

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.

Organization Legal Name	Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra
Project Title	The Konkan Vulture Project: Participatory Vulture Conservation in the Northern Western Ghats
CEPF GEM No.	62888
Date of Report	28 TH January 2016
Report Author	MR. BHAU KATDARE
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CEPF Region: Western Ghats, India

Strategic Direction: 2.

Grant Amount: USD 35,000.00

Project Dates: 1st June 2013 – 30th Nov 2015

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

Maharashtra State Forest Department – Workshops were conducted for the forest officials to help them identify vulture species, habitat etc. State Forest Department was involved in conducting vulture population survey in the entire Konkan region. State Forest officials are involved in data collection of nests on coconut trees in Shrivardhan to facilitate the compensation to the plantation owner. Responsibility to mobilize required resources (veterinarian, logistics etc.) in case of reporting of injured vultures was handled by the State Forest Department.

Animal Husbandry Department – Sahyadri conducted regular meetings with veterinarians and para-veterinarians to keep them informed about vulture colonies, villages keeping carcass dumping practice and vulture sightings at such places. The department was prompt to provide support in case of treating any injured / weak vulture sighted. Veterinarians addressed local communities through free cattle health check-up camps and urged to seek help of only trained professionals to treat cattle.

Local Community – Sahyadri established a network of local community rangers in Konkan region for the vulture conservation program. This network constitutes of farm labors, farmers, plantation owners and their associations, cattle owners, local business persons. This network was spread across Konkan region. The community has helped during the initial survey to establish the vulture population status. Locally appointed people monitored vulture nesting regularly and reported any unusual incidence or sighting of injured / weak vulture.

Chemists and Druggists Association – This association played an important role of communicating ban on veterinary usage of diclofenac to all pharmacists.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The conservation of critically endangered species has been identified in the CEPF Investment Strategy for the Western Ghats under the Investment Priority 2.2 which states “Support efforts to conserve Critically Endangered and Endangered species through the creation and implementation of species recovery and management plans”. Further, point (ii) under this strategic investment identifies in-situ vulture conservation as it states “consolidate efforts to conserve Critically Endangered and Endangered vulture species in situ, including by integrating results into policy”.

Broadly there are three geographical zones of the project area – rocky escarpments and western fringe ranges of Western Ghats on the east, mangrove belt on the west and in between these two is a narrow strip of coastal plains. Sahyadri protected 6 colonies with the community participation of which 4 are in the Western Ghat region.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

Geographical Expansion – CEPF grant gave an opportunity of expanding vulture conservation work geographically covering entire Konkan region i.e. districts Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurga.

First ever vulture status survey in Konkan – Though it was evident that vulture population in Konkan has also declined drastically, no baseline was ever developed for this region. First ever survey of the entire Konkan region was undertaken to establish exact status of vulture population. The survey has revealed that the nesting colonies exist only along the border of districts Raigad and Ratnagiri which is in the Northern part of Konkan region. Five colonies have been reported in district Raigad and one colony in district Ratnagiri. No vulture sighting has been reported in the rest of district Ratnagiri and entire Sindhudurga district.

In-Situ Conservation – With the help of local community rangers 48 white-backed vulture nests (Shrivardhan – 28 and Chirgaon – 20 both in district Raigad) have been monitored and protected. Similarly 29 long billed vulture nests (Nanemachi - 5, Ranawadi - 3, Patnus - 15 all in district Raigad and Vihali – 6 in district Ratnagiri).

Anti-Diclofenac Drive – Sahyadri involved all stakeholders to create awareness about ban on veterinary usage of diclofenac. Regular meetings with pharmacists, veterinarians and para-veterinarians have helped to implement ban on veterinary usage of diclofenac in the region. Sahyadri has also developed vulture safe carcass disposal guidelines.

Network Of Community Rangers – Taking cue from Sahyadri’s Marine Turtle conservation, Sahyadri built a network of community rangers covering entire Konkan region to monitor vulture status and protect vulture colonies. This network is useful to report vulture sighting and keep check on vulture population. This network will be kept alive by Sahyadri through regular communication.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

1. Increase in populations of two critically endangered vulture species in the Konkan Region: White backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*)
2. Exclusive institutional arrangement for vulture conservation in Konkan region
3. Effective community participation in vulture conservation and monitoring
4. Zero veterinary usage of Diclofenac in the project region

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

- Sahyadri has established exact status of vulture population in Konkan region. Sahyadri has been conducting this survey in Konkan region since 2013. Sahyadri will be utilizing Maharashtra Pakshimitra network to cover entire Maharashtra in 2016.
- Sahyadri has also undertaken in-situ conservation of 6 vulture colonies with the help of local community and Forest Department. In addition of acknowledging the conservation efforts, Forest Department is also participating in regular monitoring, awareness generation activities. Continuous awareness drives, proper implementation of compensation scheme clubbed with increased presence of Forest Department felt by the local community has certainly helped to prevent cases like whisking away vultures nesting on coconut trees, ignoring unusual / injured vulture sighting. Such efforts will eventually translate into increased vulture population in this region.
- Sahyadri has been creating awareness among local governing bodies to form Biodiversity Management Committee which will help them to make conservation programs such as vulture conservation, eco-tourism sustainable through State Biodiversity Department. Sahyadri has facilitated formation of three Biodiversity Management Committees in the region.
- Sahyadri has worked closely with cattle owners, pharmacists, Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) to ensure ban on veterinary usage of diclofenac.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

1. Decrease in usage of veterinary diclofenac medicines
2. Public-private mechanisms providing incentives for vulture nest protection in the Konkan Region
3. Sensitization and awareness on vulture conservation in the villages in Konkan region, in particular villages wherein vulture activity is reported

5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

- Following are some of the action areas initiated by Sahyadri which have helped to increase community participation and decrease in veterinary usage of diclofenac
 - Meetings with cattle owners, animal health check-up camps, distribution of animal health cards has helped to create awareness about ban on veterinary usage of diclofenac
 - Continuous awareness drives for local community around six vulture colonies and nine carcass dumping places where vultures are sighted regularly
- Tata Consulting Services (TCS) has started supporting vulture conservation efforts and hopefully such arrangements will increase in future.
- Following are some of the action areas undertaken by Forest Department
 - Field visits during nesting season to assess vulture status are undertaken by respective Forest Divisions.

- Forest Divisions have started fencing of carcass dumping grounds to keep other predators away and thereby reducing the botulism risk.
- Forest Divisions in Raigand and Ratnagiri have started hosting “Vulture Conservation Workshop” for all its officials. Update about vulture activities, vulture sighting, conservation measures, identification are discussed in such workshop followed by a field visit. Other stakeholders like pharmacists, members of local governing bodies, veterinarians and para-veterinarians are also invited. This workshop is addressed by experts from Sahyadri and other organizations.
- Following are action areas that helped to sensitize and create awareness about vulture conservation
 - Vulture Festival (*Jatayu Mahotsav*)
 - Vulture for Villages competition in ten villages
 - Compensation scheme to coconut plantation owners having vulture activity through corporate partnership
 - Continuous awareness drives through exhibitions, meetings in all 6 vulture colonies and vulture feeding grounds

6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

- Sahyadri established exact status of vulture population in Konkan region by surveying more than 1,000 villages
- Sahyadri built a network of people across the length and breadth of the Konkan region to report vulture sighting or nesting colonies
- Villages like Gothe, Devhare having carcass dumping practice without knowing about vulture decline and international efforts to save the species have now been sensitized about the importance of the species and ban on diclofenac usage. Gothe Gram Panchayat celebrated traditional festival of Holi by cleaning the dumping site and temporarily fencing it to keep other predators away preventing spread of botulism.
- In-situ Conservation of 6 vulture colonies has been undertaken by Sahyadri with the help of local community
- Increased involvement of Forest Department in vulture conservation
- Active participation of Animal Husbandry Department in vulture conservation program
- Survey of more than 500 pharmacies in the region as per SAVE methodology. In less than 5% of cases diclofenac was offered. In most cases a prescription was requested or a cream or herbal medicines were offered.
- It was challenging to initiate Vulture For Villages competition but continuous meetings with local governing bodies helped to increase participation
- Bottom – up approach in forming BMC was challenging as convincing local governing bodies to pass required resolution took long time. Subsequent interactions with State Biodiversity Board and meetings with District Collector and respective Block Development Officers helped to get adequate directives for local governing bodies.

7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- Positive
 - Invitation to attend SAVE meetings helped to meet other experts working in Asia and present vulture status in the Konkan region. Survey of pharmacies in Konkan region as per SAVE methodology is a direct result of these interactions.

- In one of the SAVE meetings “Animal Health Check-up Camps” were presented by team from Pakistan as one of the avenues to reach cattle owners. Sahyadri discussed this avenue with Animal Husbandry Department that helped to bring cattle owners, veterinarians and pharmacists together and it was easier to discuss vulture conservation program.
- Negative
 - At least on one occasion vulture egg was seen on the ground no specific reason could be identified for this. Various options were discussed with the Forest Department and other experts to prevent similar situation in future but nothing could be implemented.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Component 1	Products/Deliverables
In-Situ Conservation of Vulture nesting through status survey, building and implementing a sustainable conservation plan through various partnerships for protection, monitoring and outreach programs like vulture tourism	1.1. Vulture status report for Project Region 1.2. Conservation plan for 5 nesting sites 1.3. Tourism centric Conservation partnership models developed in 2 sites 1.4. Public-private model for incentivizing vulture nest protection refined and applied to the conservation of at least 100 nests in the wider region

8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

- **Vulture status report for Project Region**
 - Vulture colonies have been identified only along border of Raigad – Ratnagiri districts. No vultures have been sighted in rest of Ratnagiri and entire Sindhudurga.
 - To get vulture population status two surveys were conducted. The first covered 624 villages during Sep 2013 – Apr 2014 and the second covered 1,200 villages during Sep 2014 – May 2015. The survey was planned by marking regions between Western ghats and Mumbai-Goa Highway, Mumbai Goa Highway and Coastal highway, Coastal. The surveys were carried out by trained volunteers, locals, Sahyadri’s staff and Forest officials.
 - In addition to road transects vulture related information was also sought by interacting with coconut growers, cattle keepers, farmers, general public, Forest officials and Animal Husbandry officials.
 - Media was also used effectively to seek vulture related information. Sahyadri publicized a phone line throughout the region to attend any vulture related calls. People called from various parts of Konkan region and also from Mumbai, Nashik to report vulture related information. Though no nesting or sighting could be confirmed at any of the places from Konkan reported through these, it helped to create awareness among general public and seek new volunteers.
 - Sahyadri’s web site was also upgraded to display vulture related information that helped to increase the traffic by 14% compared to past two years.
- **Conservation Plan for 5 nesting sites**
 - Sahyadri prepared monitoring and awareness generation plan for the nesting sites. All sites have vulture colonies closer to human settlements and were monitored with the help of local community rangers. This network of community rangers has

been continued during this season also. Regular workshops and meetings with the community rangers have been conducted.

Following is the current status of the nesting in Konkan region as of Nov 2015

Vulture species	District	Village	GPS	Nests	About Nesting site
White Backed Vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>)	Raigad	Shrivardhan	73.016838E 18.075680N	28	All nests on private coconut plantation.
	Raigad	Chirgaon	73.137102E 18.132413N	20	Nesting on Mango trees. At least 4 trees have more than 1 nests. Village has carcass dumping practice.
Long Billed Vulture (<i>Gyps indicus</i>)	Raigad	Nanemachi	73.327253E 18.286379N	5	All sites are in WG region. All villages have carcass dumping practice.
	Raigad	Ranawadi	73.579083E 18.177078N	3	
	Raigad	Patnus	73.380034E 18.450680N	15	
	Ratnagiri	Vihali	73.543103E 17.804701N	6	

- **Tourism Centric Conservation Plan**

- Sahyadri hosted “*Jatayu Mahotsav*” (Vulture Festival) during the nesting season involving local governing body, SHGs, local hotel owners, locals and schools. “*Jatayu Mahotsav*” will continue this year too.
- Sahyadri has been following up with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) – State Tourism Body to get home-stay scheme approved for which a policy has been drafted and approved by MTDC’s board and pending for Ministry level approval. Sahyadri conducted workshops to inform people about eco-tourism opportunity without making any initial investment through home-stay scheme.
- To attract tourists towards local biodiversity Sahyadri initiated a backyard butterfly garden project in Shrivardhan. This becomes additional attraction for tourists along with vultures. Based on the survey with this regard, 35 butterfly varieties have been reported in Shrivardhan.

- **Public-private model for incentivizing vulture nest protection**

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) supported The Konkan Vulture program and supported 40 coconut plantation owners having vulture activities at Shrivardhan and has pledged to continue the support in 2015-16 also. TCS also supported 50% of reward amount for Vulture Village competition.
- N. M. Wadia Charitable Trust also gave grant and support The Konkan Vulture project and will continue subsequently.
- Sahyadri has been following up with State Forest Department and Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board to increase the compensation to INR 1000.00 (USD 15.00) to meet current pricing.

Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Component 2	Products/Deliverables
Develop conducive environment for vulture conservation in larger community and Government Departments and systems	<p>2.1 Generate awareness within the community about importance of vulture as evidenced by pre and post project awareness assessment survey</p> <p>2.2 Generate awareness within government departments, forest department and animal husbandry department in particular, and associated systems viz. para veterinary practitioners associated with vulture conservation as evidenced by pre and post project awareness assessment survey</p> <p>2.3 Lessons learned from innovative vulture conservation approaches piloted under the project documented and disseminated to key audiences in government and civil society</p>

9. Describe the results from Component 2 and each product/deliverable

• Generate awareness within the community

- Sahyadri identified stakeholders groups and stakeholders for vulture conservation. Sahyadri conducted pre and post project survey to assess awareness among stakeholders. About 1,200 individuals were surveyed at the beginning of the project to establish qualitative assessment of awareness among general public. The survey indicated that all local stakeholders are aware about decline in vulture population but indicated low awareness about exact reasons behind this decline. Low awareness was observed about existing vulture nesting colonies in the neighbouring villages.
- Based on the observations various exhibitions, meetings, vulture related film shows, school rallies, programs for cattle owners. Following are the details of various programs conducted to sensitize various stake holders

Sr.	Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Interest Area	Project Association and Avenue
1.	Agriculture labor and marginal farmers	Coconut plantation labors	Additional Income, Recognition	Vulture Nest Monitoring – community rangers, Workshops
2.	Plantation Owners	Coconut, betel nut, mango plantation owners	Compensation to forego produce due to vulture activities, Recognition	Vulture Nest Monitoring, Workshops
3.		Coconut Owners' Association	Protect member's interest related to produce and pricing	Meetings to initiate compensation scheme through insurance
4.	Traditional artisans and biodiversity based occupations	Grazer	Additional Income, Recognition	Report vulture sighting, Workshops
5.		Fuel wood collector	Additional Income,	Report vulture

			Recognition	sighting, Workshops
6.		Cattle owners	Cattle health and satisfactory disposal of dead cattle	Meetings, Cattle Health Check-up camps, Posters, Cards
7.	Local Business Owners	Hotel owners and home stay operators	Tourist's Interest	Vulture Trail, Vulture Festival, Local Biodiversity
8.		Pharmacists	Selling in legal boundary	Quarterly Meetings, Workshops, Posters
9.		Chemists' and Druggists' Association	Protect member's interest	Meetings, Workshops, Letters, Posters, Exhibitions
10.	Commercial entities operating in the village owned by the outsiders	Mining lease holders - Bauxite, Sand mining	Commercial	Letters
11.	Tourists	Tourists	New experiences	Vulture Trail, Vulture Festival, Local Biodiversity
12.		Wildlife goers and naturalists	Wildlife experiences	Vulture Trail, Vulture Festival, Local Biodiversity
13.	Locals and Local Groups	Local individuals	Family, Knowledge, Village Activities	Exhibitions, Vulture Festival
14.		Conservation and other NGOs from outside	Conservation, Community	Workshops, Exhibitions
15.		Self Help Groups	Income Generation	Alternate livelihood workshops, Awareness, Vulture Festival participation
16.		Youth Groups	Community	Event hosting, Vulture Festival participation
17.	Vulture Conservation Groups	BNHS	Vulture Conservation, Community	Workshop hosted by SAVE, Exchange of information / Reports
18.		SAVE	Vulture Conservation, Community	
19.	Educational Institutes	School teachers and students	Education	Exhibition, Film Shows, Field Visits, Rallies
20.	Government Departments	Forest department	Implementation of Forest Act, Community	Workshops, Field Visits, Data Collection, Rescue

				Responsibilities
21.		Animal Husbandry department	Cattle health and awareness	Quarterly meetings, Workshops, Cattle health camps, Rescue Assistance, Cattle Disposal Guidelines
22.		Tourism Department	Tourism	Homestay scheme policy, Vulture Festival
23.		Local Governing Body	Local Governance	Village level meetings, Event hosting,
24.		Zilla Parishad	District Administration	Letters, Meetings
25.		State Biodiversity Board	Implementation of Biodiversity Act	Workshops, Field Visits, Compensation scheme proposal, BMC formation
26.	Media	Local media, journalists, Newspapers, Local TV Channels	News, Events	Press releases
27.		Social Media Networks	New Experiences	Event updates

- Following are some of the outcomes of sensitization programs for local stakeholders
 - Network of local community rangers in Konkan for vulture monitoring and reporting any unusual incidence
 - Participation of plantation owners in nest protection
 - Participation of cattle owners ensuring diclofenac is not administered. Nearby villages participating in common carcass dumping site where vultures are sighted.

Carcass Dumping Place	Participating Villages
Gothe Group Gram Panchayat	Borkhat, Borkhat Baudh Wadi, Dhamani, Gothe, Gothe Bandar Wadi, Kalkavane
Devhare Group Gram Panchayat	Atale, Devhare, Konkavali, Malegaon, Nayane, Samane, Vadavali
Sukondi	Sukondi, Anjarle, Kelshi, Murdi, Ade, Padle

- **Generate awareness within government departments**

- Regular workshops have been conducted with the Forest Department
- Forest officials participated in data collection, monitoring visits, distribution of compensation and other awareness drives
- Forest Division – Ratnagiri has started fencing some of the carcass dumping grounds where vultures are sighted regularly to avoid any other predators and fear of botulism spread
- Forest Department has assisted promptly in vulture rescue when reported by local community rangers

- Quarterly meetings have been conducted with veterinarians and para-veterinarians to sensitize them about ways for stricter implementation of ban on veterinary usage of diclofenac.
- Animal health check-up camps have been arranged at places having carcass dumping practice with the help of Animal Husbandry Department to create awareness of using services of professionally trained veterinarians, distribute animal health cards, promote vulture safe carcass dumping practices.
- Regular meetings have been conducted with State Biodiversity Department and officials have conducted field visits. Regular meetings with officials and villagers are being conducted about formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) to ensure sustainability in vulture conservation along with local biodiversity.
- **Lessons learned from innovative vulture conservation**
Please refer to section 28-31 of this document.

Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Component 2	Products/Deliverables
Advocating vulture conservation for systemic changes through local and state level schemes and build replicable models	3.1. 2 Proposals for declaring vulture nesting and roosting locations as biodiversity heritage sites submitted to Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board 3.2. Report on results of advocacy with district and state administration in general and most relevant state government ministries and departments (forest department, rural development, irrigation, mining, power generation) in particular, on including vulture conservation as one of the monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment criterion for development programmes/projects/schemes 3.3. Guidelines for the villagers, in particular cattle keepers, pastoralists and veterinary practitioners to dispose the dead cattle as a step to strengthen the food base of the vultures in the region. 3.4. Diclofenac-free village campaign piloted in at least one village, and model documented

10. Describe the results from Component 3 and each product/deliverable

- **Proposals for biodiversity heritage sites**
 - Regular meetings have been conducted with local governing bodies to form Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC). Anjarle, Kelshi are villages having past vulture colonies and currently participate in providing dead cattle to Sukondi feeding ground have applied for BMC. Current vulture colony Waki – Bk is in process of forming BMC. Once the BMCs are formed heritage site can be submitted to State Biodiversity Board.
 - Officials of State Biodiversity Board have undertaken field visits at Vulture colonies and interacted with members of local governing body.
- **Report on results of advocacy with district and state administration**

- Sahyadri has sent regular updates of vulture conservation program to Ministry of Environment and Forest Department. Guidelines to consider vulture conservation as one of the parameters for any new development projects have been sent to mining, tourism and environment and forest departments.
- Sahyadri has also shared the vulture conservation methodology, details of local community rangers and other relevant data with Forest Department.
- State Forest Department has involved officials in vulture survey, nest monitoring, advocacy and any action required on sighting of injured / stranded vulture. Forest Department has also initiated fencing of vulture feeding grounds.
- State Animal Husbandry got actively involved in hosting animal health check-up camps and discussed vulture conservation issues with cattle owners.
- **Guidelines for vulture safe carcass disposal**
 - Sahyadri has developed vulture safe carcass disposal guidelines and discussed the same with Animal Husbandry Department and Forest Department. These guidelines have also been conveyed to cattle owners. Villages having vulture sighting on carcass dumping place are working as per have opted these guidelines.
 - Common workshops with Forest and Animal Husbandry Department officials have been conducted to develop common understanding on vulture safe carcass disposal.
- **Diclofenac-free village campaign**
 - Sahyadri conducted Vulture for Villages competition and encouraged local governing bodies to participate and conduct vulture conservation related activities
 - Along with regular meetings with pharmacies, Sahyadri distributed “Diclofaenac Free Village” posters for chemists and made regular visits to inform about vulture status
 - Free cattle health check-up camps have been organized to sensitize cattle owners
 - Sahyadri also promoted herbal medicines for cattle

11. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

- As per State Biodiversity Board rules Biodiversity Heritage Site proposal has to be submitted by BMC directly. Sahyadri could not submit planned proposals as formation of BMCs have taken time. Though this has not directly affected the project but Sahyadri will follow up with BMCs formed to submit Heritage Site Proposal which will help to protect local biodiversity sustainably.
- Sahyadri followed up with Forest Department for increasing the compensation to coconut growers having vulture nests / activities. A separate proposal to increase existing compensation from INR 400.00 to INR 1,000.00 has also been submitted. This could not be implemented during this project due to technical point in administrative process of identifying owner of the plantation. Due to no direct support of Forest Department for compensation, Sahyadri provided this compensation through other grants like TCS and Peregrine Fund. Sahyadri is following up with Forest Department to resolve this issue.

12. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

- Sahyadri has developed following tools
 - Vulture safe carcass disposal guidelines
 - Animal Health Check-up cards
 - Environmental guidelines for vulture conservation

- Mobile exhibits for vulture conservation in Marathi, an Indian Language
- Posters, Banners, Leaflets have also been used to spread awareness

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

13. List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project

White-backed vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*)

Long billed vultures (*Gyps indicus*)

Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
14. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	No	NA
15. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	No	NA
16. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)	800 hec.	Six vulture colonies having 70 nests in Konkan region adjoining Western Ghat have been protected through community participation. Note that total village area having vulture colonies has been indicated here as nests are scattered.
17. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation	No	NA

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

18. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)

NA

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

19. List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.

Western Ghats, India

Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

<i>Did your project provide training or education for . . .</i>	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
20. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions	-	-	-	-
21. Adults for livelihoods or increased income	-	-	-	-
22. School-aged children	1,200	1,000	2,200	Various competitions, rallies, environmental film shows, discussions, field visits arranged
23. Other	20		20	Community rangers for vulture monitoring in all vulture colonies

24. List the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.

NA

<i>Community name, surrounding district, surrounding province, country</i>	<i>Population size</i>

25. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Based on the list of communities above, write the name of the communities in the left column below. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes.

Community Name	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty line	Other	Increased income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

Lessons Learned

26. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community

Design Process (2013)

- Due consideration was not given at the design stage to the known fact that the General Elections in India would be held by mid of 2014. Around the election time, due to election code of conduct made participation of local governing bodies and Government officials in any activity became difficult. Also around same time many villages also had local governing body elections. Activities during mid of 2014 involving Government officials could have been planned better.
- State Biodiversity Act came into effect in 2012. Heritage site proposal was planned as a part of this project in absence of detailed process documents of State Biodiversity Board / proper consultation with the board's authority. Later it was learned that such a proposal could only be submitted after formation of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC). So this activity should have been planned as "Formation of BMCs" in the project area.

Implementation (Jun 2013 – Nov 2015)

- Though Sahyadri had faced difficulties of BMC formation in one of its marine turtle conservation site it was attributed to specific challenges of that village. Later it was learned that similar issues exist in most of the villages. Series of meetings were then conducted with Government officials (District Collector, Block Development Officers) along with SBB officials requesting top-down approach in BMC formation. Sahyadri then acted as facilitator for some of the BMCs in the region.
- At the initial stage there was no participation in Vultures for Village competition. It was thought that village level rewards would be a good motivator for participation which was not the case. Continuous follow up was required along with press releases to communicate the intent of the event. During both years we received 10 participating villages.
- Home Stay policy drafted by Sahyadri got approved by State Tourism Body later got stuck due to change of Government. Recent follow up reveals that it will still take 3-4 months for the Government notification on Home Stay. State Tourism Body was supportive to announce the policy on their website which helped to spread home stay around vulture colonies.
- Interactions were planned with cattle owners but faced problems in the initial stage as "What's In It For Me" through vulture conservation was not conveyed properly. To tackle this Sahyadri hosted "Free Animal Health checkup camps" in association with Animal Husbandry Department. Interaction with veterinarians was appreciated by of cattle keepers with locals.
- Based on the regular monitoring of nesting colonies, the need was felt to identify carcass dumping places and monitor them regularly. Proposal to this effect was submitted to Rufford which got approved and in the second round.

27. Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- Components – Product/Deliverable and detailed timeline helped to identify activities during design stage
- Stakeholder based communication plan was part of the initial phase that helped to complete stakeholders analysis
- Involving community rangers in the vulture monitoring was taken on the basis of past marine turtle conservation experience

- Top-Down and Bottom- up both approaches were planned depending on the stakeholder

28. Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- Regular workshops and meetings with stakeholders has helped in sensitizing them about vultures
- Assistance of local youth groups and volunteers has been helpful

29. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

- Vulture conservation in India is more focused on captive breeding and equal resources (expertise, funding) is not available for in-situ conservation e.g. countries like Nepal, Bangladesh
- Forest Department is interested in setting up vulture feeding grounds but closer interaction is required with Animal Husbandry Department for vulture safe carcass disposal. Similarly closer interaction is required with State Tourism body for eco-tourism for locals to earn additional income.

Sustainability / Replication

30. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

- Sahyadri successfully handed over marine turtle conservation to State Forest Department and local governing bodies. Sahyadri aims to follow the same process for vulture conservation program and ensure that the program becomes sustainable through Forest Department by 2018
- As a first step Forest Department is actively interested in setting up vulture feeding grounds, fencing of existing carcass dumping grounds, compensating transportation of carcasses to nearest vulture feeding site, conducting workshops this will help to ensure larger participation
- Sahyadri is still in discussions with Coconut Board for inclusion of compensation through coconut grower insurance policy as “Vulture Rider”. If successful, this will bring long term sustainability for compensating plantation owners having vulture activities.

31. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

- Some of the organizations working on vulture conservation in Pune region are discussing possibility of vulture tagging with the help of Forest Department. Such additional research and involvement of other organizations will bring sustainability.

Safeguards

32. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

NA

Additional Comments/Recommendations

33. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

- Easy on field carcass testing to identify diclofenac presence will help increasing food availability for vultures.

- Regular reporting through CEPF tools helped to monitor finance as well as project status

Additional Funding

34. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount (USD)	Notes
Tata Consulting Services	A	500.00	Co-financing of reward for vulture for village competition (2013-14)
Tata Consulting Services	B	1,200.00	Compensation to coconut growers, Jatayu Festival arrangements and awareness drives (2013-14)
N. M. Wadia Charitable Trust	A	300.00	Co-financing of reward for vulture for village competition (2014-15)
Don Bosco Development Society	B	500.00	Compensation to coconut plantation owners 2014-15
Rufford – 1 st Round	B	8,000.00	Identification of carcass dumping places in the region and assessment of food availability for vultures
Peregrine Fund	B	1,500.00	Compensation to coconut growers, compensation to community rangers post CEPF and partial travel expenses
Rufford – 2 nd Round	B	7,000.00	Monitoring of carcass dumping grounds and awareness drives such as implementation of vulture safe carcass disposal

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B *Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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