## Rufford 1<sup>st</sup> Booster Project update

### Project ID – 41641-B

Boosting nationwide vulture conservation by connecting people, government and development projects through monitoring and awareness workshops.



January to March, 2024

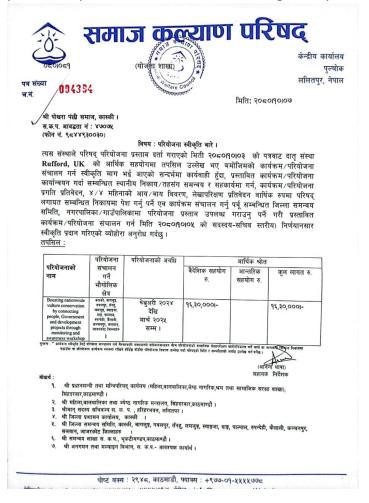




#### A. January, 2024

1. Developing project coordination with Government offices (Permission letter, coordinating the proper time for organizing workshops, developing and collecting awareness materials and field gears.)

After being awarded from The Rufford Foundation on Dec 2023, on behalf of Pokhara Bird Society as a grantee I applied to Social Welfare Service, Kathmandu, Nepal for project permission letter and for easy implementation of our project in different parts of Nepal. It took around 2 weeks to get the permission letter.



Note: In Nepal apply for the permission letter after we get the project.

# 2. Designing mobile software to collect vulture data from study sites in scientific and systematic way.

Pokhara Bird Society signed an agreement with Aankhijhyal

(<u>https://aankhijhyal.com.np</u>) to developed a mobile application which will be helpful record vultures' data during the monitoring periods. The mobile application will be designed and launched by Aankhijhyal. This will be accessible to public in all smart phones, both android and Apple mobile.

#### B. February, 2024

- Participation in Nepal Owl Festival and poster display and awareness campaign of vultures in the program in Parbat district, Gandaki province. Around 1000 local people were provided information on vultures by a team from Pokhara Bird Society, leaded by Hemanta Dhakal.



Participation and display of vulture poster in Nepal Owl Festival, 2024



- Local participants in Nepal Owl Festival



Students from local school trying to observing the vulture poster in 2<sup>nd</sup> Nepal Bird Fair 2024



Participants from different parts of Nepal in 2<sup>nd</sup> Nepal Bird Fair 2024,

This was one of the signature programs of Pokhara Bird Society. More than 32 green organization from different parts of Nepal and also from provincial government and national level government officials participated and visited the program. I presented one paper on vulture and also provided raptor identification training to 42 tour guide professionals during the training session of the fair.

During the program vulture of Nepal posters and banner with Rufford logo was displayed to provide the information on vulture conservation to all participants and visitors.

Pokhara Bird Society reprinted and distributed 2000 posters of Vultures of Nepal during the program.

All participants visited Vulture Safe feeding site at Pithauli (at 20 minutes walking distance from Bird Fair site) to know the importance of vulture conservation and identification of different species of vultures.



School Awareness Program

Together with Pokhara Bird Society school awareness program was conducted. Bird conservation awareness campaign was conducted in 18 government and private schools (Annex III) targeting more than 2000 students. Volunteers of Pokhara Bird Society spend 4 days earlier the Nepal Bird Fair to make it happen successfully.



Vulture Identification training for Nature guide



Vulture awareness to school students during 2<sup>nd</sup> Nepal Bird Fair 2024



#### - Workshop in Nepal Bird fair 2024

Joint workshop for conservation issues of birds and vultures was conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Nepal Bird Fair 2024. After a panel discussion with all participants from 34 national and international green organizations from a Manifesto with 10 major points was declared. All agreed to implement the possible method to address the points in the Manifesto passed in the program. This manifesto will also be helpful for the concerned government and nongovernment authorities to develop future action plans and projects.



#### - Vulture Identification training:

2 days vulture Identification training classes were given to 42 nature guides during 2<sup>nd</sup> Nepal Bird Fair. 1st day Participants were given theory class and next day they visited Vulture Safe Feeding site for identification.

#### C. March, 2024

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#### School Awareness Program in Pokhara

Vulture conservation awareness program was conducted in 4 schools viz. Srijana Secondary School, Prativa Secondary School, SOS Hermann Geinmer School Gandaki and KEF Secondary School, in Pokhara, Gandaki Province. During those campaigns my documentary in YouTube channel Herne katha

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph2mp-QgN-0

was also shown to students.



Vulture Awareness program in SOS Hermann Geinmer School Gandaki



Vulture Awareness program in Srijana Secondary School.

- **NSAIDs Monitoring in Gandaki Province** (Kaski, Tanahau, Lamjung, Parbat, Baglung, Kusma, Syanja, Nawalpur,)- Total 24 Vet medicine shops were indirectly observed. No diclofenac and other NSAIDs harmful to Vultures were recorded.

#### Trail Package Unveiling Program:

To promote bird-based tourism and support Vulture Restaurant (VSFS) Nawalpur, a Trail Package was introduced to tourism-based business organization in Pokhara. Pokhara Bird society and Vulture Restaurant Management Committee, Nawalpur and Nepal Tourism Board together launch this program at Boomrang Restaurant, Lakeside, Pokhara, Gandaki Province. The program was conducted on March 20, 2024.



# THANK YOU