

Project Update: June 2018

The final field activities were conducted in June 2018. To accomplish the set objectives of this project, two major activities were conducted between 1st and 5th June 2018 which were as following:

1. Training cum stakeholder workshop.
2. Exposure visit for locals to existing vulture safe feeding site.

1. Training cum stakeholder workshop

A 2-day training cum workshop was conducted on Integrating Vulture Conservation and Ecotourism promotion at Giddhabase, Dhorfirdi of Tanahun district Nepal at Sharada Primary School, ward number 9, Gurdum, Dhorfirdi. Training was provided on the first day of the programme while second day was dedicated for workshop and closing ceremony.

31 people participated in this programme which was more than we set for this activity during our programme. The number increased due to the huge interest of locals to learn and understand about the project objectives. Each participant was provided with a set of stationary and awareness materials that were collected from Bird Conservation Nepal. Information on achievements of study on Integrating Vulture Conservation and Ecotourism Promotion at Dhorfirdi was disseminated to the participants along with the short video on red-headed vulture sighted in the nesting area at Kharbari (Kafaldanda-Bhardanda Community Forest) by Sandhya Manandhar. Similarly, potentiality of eco-tourism at Millennium Trekking Route (MTR) was presented by Anish Parajuli, a tourism expert. Vulture conservation in Nepal, updates and future plans were presented by Ankit Bilas Joshi, Field Biologist, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN). Training cum workshop was conducted with the support of Women Group at Gurdum and Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN).

During the training cum workshop, participants were divided into three groups. Each group was provided with a separate topic for discussion, i.e. potential and challenges of ecotourism in MTR, programmes that can be conducted for ecotourism development at Dhorfirdi and steps that shall be taken for establishing informal vulture safe feeding sites in the area. The participants discussed in group on the topics and a representative from each group presented among other participants by using meta card.

A documentary on vulture conservation was shown using. A questionnaire was distributed to the participants to know their perception of vultures and ecotourism in the starting phase of the training and after completion of the programme.

Participants were selected for a field visit to Ghachowk. Participants for exposure visit to Ghachowk Vulture Restaurant was selected from the training and workshop based on representation of members of different groups from Dhorfirdi area. Altogether 12 participants were selected based on above criteria.

After completion of the programme, the nesting sites of a vulture was visited by researchers at Kafaldanda-Bhardanda Community Forest at Kharbari and observed the juvenile red-headed vulture that has been hatched from the previous egg observed in the nest.

Table 1: List of participants in training cum workshop

S.N.	Name of participants	S.N.	Name of participants
1	Dil Bahadur Thapa	17	Krishna Bahadur Pariyar
2	Guman Singh Thapa	18	Bhupal Gurung
3	Hem Bahadur Darlami	19	Tara Shrestha
4	Sita Rana	20	Tope Bahadur Thapa
5	Uma Thapa	21	Sujan Pariyar
6	Susmita Thapa	22	Til Bahadur Thapa
7	Pabitra Shrestha	23	Ramji Pariyar
8	Kali Devi Nepali	24	Bal Bahdaur
9	Domaya Gurung	25	Bir Bahdaur Thapa
10	Sharmila Sapkota	26	Udaya Raj Bhattarai
11	Sita Pariyar	27	Chandra Bahadur Thapa
12	Dilshree Gurung	28	Narm Maya Thapa
13	Nanda Kumari Shrestha	29	Bishnu Thapa
14	Ganga Kumari Malla	30	Parbati Thapa
15	Kamal Pariyar	31	Gita Thapa
16	Dhal Bahadur Pariyar		









Training cum workshop activities



Juvenile Red-headed vulture at nest

2. Exposure visit for locals to existing Vulture Safe Feeding Site

12 participants were selected from Rastal, Gurdum, Kharbari, Bajasthala for exposure visit to Ghachowk Vulture Restaurant. Each participants were given a t-shirt with the logo of vulture and map of MTR.

Participants observed vultures and the tree species in and around the vulture restaurant. Most of the participants did not know about the vulture restaurant and its management. Through the exposure visit, they were clear about it.

The participants were shown the vulture species in vulture restaurant, management of vulture restaurant, homestay around vulture restaurant by Khushi Man Gurung, caretaker of vulture restaurant at Ghachowk.

A group photo was taken with participants along with banner. Token of appreciation was provided to BCN field biologist and the ward representative of Gurdum, Dil Bahadur Thapa.



Token of appreciation and T-shirt with the logo of vulture and map of MTR





Activities during exposure visit to Ghachwok Vulture Restaurant