Assessment of Reshunga Forest for an Important Bird Area Status

Jyotendra Jyu Thakuri and Ishana Thapa

Background

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are places of International significance for the conservation of birds at the global level. The IBA programme is a worldwide initiative by BirdLife International aimed at identifying, documenting, monitoring and working towards the conservation and sustainable development of a network of critical sites for the world’s birds and other biodiversity.

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is leading this initiative in Nepal. BCN together with BirdLife International have identified total 27 IBAs in Nepal, covering about 18% of the country’s land area. Similarly, 5 sites are identified as potential IBAs including Reshunga Forest. 24 IBAs support globally threatened species, 13 have restricted-range species, 24 have biome-restricted species and eight qualify as IBAs because they hold large congregations of waterbirds (Baral and Inskipp 2005). A total of 13 IBAs are within protected areas, two are partially protected and 12 lie outside of the protected area system.

IBAs in Nepal were identified following standard methods developed by BirdLife International. Wherever possible, IBAs are identified nationally, using data collected locally and applying site selection criteria agreed regionally and globally. To qualify as an IBA, a site must meet one or more of the four standard criteria (see box 1) developed by the BirdLife Partnership and which have been used to identify over 10,000 sites worldwide. These criteria address the two key issues in site conservation: vulnerability and irreplaceability.

With the existing as well as emerging threats, BCN is more focusing on monitoring of these IBAs and also the assessment of potential IBAs as well as other sites important for birds. BCN recently conducted a detailed assessment of Reshunga forest—a potential IBA.
**Box 1** IBA criterion and category.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1: Globally threatened species</td>
<td>The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened species or other species of global conservation concern</td>
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<tr>
<td>A2: Restricted-range species</td>
<td>The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the restricted-range species whose breeding distributions (less than 50,000km²) define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area (SA).</td>
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<td>A3: Biome-restricted assemblage</td>
<td>The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the group of species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome.</td>
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<td>A4: Congregations</td>
<td>(i) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥1% or ≥20,000 water birds of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species.</td>
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<td>(ii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥1% of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species.</td>
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<td>(iii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥20,000 waterbirds or ≥10,000 pairs of seabirds of one or more species.</td>
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**Box 2** Objectives of IBA programme in Nepal:

- To contribute to the development of a National Biodiversity Strategy and for the implementation of a National Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan.
- To assist Nepal to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements touching on biodiversity conservation.
- To inform decision-makers and technical advisers at local, national and international levels of the existence and vital importance of these sites, so that appropriate steps can be taken for their conservation.
- To identify clear priorities for conservation action, and encourage the government of Nepal, national and international non-governmental organisations and international agencies to address these.
- To identify research needs and gaps in knowledge that should be addressed by the scientific community.
- To provide relevant and useful material for training and education.
- To provide information that can be used by birdwatchers, and can contribute to the growth of bird and wildlife ecotourism in Nepal.

Source (Baral and Inskipp 2005)

**Reshunga Forest**

Reshunga forest (28° 16’N / 83° 22’ E) lies in Gulmi District of Lumbini Zone in Nepal. It covers an area of 3400 ha of 10 Village Development Committee (Badagaun, Paralmi, Balithum, Jughum (Jubhung), Gaudakot, Gaudakot, Dubichaur, Simichaur, Tamghas, Arkhale and Hastichaur) with an altitudinal range of 800m - 2330m. It is located on the eastern side of Tamghas bazaar, the district headquarters of Gulmi district. It lies outside the protected area system of Nepal, but the core area 675 ha is managed as National Forest by the District Forest Office, Gulmi and the rest of the forest around the hills is managed by more than 7 Community Forest User Groups. Reshunga forest is part of an important watershed and includes nearly 40 small brooks and streams. On the lower slope there is a lower temperate mixed broadleaved forest and on the higher slope rhododendron forest still exists in good condition (Baral and Inskipp 2005).

At the lowest altitudes, the annual mean temperature remains at 20°C and higher up the maximum temperature is 20°C and the minimum temperature is -5°C. Most of the rain falls in the monsoon season.

Reshunga Forest was declared as one of the potential IBAs of Nepal in 2005 (Baral and Inskipp 2005) Due to a lack of baseline information on birdlife, Reshunga Forest is still considered as a potential IBA. Even after the declaration of this area as a potential IBA in 2005, no conservation measures or research had been initiated to date. There was an immediate need of detailed survey work to assess the Reshunga for IBA status.

**Assessment**

A detailed bird survey of Reshunga Forest was carried out in November 2010, and in February, March and June 2011 using Mackinnon’s list and direct observation methods (Bibby et al. 2000). The high total of 201 bird species was recorded from Reshunga forest and it meets the following three criteria and categories to qualify as an IBA (Thakuri 2011).

**A1: Globally threatened species**

Globally threatened bird species under A1 criteria seen soaring over the Reshunga Forest area were Egyptian Vulture Neophron...
percnopterus, White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* and Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*.

**Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus**,  
Global status: *Endangered*  
One was seen in November, 4 in February, 5 in March and 5 in June.

**White-rumped Vulture Gyps bengalensis**,  
Global status: *Critically Endangered*  
Two soaring flocks of 5 and 4 birds were seen during March and June visits respectively. Both flocks were seen at the sky of Gaudakot, coming towards the Reshunga Forest from the east and flying towards the Gaushala area.

**Red-headed Vulture Sarcogyps calvus**,  
Global status: *Critically Endangered*  
Six, 4 and 3 individuals of Red-headed Vulture were counted in November, February and March respectively.

### A2: Restricted-range species
Two restricted-range species were recorded from the area. Three individuals of Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis* were counted in the June visit from Gaudakot side. Similarly three Kashmir Nuthatch *Sitta cashmirensis* were seen on the way to Reshunga top from Tamghas bazaar in June.

### A3: Biome-restricted assemblage:
A total of 56 bird species belonging to 4 biomes was seen. Among them the highest numbers of birds were recorded belonging to Biome 07: Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forest (27 species) followed by 19 species from Biome 08: Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forest, 7 species from Biome 05: Eurasian High Montane and 3 species were from Biome 11: Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>BIOME 05: EURASIAN HIGH MONTANE( ALPINE AND TIBETIAN)</th>
<th>BIOME 07: SINO-HIMALAYAN TEMPERATE FOREST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hill Partridge</td>
<td>Arborophila torqueola</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Himalayan Griffon</td>
<td>Urocissa flavirostris</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Grey-backed Shrike</td>
<td>Ficedula strophiata</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Hodgson’s Redstart</td>
<td>Ficedula tricolor</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tickell’s Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Niltava sundara</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Rosy Pipit</td>
<td>Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Plain Mountain Finch</td>
<td>Leucosticte nemoricola</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Yellow-billed Blue Magpie</td>
<td>Certhia nipalensis</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher</td>
<td>Parus monticolus</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Slaty-blue Flycatcher</td>
<td>Chestnut-headed Tesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rufous-bellied Niltava</td>
<td>Teisia castaneocoronata</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Golden Bush Robin</td>
<td>Grey-bellied Tesia</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Blue-capped Redstart</td>
<td>Grey-sided Bush Warbler</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>White-tailed Nuthatch</td>
<td>Buff-barred Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Rusty-flanked Tree-creeper</td>
<td>Ashy-throated Warbler</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Green-backed Tit</td>
<td>Grey-cheeked Warbler</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Chestnut-headed Tesia</td>
<td>White-throated Laughingthrush</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Grey-bellied Tesia</td>
<td>Striated Laughingthrush</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Grey-sided Bush Warbler</td>
<td>Streaked Laughingthrush</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Buff-barred Warbler</td>
<td>Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ashy-throated Warbler</td>
<td>White-browed Fulvetta</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Grey-cheeked Warbler</td>
<td>Fire-tailed Sunbird</td>
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<td>White-throated Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Rufous-breasted Accentor</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Dark-breasted Rosefinch</td>
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Conservation issues
Around 150,000 people from 23 out of 89 Village Development Committees are benefitting from the springs and brooks of Reshunga Forest. Construction of roads through the forest is destroying the available water sources and some water sources have already dried out. This area also receives high pressure from local people for the collection of wild harvested goods. Reshunga is a renowned and highly rich pilgrimage site in Gulmi district and in Nepal, having many shrines, temples and hermitages. As there is no proper management, haphazardly thrown plastics by visitors can be seen around the walking trails and temples.

The cow shed (Gaushala) located inside the forest is regular source of food for the Vulture species, but the disposal of carcasses does not make it easy for vultures to feed as at the vulture safe feeding sites in other parts of Nepal. The reason for this is that the caretakers of the cow shed throw the carcasses into a deep gorge filled with dense undergrowth.

Conclusion
The recording of bird species under A1, A2 and A3 categories suggests it can be listed as an IBA. BCN has a very good opportunity to work in the site with the existing Reshunga Conservation Committee which is actively working there. An awareness programme was carried during the field visit by the BCN staff. It is highly important to develop a mechanism for utilizing the carcass from the existing cow shed as a safe food for vultures.

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank Oriental Bird Club for providing financial support and Dr David Buckingham for his useful comments at the report preparation stage. We would like to thank Dr. Hum Gurung for his support and encouragement to carry out the assessment. We would like to thank Tim and Carol Inskipp for providing valuable comments on the report. We are thankful to Chief District Forest Officer, Chief of District Drinking Water Supply, Lilamani Marasini and Kunjar Mani Gautam for their support during the field visit.

References


A juvenile Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* was rescued from poachers by District Forest Office in Gorkha and handed over on 8 May 2012 to Chitwan National Park for its care. It was kept in the small aviary at Gharial Conservation Breeding Center (GCBC) of CNP and fed buffalo meat 250g per day. The bird was kept for rehabilitation in the GCBC from 8 May to 30 July 2012.

The owl was released in the premises of GCBC on 7 July 2012. It was not able to fly so it jumped from one place to another and stayed near the Gharial enclosure in the first night. The next day, again it was captured and housed at GCBC. As the door of the aviary was kept open, it went out by itself in the night of 30 July 2012 and in early morning of 31 July 2012, it took short flight in the surrounding forest of GCBC. After five days, the owl seemed more active and flew from one tree to another. It regularly stayed at GCBC premise until 26 November 2012 and was bit of attraction for GCBC visitors. A new tag was inserted on its leg for identification.

One day, we observed the bird closely when it was on the roof of Gharial enclosure with the help of 10x50 DPS1 OLYMPUS DPSR binocular and noticed that it had some problem in the forehead. The bird was recaptured for further investigation. There were four ticks around the right eye which was swollen and loss of feathers around it. The bird seemed hungry and also anemic. Ticks were taken out with forcep and further medical cure was given for a week. It took three weeks for complete recovery. The bird then left after 26 November 2012 due to improved health. It was seen in rocky cliffs and ravine as well as areas surrounded by scattered trees and bushes near the human settlements. The bird seemed to be adjusting in its proper habitat.

When this bird comes near to the CNP staff quarter at evening time and gives a sharp call. We feel that it is hungry so we provide piece of meat to the bird which it takes immediately. The bird usually comes to the staff quarter for the food in the evening time which coincides with the earlier feeding time when it was in captivity at GCBC. This seemed that the bird was habituated with the human feeding and also not fully capable of hunting on its own but sometimes we have observed the bird hunting mice.

**Bed Bahadur Khadka**

*bed.khadka@gmail.com*

Chitwan National Park, Kasara, Chitwan
Ideas move the world but only if people act upon them. And that's exactly what happened at midday on June 20, 1922, when a remarkable group of people from different countries met in London at the private home of the UK Minister of Finance. United by their passion for birds they concluded that the only effective answer to the growing trade of wild bird feathers or the threats to migratory birds across the continents had to be through co-ordinated international action.

This was the birth of the world's first true international conservation organisation, as Professor Kay Curry-Lindahl decades later described the International Council for Bird Preservation (later evolved into BirdLife International).

In the decades that followed the world became more populated, industrialised, the problems for nature bigger and more complex, and the need for a co-ordinated response even greater - a vision that the world's leaders attending the Rio+20 Earth Summit should follow.

A need that resulted in the creation of BirdLife International in 1993, today the world's largest grass root Partnership for nature with national organisations in 116 countries. United by a common vision BirdLife today is a global Partnership for local action and global impact.

"BirdLife International's 90th anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on what we've achieved together and help us focus on the future we want," said Dr Marco Lambertini, BirdLife's Chief Executive.

"Much has changed in ninety years but the fundamentals have not. The rationale for international collaboration has only grown stronger and so the crucial need to empower local conservation capacity around the world. It all seems so logical today but it was truly visionary then," commented Dr Lambertini.

BirdLife Partners around the world will be marking the anniversary with a series of feature articles in their magazines and other materials over the coming months, including marking the occasion together at the BirdLife Partner World Congress next June 2013 in Ontario, Canada.

Active conservationists, once numbered in dozens, are now counted in millions, with ten million supporters of the BirdLife Partnership alone. We all owe a debt to the handful of people who came together to form the ICBP at 12 noon on June 20 in 1922.

Source: www.birdlife.org
BirdLife International is a global conservation federation with a worldwide network of Partner organizations, Representatives and committed individuals.

BirdLife International seeks to conserve all bird species on earth and their habitats and, through this, it works for the world’s biological diversity. It recognizes that the problems affecting birds, their habitats and our global environment are linked inseparably with social, economic and cultural factors and that these can only be resolved if human societies function in an ecologically sustainable manner and if the needs, welfare and aspirations of people form a part of all conservation action.

Birds provide BirdLife International with a uniquely valuable focus: they are sensitive indicators of biological richness and environmental trends and fulfil many key ecological functions; they contribute greatly to our understanding of natural processes; they are an important economic resource; and they have inspired and delighted people of many cultures for centuries, which makes them excellent ambassadors for the promotion of conservation awareness and international collaboration.

BirdLife International pursues a programme of:

- **Scientific research and analysis to identify and monitor worldwide the most threatened bird species and the most critical sites for the conservation of avian diversity;**

- **Advocacy and policy development to promote the conservation of birds and biodiversity through sustainability in the use of all natural resources;**

- **Field action and country conservation programmes, ranging from community-based land-use and management projects to species recovery programmes benefiting both wildlife and humans;**

- **Network and capacity building to expand and strengthen the global partnership of conservation organizations and to promote worldwide interest in the conservation of birds and the wider environment.**

**Additional Sightings!**

One juvenile Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* was noted at Thapalia Tal, near Chitwan National Park (CNP) headquarter, Kasara on 2nd week of May 2012 (AC and GA). A very rare record from CNP!

Nine Russet Sparrows *Passer rutilans* were seen at Rara National Park (RNP) on 16 April 2012 (JT, HG, AS, JB, DT and IT). A new record for RNP!

One White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis* was recorded at Rara National Park (RNP) on 10 May 2012 (JT). A new species for RNP!


Compiled by Tika Giri and Nathan Chaudhary

**'चयालाई चाचर' अभियानमा सहकार्य गरेँ!**

a BCN initiative to save Nepal’s endangered birds.

**Pledge and Donate Today**
Membership
Mr Krishna Mani Baral, photo journalist joined BCN as a Life Member.

Mr. Bhogendra Rayamajhi, Assistant Warden, Rara National Park joined BCN as a Life Member.

Damodar Bhakta Thapa, Proprietor, Rupa View Guest House joined BCN as a Life Member. He shows great interest in nature and bird conservation.

Mr Braj Kishor Yadav, Director General, Department of Forests joined as a Life Member.

Mr Bed Khadka is the Assistant Conservation Officer at Chitwan National Park. He is interested in doing bird research and joined BCN as a Life Member.

Friends of BCN
Mr Alex Anderson joined as Friends of BCN. He is doing research on birds from James Cook University, Australia.

Ms Esther Tyson, British Artist, joined as Friends of BCN. She has special interest on bird and nature art.

Education and Awareness
World Migratory Bird Day 2012 Celebration
BCN Pokhara Branch organised “School and Community Outreach Programme” from 12-13 May 2012 on the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day 2012 in Pokhara Valley to aware and involve the students and community people in the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

The programme helped to provide information on bird and environment conservation to around 5000 general public. Some of them joined BCN membership and also donated for our conservation activities. The interest shown on bird and environment by the general public was really encouraging.

On the same day, Mr. Hirulal Dangora, Vulture staff of BCN received a prestigious Environment Conservation Award- 2012 from Rt. Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, in a programme organised by Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology. He was awarded for his outstanding performance in community based conservation of vultures, dolphin and overall birds in western lowland of Nepal.

Project Update
Vulture Conservation
Expansion of Vulture Safe Zone to Syangja, Tanahu and Gulmi districts
Syangja, Tanahu and Gulmi districts have been declared DFZ in collaboration with respective DLSO. Gulmi district was declared as diclofenac free Zone on 8 April 2012, Syanja district on 23 April 2012 and Tanahun district on 18 June 2012.
Institutional Training for Project Partners
As a part of strengthening Vulture Safe Zones BCN in collaboration with District Livestock Service Office (DLSO), Environmental Sustainable Development and Research Centre Nepal (ESDRC) and Narti Community Forests’ Coordination Committee, Dang conducted first Provisional vulture safe zone workshop in Ghorahi, Dang on 8 April, 2012. Different District Government authorities from District Development office, District livestock Service Office, District forest office, District health office, and District Agriculture office attended the workshop. Representatives from Nepal Para veterinary and livestock association district committee, community forest user groups, and Journalists also participated in the program. Mr. Khadananda Paudel, Vulture Conservation Officer, BCN presented a concept paper on Provisional Vulture Safe Zone in the program. Mr. Dilli Bahadur Raut, President- ESDRC explained on Vulture safe Zone, Bijouri Dang. Similar workshop was conducted at Parasi, Nawalparasi on 3 May 2012.

Celebration of Vulture festival, Nawalparasi
Aiming at saving critically endangered vultures through local community involvement and awareness, two-day vulture festival was organized in 8-9 April 2012 at Panchanagar V.D.C, Nawalparasi district.

The festival was inaugurated by Chief Guest former State Minister for Home, Devendra Raj Kandel. District Forest Officer, Shorat Prasad Thakur was special guest in the programme. Local political leaders, representatives of government local bodies and social organizations and community people were also present in the programme. Krishna Mani Baral, Photo journalist had also set up a Vulture Photo Exhibition gallery in the festival which provided knowledge of different species of vultures of Nepal.

Awareness Workshop at Sisaniya
Narti Community Forest Coordination committee and Kalika Community Forest User group jointly organized Vulture conservation awareness programme in Deukhuri, Sisahaniya, Dang on 9 April 2012. User Groups from different Community forests of Dang Deukhuri, representative from Narti range post federation, Veterinary professionals, and Community people in the local area participated in the program. The topics discussed in the program were: - vulture biology, provisional vulture safe zone concept, co-funding /sustainability, role of Community Forest User Groups in vulture conservation.

Second Issue of Vulture Newsletter
Second issue of Vulture Newsletter “Giddha Sandesh” has been published and are being distributed widely for the concerned stakeholders. Articles relating with SAVE initiatives, VSZ activities, community engagement, VCBC, Diclofenac issues are included in this issue. The newsletter is aimed to disseminate the efforts and challenges in vulture conservation to the general public.
Educational Visit from India and Pakistan to Nepal’s Vulture Safe Zone

BCN welcomed international conservationists to Nepal’s Vulture Safe Zone from 5-10 June 2012. A team of conservationist from Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre -Bombay Natural History Society (India), Neo Human Foundation (India), Sindh Forest Department, Government of Pakistan (Pakistan), WWF-Pakistan and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK) visited Nepal’s community managed Vulture Safe Zone.

During the visit, conservationists learned different aspects of establishing and managing Vulture Safe Zone. Dhan Bahadur Chaudhary, Vulture Safe Zone Coordinator of Nawalparasi briefed on initiatives taken by community in establishing community run vulture feeding site and then Vulture Safe Zone. The team also visited Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre and interacted with Chitwan National Park and National Trust for Nature Conservation at Chitwan. On the return day, team joined for review reflection workshop at Kathmandu and discussed on vulture safe zone activities. Conservationist also shared their experience in vulture conservation and made some quick recommendations over the breeding centre activities. This visit will be able to foster our networks in trans-boundary conservation efforts.

Darwin Ecosystem Services Project

The analyses of the rapid review of ES for all 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Nepal has been done and will be incorporated into the National Report which will be published in October. Field work was conducted from 18 April – 2 May at RNP, with a team of 5 project staff from BirdLife International and BCN, 3 local staff, the Assistant Warden and other local guides. Community workshop, focus group discussion, carbon surveys, household surveys for harvested wild goods, water and cultivation were undertaken. Biodiversity data were also gathered for the site.

The 4th local start-up meeting took place during the field visit in April, at Rara National Park (RNP) headquarters and involved 15 members of the local community and other stakeholders. The group conducted the rapid appraisal for the site following the guidance provided by the toolkit.

Three papers are in various stages of development. The two sites from 2010 are almost ready for submission as case studies to peer-review journals. The team is working on two further papers. An overview paper is also being developed to present the new toolkit methods to the wider scientific community.

A Rara poster and Nepali documentary DVD was distributed at RNP and to all BirdLife Asia Partners and country programmes during the Regional Partnership Meeting in Singapore. A third newsletter was published and disseminated to networks in Nepal and internationally.

The report, ‘Conserving biodiversity and delivering ecosystem services at Important Bird Areas in Nepal’ is being prepared with wide consultation with experts in the UK and stakeholders in Nepal.

Project experiences were shared with BirdLife Asia Partners from 14 countries during the BirdLife Asia Regional Partnership Meeting from 27 May to 1 June in Singapore. A two day training workshop for all participants (40) was delivered by BCN and BirdLife staff.
Cheer Pheasant Survey in Rara National Park (RNP)
Survey of Cheer Pheasant has been carried in RNP and its buffer zone in April 2012 using the call count method. Questionnaire survey is also being carried in parallel to indentify the threats and necessary conservation interventions.

Api Nampa Conservation Area (ANCA) Bird Survey
BCN jointly with DNPWC conducted bird survey of newly designated Api Nampa Conservation Area. Two different surveys were carried out in December 2011 and April 2012 along the two major river belts i.e. Mahakali and Chameliya. A total of 243 bird species were recorded. Most significant bird species, listed in IUCN red List as globally threatened are Cheer Pheasant, Egyptian Vulture, White-rumped Vulture, Cinereous Vulture and Red-headed Vulture were recorded. Near threatened Satyr Tragopan was also recorded. Similarly, nationally threatened birds recorded are Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, Grey-sided Laughing Thrush, Cutia, Rusty-fronted Barwing and Great Parrotbill.

Koshi Wetland Conservation
BCN has been constantly supporting the Ramsar Fisheries Cooperative at Koshi established by the BCN-WWT Darwin Initiative project. With coordination support from our field staff, Ravi Shanker Pandit, the cooperative has been successful in receiving financial support for rehabilitation of the ponds and development of fish hatchery from the District Fishery Development Office, Sunsari and the wetland project CSUWN respectively.

Staff Capacity Building
- CEO, Dr Hum Gurung attended Vulture Conservation Programme meeting held in Delhi from 2-6 May 2012.
- President, Sarbendra Pachhai and CEO, Dr. Hum Gurung attended BirdLife Asia Partnership meeting held in Singapore from 26 May to 2 June 2012.
- Ishana Thapa attended Ecosystem Services workshop in Singapore from 27-29 May 2012.
- Jyotendra Thakuri attended Consultative Workshop on Assessing Drivers of Ecosystem Change* organized by ICIMOD from 28-29 June 2012.

Staff Appointment
Dr. Navaratna Pradhan has been appointed as Veterinary Officer on 8 April 2012.

Staff Departure
Dr. Binay Shrestha, Veterinary Officer, VCBC left BCN to join NARC.

Donation
BCN welcomes all kinds of support from individuals and institutions. You can even help us by providing us your camera, binocular, telescope, scientific equipment etc. Furthermore, we will also be grateful if any one provides educational materials for our library. All support will be duly acknowledged.
The newsletter is produced quarterly for members of Bird Conservation Nepal. The aim of the newsletter is to inform BCN members on the recent development of ornithology in Nepal and any other relevant news on birds. It is circulated to all members free of cost. The individual annual membership is NRs. 300 for any SAARC nationals and equivalent Nepali rupees of US$ 15.00 for others to join as Friends of BCN.

Those who would like to donate to or be a member of BCN can do so by a direct bank transfer, to the bank details below, or via cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Bird Conservation Nepal and sent to the address below.

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Mr. Bikram Rai, Nepal

Established in 1982, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is the leading organisation in Nepal, focussing on conservation of birds, their habitats and sites. It seeks to promote interest in birds among the general public, encourage research on birds, identify major threats to birds’ continued survival. As a result, BCN is the foremost scientific authority providing accurate information on birds and their habitats throughout Nepal. We provide scientific data and expertise on birds for the Government of Nepal (GoN) through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and work closely in birds and biodiversity conservation throughout the country.

BCN is a membership-based organisation with a founding President, patrons, life members, ordinary members, friends of BCN and active supporters. Our membership provides strength to the society and is drawn from people of all walks of life from students, professionals and conservationists. Our members act collectively to set the organisation’s strategic agenda.

We are committed to showing the value of birds and their special relationship with people. As such, we strongly advocate the need for peoples’ participation as future stewards to attain long-term conservation goal.

As the Nepalese partner of BirdLife International, a network of more than 110 organisations around the world, BCN also works on a worldwide agenda to conserve the world’s birds and their habitats.

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