

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Bird Conservation Nepal

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Securing Safe Environment for Critically Endangered Vulture Species by Declaring and Ensuring Diclofenac Free Zones in Central and Western Low Lands of Nepal

**Implementation Partners for this Project:**

1. Nepal Government, Department of Drug Administration
2. Nepal Government Directorate of Animal Health
3. Nepal Government, Nepal Veterinary Council
4. District Forest Offices of the 10 target districts
5. Nepal Government, Department of Livestock Services (District Livestock Service Office of the 10 target districts)
6. District Development Committees of the 10 target districts
7. Nepal Veterinary Association
8. Jatayu Restaurant Management Committee, Kawasoti/Pithouli, E. Nawalparasi
9. Biswojoti Bikash Pratisthan, Panchanagar, W. Nawalparasi
10. Jatayu Restaurant Management Committee, Gaidahwa Lake, Lumbini, Rupandehi
11. Adheri Charchare Community Forest, Madanpokhara, Palpa
12. Narti Community Forest Coordination Committee, Deukhuri Valley, Dang
13. Environmental Sustainable Development and Research Center, Dang Valley, Dang
14. Earth-Nepal, Dhangadhi, Kailali
15. Bird Education Society, Chitwan
16. Bardiya Nature Conservation Club, Thakurdwara, Bardiya
17. Nature Guide Association, Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Kanchanpur
18. Nepal Para-veterinary and Livestock Association-DZistrict Chapter-Kapilvastu
19. Environment and Rural Development Centre, Banke

Royal Society for Protection of Birds, UK, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Nepal and Zoological Society of London, UK have provided technical support to BCN

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** 1 November, 2009- 31 March, 2011

**Date of Report (month/year):** 25 May 2011

## II. OPENING REMARKS

*Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.*

This project has become an example of how multiple stakeholders can work together to achieve a common goal. National conservation organizations, community based organizations, government line agencies, veterinary and para-veterinary community, political parties, media and international conservation organizations have all collaborated in creating the first Vulture Safe Zone in the world and a model that can be replicated and expanded to secure a future for South Asia's critically endangered vulture species.

### III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACTS

**Project Impacts:**

**Long Term:** To create a safe environment for survival of vultures in Nepal

1. Viable population of critically endangered vulture species maintained in the wild
2. Ten districts of central and western lowlands where vultures occur in Nepal are diclofenac free zones

**Short Term:** Local communities and veterinarians adopt practices that are safe for vultures

1. Decrease in availability of diclofenac for veterinary use in project area by 90% by 3 years after the project
2. Decrease in percentage of livestock carcass (potentially available as food for vultures) with diclofenac residues to below 1% by three years after the project

**Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.**

**Long Term:**

1. A long term 'Vulture Safe Zone' was created encompassing 10 districts of low-land Nepal and covering an area of 21, 013 square kilometers (8,117 square miles).
2. Number of vultures arriving to feed at safe feeding sites inside the Vulture Safe Zone suggests that vulture numbers are stable. Number of nests inside the Vulture Safe Zone in 2009-2010 was 237 (with 69.2% breeding success) and this year (2010-11) the latest census shows numbers to be 216 suggesting slight decreases in numbers. Annual highway transect studies carried out across the project area every May from 2008 to 2011 shows numbers to be stable since 2009 (2008-138; 2009-59; 2010-70 and 2011-71).
3. All ten target districts of low-land Nepal has been officially declared by District Level Government line agencies, political parties, media, veterinary professionals and conservation organizations as Diclofenac-free. In addition, three other mid-hill districts (Illam, Kaski and Lamjung) have been declared as diclofenac free through partnership processes.

**Short Term:**

1. Results of monitoring data from Jan 2010 to June 2010 of 236 veterinary pharmacies shows only 4 were supplying diclofenac. All four of them have now committed not to supply or use that drug. Data from June 2010 is under compilation.
2. The first batch of 78 liver samples (potentially available as food for vultures) collected from within the project districts were tested for diclofenac and all samples tested negative. However, the sample size is too small and further samples are being collected across the project districts.

**Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

1. In February 2011, an international consortium named Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) was launched in Delhi, India and Kathmandu, Nepal. The consortium attempts to bring together key conservation agencies, government agencies, scientists and funding agencies for vulture conservation. Bird Conservation Nepal is a core member representing Nepal. SAVE, in its first technical meeting recognized the current success and importance of the Vulture Safe Zone created in Nepal and further agreed to

- work to expanded them across Nepal and Northern India to create a trans-boundary Super Vulture Safe Zone.
2. The Chairperson of the Natural Resource Committee of Parliament declared the first Diclofenac Free District in the Nepal (probably the first in the world) on 27 November 2010. Subsequently, she called a high-level meeting regarding vulture conservation attended by 26 members of parliament, secretaries of two ministries and key conservation organizations. During the meeting the participants were briefed about the vulture decline, its causes and planned solutions.
  3. The CEPF Small Grants funded a partner organization to declare two additional districts (Ilam and Jhapa) and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK supported the declaration of another district (Kaksi) as diclofenac free. Two of them have already been declared as diclofenac free. In May 2011, Nepal Government, Department of Livestock Services declared Lamjung and Ramechhap district as diclofenac free in collaboration with BCN.
  4. On 23 September 2010, National Conservation Day, the projects and team members of Vulture Conservation Programme, including a projects supported by CEPF Small Grants (which led to this project) won four of the ten conservation awards.
  5. Nepal Government's Department of Livestock Services has instructed all 75 of its District Livestock Service Offices to compulsorily include vulture conservation awareness activities in their annual budget. This is a strong commitment from the government to join hands in vulture conservation.

**IV. PROJECT COMPONENTS**

**Project Components:**

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1: Key stakeholders critical to achievement of vulture safe zone (government line agencies, veterinary practitioners, vendors and local communities who are users) are sensitized and change their drug use practice (non use of diclofenac and non-tested Non-Synthetic Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and use of safe drugs such as Meloxicam)</b>	<b>Key stakeholders critical to achievement of vulture safe zone (government line agencies, veterinary practitioners, vendors and local communities who are users) are sensitized and change their drug use practice (non use of diclofenac and non-tested Non-Synthetic Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and use of safe drugs such as Meloxicam)</b>
Indicator 1.1: Increase in number of nests of critically endangered vultures by 10% in project area by 2nd year of project.	One year data shows a 8% decline in nest numbers
Indicator 1.2: Increase in number of vultures arriving to feed at vulture restaurants by 15% by the 2nd year of project initiation.	Data in process of being compiled.
<b>Output 2: A disabling environment created over the use of human diclofenac and other non-tested Non-Synthetic Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) for veterinary purposes through advocacy and sensitization at the policy level</b>	<b>A disabling environment created over the use of human diclofenac and other non-tested Non-Synthetic Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) for veterinary purposes through advocacy and sensitization at the policy level</b>
Indicator 2.1: 1 important labelling of human diclofenac as 'not for veterinary use' and a ban on production/import of human diclofenac in large vial sizes by 2nd year of the project	No Government permission for large vial sizes reported. All human injectable formulations of diclofenac in Nepal comes from India and India has made it compulsory to label 'not for veterinary use'.

	However, adherence to rule is rarely observed.
<i>Indicator 2.2: Veterinary practitioners and vendors take steps to curtail the use of human diclofenac and other non-tested Non-Synthetic Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) for veterinary purpose in 10 districts by the 2nd year of the project</i>	<i>Veterinary practitioners and vendors take steps to curtail the use of human diclofenac and other non-tested Non-Synthetic Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) for veterinary purpose in 10 districts</i>
<b>Output 3: Diclofenac Free Zones (DFZs) and Jatayu (Vulture) Safe Zone (JSZ) declared</b>	<b>Diclofenac Free Zones (DFZs) and Jatayu (Vulture) Safe Zone (VSZ) declared</b>
<i>Indicator 3.1: At least 10 districts in low lands of central and western Nepal formally declared as Diclofenac Free Zones (DFZs) by 2nd year of the project by district administration, veterinary users and practitioners</i>	<i>10 districts in low lands of central and western Nepal formally declared as Diclofenac Free Zones (DFZs) by 2nd year of the project by district administration, veterinary users and practitioners and additional three districts also declared as DFZ</i>
<i>Indicator 3.2: The ten Diclofenac Free Zones of Nepal declared as a Jatayu (Vulture) Safe Zone through a national consensus</i>	Scheduled for end of May 2011

**Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.**

The project has been exceptionally successful in delivering output 1 and 3. Over 4,500 individuals have been directly sensitized by the project through more than 74 events. Some of the sensitization workshop has been directly targeted at veterinarians/para-veterinarians and veterinary pharmacists. There has been over a 100 newspaper coverage of vulture conservation issues and equally high coverage in radio/FM. Project has developed posters, leaflets and engaged media to support sensitization activities.

All 10 project districts have been declared as Diclofenac Free Zones (DFZ) after receiving signed pledges from veterinarians/para-veterinarians and veterinary pharmacists in the area through a public ceremony under the leadership of Nepal Government. The final national level workshop to declare Vulture Safe Zone and endorse the Diclofenac free Zone guidelines is scheduled near the end of March 2011.

The project has not been as successful in achieving output 3. A number of coordination events were organized with government bodies that have led to policy decisions such as commitment to endorse the Diclofenac Free Zone guideline by Secretary of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. Local government line agencies as well as national agencies and veterinary/para-veterinary associations have committed to take strong action to use of diclofenac use in veterinary sector and have jointly produced a warning leaflet in coordination with the project. In a grace period before the declaration of diclofenac free zones, veterinarians, para-veterinarians and veterinary pharmacists voluntarily handed over nearly 750 vials of human diclofenac. Recent monitoring has not revealed diclofenac use in the project districts.

**Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?**

While all outputs were realized, some scheduled activities under output 2 have not been realized. Target to ban human diclofenac in large vial sizes was not reached as the concerned Department of Drug Administration informed us that they had never provided permission for large vial sizes. The project team has also realized that most human diclofenac formulations imported across the border from India for veterinary use are not registered with Nepal government and are illegal anyway. Threat of human diclofenac remains one of the crucial frontline for vulture conservation. Replication of similar strategy by conservation counterparts in India is essential.

Compulsory labeling of human diclofenac as 'not for veterinary use' was not achieved. However, in India, where this drug is manufactured, the Government has made this compulsory. After a series of meetings with the Department of Livestock Service, they have agreed to consider inclusion of vulture conservation topics in their short term veterinary courses. A recent survey shows that over 99% of veterinarians, para-veterinarians and veterinary pharmacists in the project districts are already aware of the vulture decline and the role of diclofenac.

The project team will continue to pursue these activities in the post-project scenario and not rest until they are realized as these are important activities outlined by the Government's 'Vulture Conservation Action Plan for Nepal 2009-2013'. Thus, in the long term, the overall impact of the project will not be affected.

## V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.***

NA

## VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

***Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.***

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)***

As vultures easily cover large distances (average foraging range estimated to have a 100 km radius), the current project area (approximately 400km long but 30km wide) is not sufficient and needs to be expanded Northwards in Nepal and Southwards in India.

***Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)***

Most of the human diclofenac formulations being used in the veterinary sector have not been registered for human use in Nepal and are being illegally imported across the porous Nepal-India border. Thus it was realized that any action by Nepal Government to ban large vial sizes or to make it compulsory to label human diclofenac as 'not for veterinary use' would have little impact on the illegal users.

The project was executed by mobilizing community-based institutions. Some of these institutions were made up of a group of passionate conservationists without strong institutional mechanism. They lacked the skills to prepare reports, manage their finances and organize events. Any future projects should incorporate institutional capacity enhancement aspects.

## VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount (USD)	Notes
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK	Project co-financing; complementary funding; grantee leveraging	163,100.00	Project staff salaries; support for captive breeding centre and vulture safe zones; scientific research
UNDP/Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme	Project co-financing; complementary funding	30,000.00	Support for vulture safe zones in 4 districts (Dang, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi)
Zoological Society of London/Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund	Project co-financing; complementary funding	24,000.00	Vulture Safe Zones in 2 districts (Kailali and Kanchanpur)
SOS Conservation Leadership Programme	Complementary Funding	12,000.00	Capacity building and scientific research
Rufford Small Grants	Complementary Funding	8,800.00	Support work
Zoological Society of London	Complementary Funding	705.00	Donation for infrastructure
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation	Partner leveraging	765.00	Support for tree plantation in safe feeding site
Burren Birds of Prey Centre, Ireland	Complementary Funding	3,065.00	Donation
13 Community based organizations	Project co-financing	4,070.00	
District level government line agencies	Complementary Funding; partner leveraging	3,700.00	Various support
Department of Livestock Services, Nepal Government	Complementary Funding	NA	
Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE)	Regional/Portfolio Leveraging	NA	

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)
- B** Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)
- C** Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)
- D** Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

***Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.***

As mentioned in previous section, an international consortium named Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) has been formed with Bird Conservation Nepal is a core member. SAVE has recognized the current success and importance of the Vulture Safe Zone created in Nepal and has agreed to work to expanded them across Nepal and Northern India to create a trans-boundary Super Vulture Safe Zone. BCN in partnership with SAVE will continue to raise funds and expand the Vulture Safe Zones further. Some of the funding mentioned above will secure further progress in the near future, however, extensive fund raising will be required to expand the Vulture Safe Zone.

## **VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Scientists are suggesting that a Vulture Safe Zone, in order to be safe for vultures, needs to have an radius of at least 100 kilometers. This is now being tested through satellite tracking by placing GPS transmitters on the backs of six vultures in Nepal. Thus, the current Vulture Safe Zone, which is elongated and narrow in shape, needs to be expanded towards the North and South.

## **VIII. INFORMATION SHARING**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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