

Project Update: May 2023

1. Nest site exploration (March- April)

All the pre- determined as well as possible nesting cliffs were thoroughly surveyed to detect the nests of Egyptian vulture in and around Pokhara valley of Nepal. Altogether, 22 territories were surveyed of which 14 were occupied by a breeding pair of Egyptian vultures. Four breeding territories (located earlier in 2021) were destroyed due to mining and developmental activities whereas four (previously located in 2021) were unoccupied due to unknown reasons (may be due to higher disturbances as well as shifting of landfill sites).



Fig 1: Team leader (Milan Baral) exploring the nesting sites of Egyptian vulture.

2. Breeding Behavior study (March- May)

- **Nest building and copulation**

We were able to study the nest building activities of five nests only. Other breeding pairs built their nests earlier in February 2023 and were incubating while we started the nest site exploration in March. We studied the nest building period for a total of 25 days (5 days per nest) from 6am to 6 pm. Studies in European countries suggest that the Egyptian

vulture build its nest in late March and early April, so we started our study from March and unfortunately missed the nest building activities of other nests.



Fig 2: Egyptian vulture carrying nesting material.

- **Incubation**

An incubation period study was conducted in 10 nests as proposed. One nest (R1) failed within 1 week of laying egg. There were two female and one male in the same nests as well as a lot of harassment from crows, which might be the reason behind its failure. The other nine nests were studied from 6am to 6pm for at least 4 days per nests.

3. Research training to undergraduates

The research training couldn't be conducted at the proposed time due to the summer vacation of university students in May 2023. It will be conducted soon after the vacation ends.

Activities to be done from June to September 2023

- Breeding biology study (chick- rearing and fledging).
- Research training to undergraduates.
- Questionnaire survey.



Fig 3: Field assistant Binita Timilsina monitoring the nest for incubation study.



Fig 4: Male of Egyptian vulture during incubation.