युनायटेड पार्क, मार्कडी, चिपळूण.  
भाऊ काटदरे - 9373610817,  
उदय पंडीत - 9881575033



**महाराष्ट्र वन विभाग**

विभागीय वन अधिकारी  
मार्कडी, चिपळूण.  
फोन नं.: 02355-252804

Photo 4: Poster used in awareness generation



Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra,  
Chiplun

## खालील सुचना पाळा आणि गिधाडांना वाचवा

### हे करावे:

- ✓ नारळ बागायतदारांनी गिधाड आणि त्यांच्या घरट्यांचे संरक्षण करावे.
- ✓ गिधाडांवर काही अप्रासंगिक अपघात उद्भवला तर त्याची माहिती वन विभाग व सह्याद्री निसर्ग मित्र यांना त्वरित कळवावी.
- ✓ गुरांच्या उपचारासाठी मेलॉक्सीकॅम किंवा अन्य औषधे जी गिधाडांसाठी धोक्याची नाहीत अशा औषधांचा वापर करावा.
- ✓ गुरांच्या उपचाराच्या नोंदी सह्याद्रीने दिलेल्या नोंदणी पत्रावर कराव्यात.

### हे करू नये:

- ✗ औषध विक्रेत्यांनी गुरांच्या उपचारासाठी डायक्लोफेनॅक विकणे.
- ✗ गुरांच्या उपचारासाठी डायक्लोफेनॅक, किटोप्रोफेन आणि अॅसिक्लोफेनॅक यांचा वापर.
- ✗ गिधाडाचे घरटे असलेल्या झाडावर चढणे.

### संपर्क:

सह्याद्री निसर्ग मित्र, चिपळूण: ०२३५५ २५३०३०,  
९३२४३९३३४७, ९९३००९९३१७  
संकेत स्थळ: [www.snmcpn.org](http://www.snmcpn.org)  
ईमेल: [sahyadricpn@gmail.com](mailto:sahyadricpn@gmail.com)






The Rufford  
Foundation  
[www.rufford.org](http://www.rufford.org)

वन विभाग, महाराष्ट्र शासन

Photo 5: Format of a sticker distributed and displayed at important locations like veterinary clinic, pharmacist shop etc.