

Project Update: May 2017

1.0 School based owl conservation awareness camps:

Target: 50 - Completed: 65

School level owl conservation awareness camps have been completed in Okhaldhunga, Khotang and Bhojpur districts of Eastern Nepal. Students from 22 schools actively participated in the camp. Till now, 65 camps have been completed which included 1708 students. Students basically got the introduction about owls, their ecology, threats to owl conservation in Nepal, importance of owl conservation and students' roles in owl conservation. Information about the captive owls kept in the area was collected from students. They were also motivated to contribute towards owl conservation locally.

School level owl conservation awareness camps started with quick survey on owls. This included questions of students seeing or hearing owls, killing of owls, owning catapults and such. It was followed by filling up of pre-evaluation form by groups of students. After this, different owl sounds were played via external speakers. Then, characteristics of owls were described followed by reasons why owls are important and why they should be conserved. Then, the students were told about threats to owl in Nepal and what can be done to conserve them. They were also instructed what to do in case of injured or captive owls. Finally, they were given post-evaluation form to be filled collectively by groups.



Activities during school based owl conservation awareness camps in eastern Nepal

2.0 Public based owl conservation awareness camps:

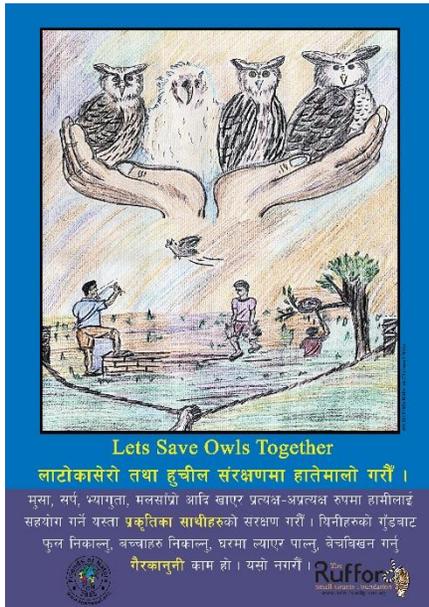
Target: 15 - Completed: 5

Public based owl conservation awareness camps have been conducted in Okhaldhunga and Bhojpur districts of Eastern Nepal. Total of five conservation camps have been completed with 55 participants. During the camp, participants were introduced about owls, their ecology, threats to own and importance of owls. Posters and brochures were also distributed during these camps.

3.0 Radio programme:

Target: 12 episodes (10 recorded and 2 live interview) - Completed: 36 episodes (repetition from three FM stations) and two live interview is yet to be done

Contract has been done with the FM station and our radio programme "Voice of Owls" is on progress. This will be completed in 3 months. Episodes are being played in Sahayatri FM, Rupakot FM and Radio Bhojpur FM. Sahayatri FM 94.2 MHz based on Okhaldhunga is listened in six districts i.e. Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Solukhumbu, Udayapur, Sindhuli and Bhojpur, and can also be listened worldwide via their website www.rudiosahayatri.com. "Voice of Owls" is played on Sahayatri FM every Sunday from 7:30 to 8.00 am. Likewise, Rupakot FM 96.6 MHz based on Khotang can also be heard in six district of Khotang, Udayapur, Solukhumbu, Sankhuwasabha, Bhojpur, Okhaldhunga and Saptari. It is playing the radio program every Sunday 6:30-7.00 pm. Similarly, Radio Bhojpur 93.8 MHz can be heard in Bhojpur, Khotang, Sankhuwasabha, Dhankuta, Tehrathum, Panchthar, Jhapa, Sunsari and Udayapur i.e. a total of eight districts. Programme is being aired every Saturday from 8.00 to 8:30 am on this FM.



4.0 Owl conservation poster:

Target: 500 - Completed: 500

Owl conservation poster have been designed and 500 copies of it have been printed. We used the painting of Hishila Maharjan of Universal Higher Secondary School for designing the poster. The art was made during our first owl conservation art competition in 2008. The poster also contained a message to join hands for owl conservation in Nepali language. Logo of Rufford was used in the poster. During the first phase, 50 posters were distributed at schools, public camps, district forest office and media in Okhaldhunga, Khotang and Bhojpur.

5.0 Owl conservation brochure:

Target: 1000 - Completed: 1000 (distribution is yet to be done)

Brochures (1000 pcs) containing information about the importance of owl and ways to conserve owls have been prepared. These brochures (100 pcs) were distributed during the conservation camps and other will be distributed among students and publics in various districts of eastern Nepal in the next phase.

6.0 Conservation workshop:

Target: 3 - Completed: 0

Will be done in next phase field visit

7.0 Owl conservation booklet in Nepali language

Target: 1 - Completed: 2 (draft is ready and editing is on progress)

First book: Latokosero ki Bathokosero?

Owls are known as Latokosero in Nepali which implies fool or stupid. Hence the book title asks whether they are really fool as their name suggest or intelligent as their behavior shows. This book will describe overall information about owls, threats, conservation, hunting and trade, cultural knowledge, medicinal knowledge, story, government policy and so on. It will be printed in 100 colorful pages and will not be distributed freely. Instead this will help for generating fund for future 'Nepal Owl Festival'. We are planning to publish 500 copies at least. We will keep small amount as price (£3-4 per book) for fundraising event.

Second book: Owls of Nepal

This book will describe all the owl species recorded in Nepal. This will describe, in detail, about each of the species found in Nepal. It will have around 60 colorful pages. A total of 400 books will be printed. We have already ordered illustrations for this which seems most expensive part of the book, which we never thought before. Nevertheless, we will distribute freely and put it in online too.