

## **Project Update: November 2017**

The activities that were conducted during the field visit at Dhorfirdi in November 2017 were as following.

- A. Education and awareness on vulture conservation and ecotourism promotion in the schools and community at Dhorfirdi.
- B. Field survey along the Millennium Trekking Route within Dhorfirdi.

### **Education and awareness**

Three awareness programmes were conducted in two schools for school kids and one for the local community (Women Group). Those awareness programmes included various activities in location of Shree Rajasthal Primary School, Sharada Primary School and homestay at Dhorfirdi of Millennium Trekking Route (MTR).

#### **1. School awareness**

First school awareness programme was conducted in Shree Rajasthal Primary School which is situated at Rastal, Dhorfirdi, ward no. 9 in Suklagandaki Municipality. It is about 11 km away from Dulegaunda (Prithvi highway).

Knowledge on vultures, their type, importance of vulture conservation, cause of vulture decline, etc. were disseminated to the students as well as teachers through presentation slides. A documentary on vulture conservation was shown using multimedia to entire school students and teachers. Interaction was conducted with the students and teachers about history, type of vultures they observed in their community, etc. Painting competition on vultures was conducted among 20 students. For that, each students were provided with a sketch of vulture. They were provided with colours and asked to colour the sketch with the type of vulture they have observed.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted in order to obtain information of the surrounding area from the teachers including the major attractions for the tourist, road, settlement, vulture sighted areas, etc.

Second school awareness programme was conducted in Sharada Primary School which is located at Gurdum, Dhorfirdi. It is about 8 km away from Prithvi highway. Students were involved in similar activities conducted in former school. All students and teachers participated in the presentation and documentary on vulture conservation through multimedia. Twenty students participated in colouring competition in the sketch of vulture. Also, FGD was conducted to obtain information of the surrounding area from the teachers.

Top four competitors from each school were selected and awarded with prizes with logo of Rufford Small Grant. The schools were provided Token of Love with RSG logo and pamphlets on vulture conservation.

#### **2. Community awareness**

Community awareness was conducted along the Millennium Trekking Route (MTR) in a homestay at Rastal, Dhorfirdi (near Gurdum). The programme was conducted among Womens' Groups in the community. Although participants were well known about vulture existence they were unaware about their conservation. They were

provided with knowledge on types of vulture, status of vulture conservation in Nepal, importance and cause of vulture decline, measures that can be applied for their conservation, ecotourism, importance of vulture for ecotourism promotion, potentiality of ecotourism at Dhorfirdi, etc. through presentation and a documentary.

After presentation and documentary, people got insight on importance of vulture conservation. Feedback collected at the end of programme among the participants showed that the programme was fruitful which made them aware about status and importance of vulture and they were also interested that the conservation of vulture can promote ecotourism in their areas.

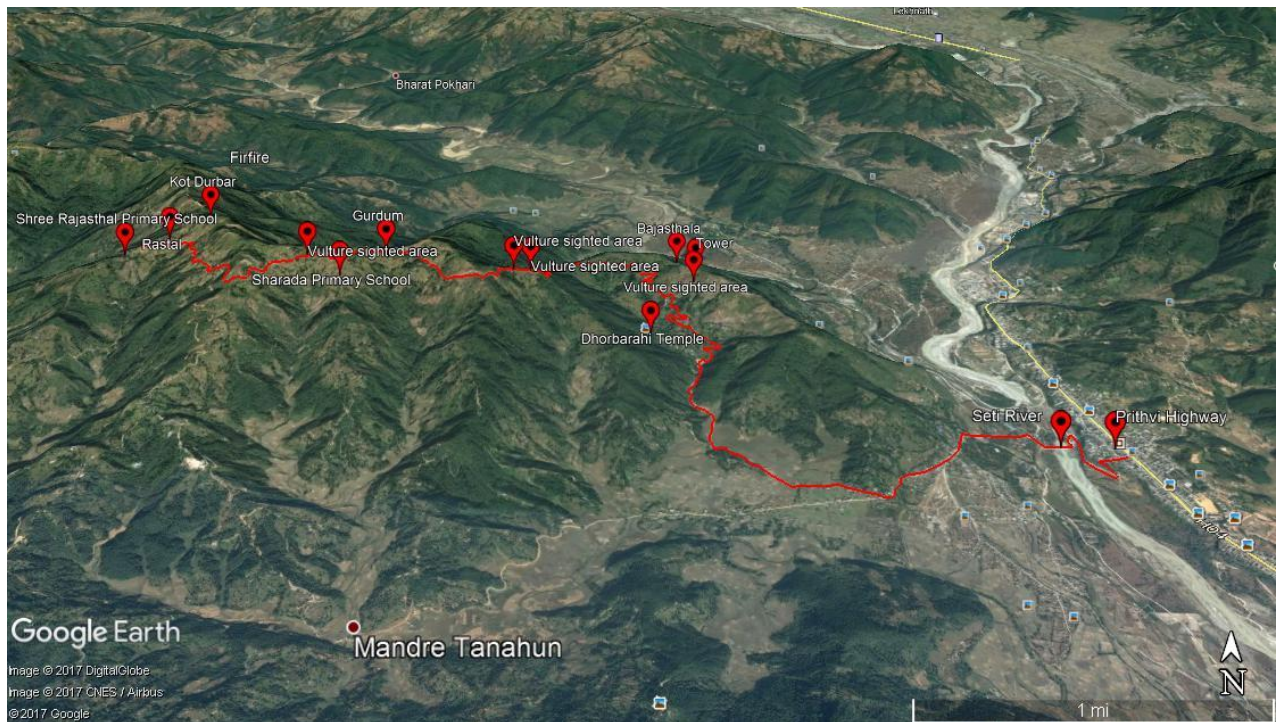
### Field survey

To observe the vultures in the project area, survey was conducted along the MTR. Field survey was conducted using binocular, camera, GPS, questionnaire forms. The survey was conducted at Dhorfirdi along the MTR from Rastal, Giddhabase, Bajasthala, Dhorbarahi temple to Dulegaunda. GPS coordinates of the MTR was noted down. Also the GPS coordinates of Kot Durbar, Dhorbarahi and other temples, vulture sighted areas, etc. along the MTR were noted down. During the survey, questionnaire was conducted with the local people in the MTR based on history of vulture's existence, species of vultures, trend of population change, habitat, feeding and ecotourism.

During the field survey, vultures were sighted at Gurdum (adjoining area of Giddhabase) and Bajasthala. Also, information was obtained that, vultures were sighted by the local at Rastal. During the survey along the MTR, three white-rumped vultures were sighted at Gurdum, one white-rumped vulture sighted at Bajasthala, three Eurassian griffon and two Egyptian vultures were sighted at Bajasthala. Vultures were observed flying in the sky.

**Table 1: Proposed activities and its progress**

S. N.	Field activities	Target (Number)			Progress	Remarks
		First half	Second half	Total	First half	
1	Consultation meeting	1	1	2	1	Activity achieved
2	Field survey	2	2	4	2	Activity achieved
3	Population count	1	1	2	1	Activity achieved
4	Education and awareness	3	0	3	3	Activity achieved
5	Capacity building training and workshop	1	0	1	0	Due to the fact that this sort of training would be effective after collection of status and existence of vulture and awareness campaign. This activity is proposed for second half of the project probably February or March 2018.



Google earth map showing Millennium Trekking Route at Dhorfirdi, Tanahun







School awareness program activities at Rastal and Gurdum



Sketch colored by students



Community program activities (Women Group) at Rastal





Questionnaire survey

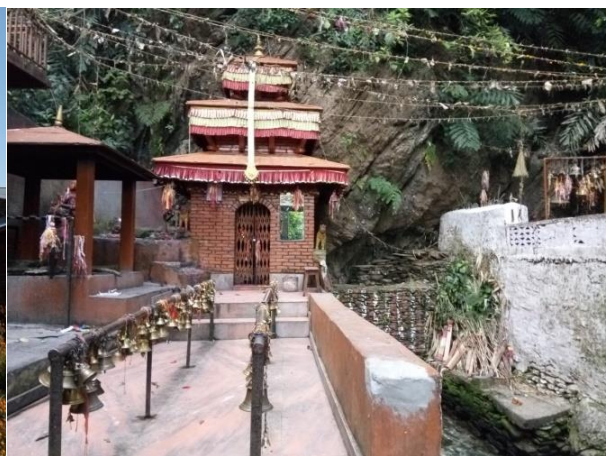


Vulture observation

Important religious and natural sites along Millennium Trekking Route



Temple at Kot Durbar



Dhorbarahi temple



Mountain view from Kot Durbar



Bajasthala (vulture sighted area)