

## Project Update: December 2010

On 26th November 2010, the Dang District was declared by Nepal Government as the first "Diclofenac Free District" in Nepal by the Chairperson of the Natural Resource Committee of Constitution Assembly. The event was chaired by the head of District Livestock Service Office and participated by the Chief District Officer, District Forest Officer and head of District Agricultural Office and included a strong paper presentation from a veterinary doctor on effect of diclofenac on vultures. The event was covered live by three local FM stations and received wide media attention. The organisers (our local partners) ESDRC-Dang and Narti CFCC had collected pledge from 316 veterinary practitioners and agro-veterinary vendors on not selling or using diclofenac through a signature campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of the Natural Resource Committee of Constitution Assembly committed, "I will hold a meeting of the NRM committee and ask the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation on how the whole of Nepal can be ensured as diclofenac-free".

Bird Conservation Nepal, through our local partners and local government agencies will be declaring 12 more districts of Nepal as diclofenac-free by January 2011. We believe this declaration will give stronger ownership and emphasis among local governments for vulture conservation efforts; committed veterinary practitioners and vendors; and spread the word on vulture conservation and diclofenac by engaging local and national media.

