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BIRD SURVEY OF MADANE PROTECTED FOREST, GULMI DISTRICT, WEST NEPAL

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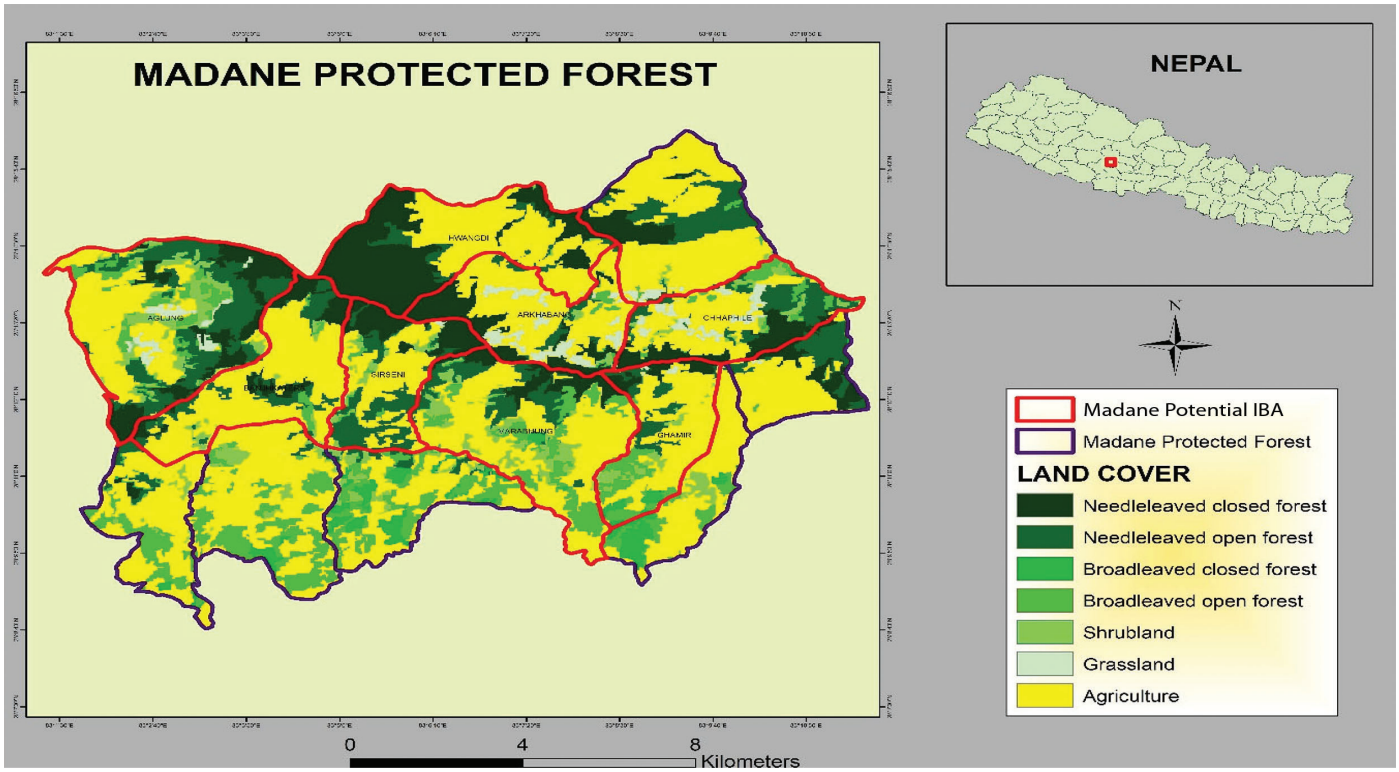
INTRODUCTION

Madane Forest is situated in Gulmi District of Lumbini zone, Province no. 5 of West Nepal. It covers an area of 13,761 ha. within the altitudinal range of 975 m. to 2657 masl. According to the new administrative system, the Madane forest is located within the five wards (Auglung, Maligaun, Mayalpokhari, Bajkateri and Sisneri) of Madane rural municipality and six wards (Darling, Hwagdi, Arkhabhang, Chapahile, Ghamir and Marburg) of Malika rural municipality. The Government of Nepal declared this forest as protected forest on 28th February 2011 under the article 23 of the Forest Act 2002 and named it after the highest peak, the Madane (Department of Forest 2068, Baral and Dulal 2073).

The Madane Protected Forest is known for the typical middle mountain forest ecosystem, that holds 38.62% (5315.12 ha.) dense forest mostly at higher elevation and 7.75% (1066.73 ha.) open forest at lower elevation. There are 3 types of forests: *Schima-Castanopsis*-Chirpine forest (45.98%), Lower Temperate Oak forest (50.64%) and Temperate Mountain Oak forest (3.38%). Major species of the *Schima-Castanopsis*-Chirpine Forest are *Schima wallichii*, *Castanopsis indica*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Alnus nepalensis* and *Shorea robusta* at lower elevation. *Quercus sp, Rhododendron sp* are the main species of the Lower Temperate Oak Forest. Similarly, *Quercus sp*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Acer oblongum* are main species of the Temperate Mountain Oak Forest (Department of Forest 2068).

Photo: Eastern Goldfinch by Shambhu Bhattarai



Map 1: Madane Protected Forest (the potential IBA)

Madane is an important watershed, providing drinking water for the residents of 30 wards beyond the protected forest area. Badighad, Chhaldi, Panaha, Jhumruk, Bhujikola and Nisti Kola are the tributaries of Kaligandaki River that originated from the Madane Protected Forest area.

Due to the diverse geography and vegetation, Madane Protected Forest is a home to a varied wildlife. It is also an important corridor for wildlife because it is connected to Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve in the north and Resunga Protected Forest and Thaple hill in the south. There has been 24 mammals e.g. Porcupine *Hystrix indica*, Common Leopard *Panthera pardus*, Himalayan Black Bear *Selenarctos thivetanus*, Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntajak*, Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*, Wild Boar *Sus scrofa* etc. recorded (Department of Forest 2068 BS). According to a five-day survey in Madane during January 2017 (Chaudhary 2017) a total of 125 bird species including Globally Threatened Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* and Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* and 53 bird species representing 4 biomes were recorded.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the survey were as follows:

1. Assess the species richness and abundance of birds of Madane Protected Forest.
2. Evaluate the Madane Protected Forest for IBA standards.
3. Record potential threats.

METHODS

Survey sites identification

Staffs of the Division Forest Office of Gulmi and Madane Protected Forest, local people and field staffs from Resunga were consulted to identify the survey sites. Further, Chaudhary & Magar (2017) was also reviewed. The survey was carried out from 8th to 16th March 2018, mostly covering the core area.

Mackinnon's Listing Method

Mackinnon's species richness counting method, Mackinnon and Phillips (1993) was used as described by Bibby *et al*. (2000) to know the species richness, abundance and distribution.

Species richness counting method was as follows:

1. Each new encountered (seen and heard) species was recorded until a list of 20 species was reached.
2. Then a new list (number 2) was started and another 20 species were recorded. Each list contained 20 different species, but subsequent lists could include species previously listed. During the survey, much care was taken not to repeat the same species in the same list, but to list the species in subsequent lists.
3. Then list number 3 was recorded.
4. A final running species total was obtained by extracting the number of species in list 2 that were not in list 1 and so on throughout all the lists recorded for that area.

By plotting the cumulative total of species detected against the number of lists, a species richness curve was produced. This species richness curve is a measure of species diversity.

The number of times a species reappears in subsequent lists can be converted into a frequency of occurrence.

Listing was stopped during longer period of rest or lunch break, repeating sections of survey trails while travelling to survey sites and around accommodation locations (except the first day)

Cumulative list/daily lists

This method ensured the recording of seen or heard birds at any time during the survey period. A list of all birds recorded within the Madane Protected Forest was updated each evening as well as daily site-specific track lists. Both methods were used independently.

Call Playback

Call playback was used in search for selected skulking and/or rare target species such as Cutia and Cheer Pheasant. When a target species responded the playback was stopped immediately in order to minimise stress of the bird. Recording of mystery calls were used to identify the unfamiliar call later. www.xeno-canto.org was used as reference for call identification.

Field Guides and taxonomy

Grimmett et al. (2000, 2003, 2012 and 2016) were used as field guides. The final checklist follows the BirdLife International's systematic order (del Hoyo et al. 2014, 2016).

Threat assessment

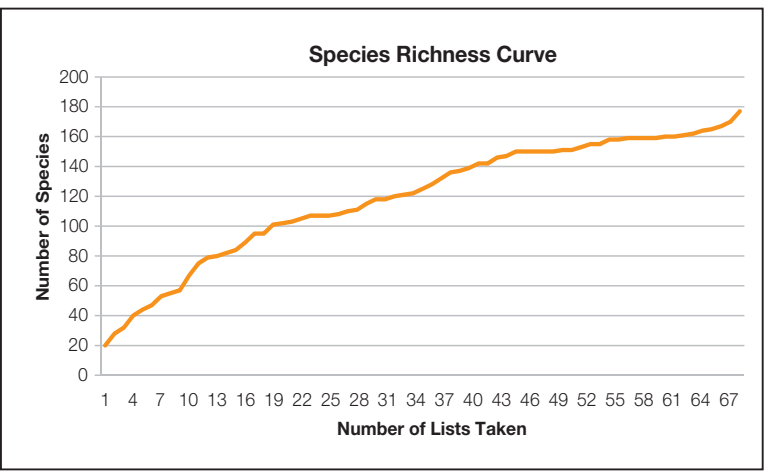
To assess the threat, direct observation along the survey sites was done. Additionally, the survey team had informal talks with local field guides and local people.

RESULTS

Species Richness

A total of 184 bird species were recorded from nine days' survey work. Among them, 177 species was recorded under 69 Mackinnon's lists and an additional seven species was recorded outside the Mackinnon's List. The species richness curve resulted from Mackinnon's Listing Method is as shown below.

Among the total recorded 51 families, Muscicapidae was best represented with 20 species followed by Accipitridae 15, Leiotrichidae and Phylloscopidae 12, Corvidae 8, Fringillidae 7, Paridae 6, Strigidae and Phasianidae 5, Phasianidae , Picidae, Campephagidae, Pycnonotidae, Scotocercidae, Timaliidae, Sittidae and Nectariniidae 4, Phasianidae, Columbidae, Cuculidae, Ardeidae, Megalaimidae, Cisticolidae, Zosteropidae, Passeridae and Motacillidae 3, Phasianidae, Apodidae, Vireonidae, Dicruridae, Laniidae, Stenostiridae, Pnoepygidae, Hirundinidae, Certhiidae, Turdidae and Prunellidae 2 and Phasianidae, Anatidae, Caprimulgidae, Ciconiidae, Phalacrocoracidae, Scolopacidae, Falconidae, Meropidae, Alcedinidae, Psittacidae, Oriolidae, Rhipiduridae, Sylviidae, Pellorneidae, Sturnidae, Chloropseidae, Dicaeidae and Emberizidae 1.

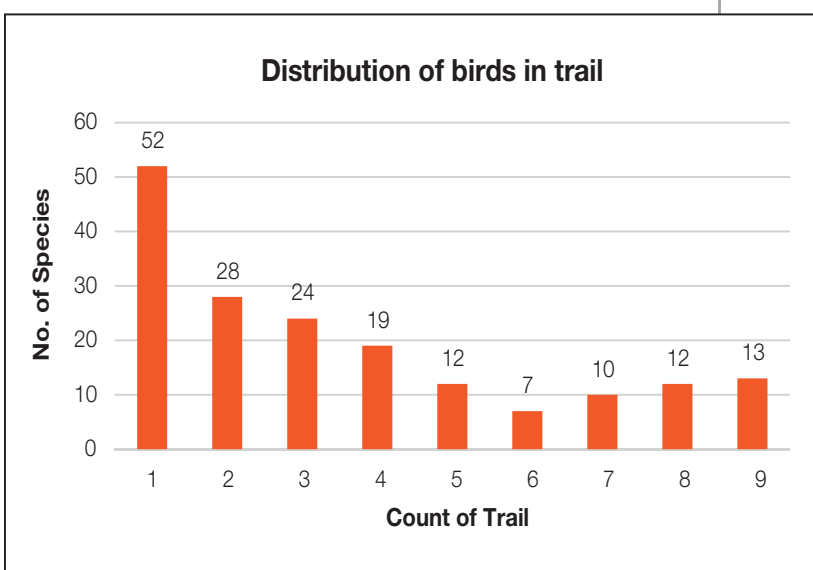


Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii* (VU), Asian Woollyneck *Ciconia episcopus* (VU), Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (EN), Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* (CR) and Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* (EN) are globally threatened birds and Spiny Babbler *Acandhoptila nipalensis*, the only endemic bird of Nepal were recorded in Madane Protected Forest.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The distribution of birds at different survey trails and their abundance is shown in chart below. 52 species were recorded in any one trail only among 1-9 trails and are considered as rare species and 13 species from all 9 trail. Migrating Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* and Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* were recorded only once at a single trail, at 1 and 6.

A total of 13 species, Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*, Red-headed Tit *Aegithalos iredalei*, Oriental Turtle-dove *Streptopelia orientalis*, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler *Erythrogenys erythrogenys*, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*, Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*, Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*, Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*, Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*, Hume's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Black Bulbul, Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* and Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* were the most common birds, distributed at all 9 survey trails and with high abundance. A total of seven species were recorded from six trails, among them Rufous Sibia has highest frequency of occurrence 31 and Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush has least frequency of occurrence 7.



The distribution of bird species at survey trails was decreasing by 52, 28, 24, 19, 12 and 7 with increasing the combination of trails by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Total 22 species distributed in 7 and 8 trails in combine were also common with abundance range of 12 to 31. Some examples include Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*, Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*, Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*, White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis*, Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* etc.

The distribution of bird species, number of lists taken and species recorded only from respective trails is shown in table 1.

Highest number of birds only recorded in one trail were recorded at Thaulachaur to Simaltari trail, 19 species: Common Green Magpie, Asian Woollyneck, White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*, Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*, Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda*, Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* were some of the species recorded only from this trail. Among them two species were recorded outside the Mackinnon's lists.

Table 1: Distribution of birds in individual trails

Survey Trails	Number of lists	Number of species	Number of species only recorded on this trail
1. Saire-Topre	9	57	1
2. Ashram-Malika-Thulachaur	7	73	3
3. Thulachaur-Hwagdi/mahabhir-Gardhare	7	74	4
4. Gargara-Jugena	8	68	3
5. Saunapote-Deurali Thuladhunga-Tindhara	8	85	8
6. Arkhabang, Bhaisimela-Jaljala-Rangdi Khola	8	75	8
7. Hwangdi-Kukurgaade Duerali	7	65	5
8. Tikhechuli-Saunapote	7	64	3
9. Thulachaur-Simaltari	8	91	17

However, the number of lists was highest in Saire-Topre area; the total number of bird species is the smallest and just only one species, Green-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus burkii,* was recorded only from this area.

Birds under IBA criteria and category

The records from two surveys conducted during January 2017 and March 2018 shows a total of 79 bird species under IBA criteria and category found in total from Madane Protected Forest. Among them 5 species were under A1: globally threatened species, 3 were under A2: restricted-range species and 76 species under A3: biome restricted assemblage. Among the biome-restricted assemblage 4, 46, 24 and 2 species were recorded under biome 5, biome 7, biome 8 and biome 11 respectively. (See Appendix 1)

THREATS

Habitat destruction

Road construction in many areas seems to be a big problem for birds. The most affected species is probably Cheer Pheasant; near the Ashram area the recently upgraded/widened road has fragmented the small patch of suitable habitat for this bird. The negative impact was visible downhill, where a small lake at Tindhara was destroyed due to mudslides resulting from road construction.

There is a plan to build a road up to Hwagdi to Madane Chaur. This road will have negative impact on birds because of the inevitable felling of large parts of the dense oak forest.

On-going road construction work using excavators was also creating noise problem from morning to evening.

Overharvest of natural resources

Community Forest User Groups allocate plots for harvesting oak leaves and other fodder; however, uncontrolled harvesting was seen even in the core area. The difference between the protected (Gulmi) and unprotected (Pyuthan and Baglung) forest in Madane range was clearly visible; in unprotected sites the forest was heavily depleted. So, pressure was observed from Pyuthan and Baglung, where several groups of illegal fodder collectors were encountered during the survey period.

Most of the southern slopes were dry but the available springs and brooks at northern slopes were also heavily piped for drinking water leaving insufficient water for vegetation, birds and other wildlife.

Illegal hunting

A group of hunters with guns from Pyuthan District were encountered during the survey period. Furthermore, gunshots were heard from the forest during the evening. Speckled Pigeon (locally called Malewa), Kalij Pheasant and Hill Partridge are likely the most hunted birds.

Forest Fire

Due to proximity to human settlement, farmland and people entering the forest with low awareness, the core area with slow growing oak forest at the slopes is susceptible to forest fires. Some patches of forest destroyed by fires a couple of years ago were seen and are still dead.

DISCUSSION

The Government of Nepal is committed to conserve its natural resources through providing different conservation status and management practices. Forest Act 2049 BS (1993) has provided the legal platform to declare and manage any national forest as a protected forest. The protected forest should have environmental, scientific, cultural or other significant importance. To date 10 forests have received the status of protected forest and Madane Forest was declared as such in 2011. The significance of the forest is considered for natural beauty and unique ecosystem conservation (Kafle *et al.* 2073) but it is equally important for water resources, birds and other wildlife and as a corridor for wildlife.

A bird survey of Madane Protected Forest was carried out from 8th-16th March 2018 using Mackinnon's Listing method. A total of 184 bird species among them 177 species was recorded from 69 Mackinnon's Lists. An additional seven species were recorded outside the lists: Himalayan Owl *Strix nivicolum* identified later using the recorded call, Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* identified by collected feathers from a dead bird, Common Raven *Corvus corax* seen flying over the ridge at our hotel at Thulachaur before the survey started, Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* confirmed with call later, Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* and Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* were recorded during the break time. The species richness curve shows the steady increase at the end, which looks unnatural for the assumption of Mackinnon's Listing method. This is because the first 8 surveys were carried out in the core area in almost similar habitat and elevation (starting and ending) but the last survey started in Thaulachaur (2000 m) and ended at Simaltari (1035 m, the lowest elevation surveyed) covering different types of habitat. Another half-day survey would certainly normalize the upper end of the curve. Due to altitudinal

and habitat variations, the number of bird species recorded from Thulachaur to Simaltari is also the highest with 17 new species for the survey period.

A total of 125 species was recorded in January 2017 by Chaudhary and Magar, making the total 207 number of bird species found in Madane Protected Forest till date. Both surveys represent the winter season, a summer season survey would certainly add more species for the area. However, the current survey recorded some early summer arrivals such as Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaultia* and Large Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides*.

Madane Protected Forest represents a middle mountain forest ecosystem of Nepal. Most of the birds are forest dependent including some hill stream birds such as Little Forktail, Spotted Forktail, Plumbeous Water-redstart and White-capped Water-redstart. Altitudinal variations, the different types of forest, and tropical to temperate forests result in high diversity of bird species. The bird community was dominated by a large number of rare species: 52 species were found in only one area with 1 to 3 frequency of occurrence followed by 28 species from two sites, 24 species from 3 sites and 19 species from 4 sites. A relatively smaller number of species were widely distributed and included common birds: 13 species were distributed all over the area followed by 12 species from 8 sites, 10 species from 7 sites, 7 species from 6 sites and 12 species from 5 sites.

The Madane Protected Forest is located in Kali Gandaki Valley, the major bird migratory corridor. Two species, Ruddy Shelduck and Great Cormorant were seen migrating northward. A call of Crane, probably Demoiselle Crane was also heard once in the sky above Thulachaur but we could not locate the bird, since the sky was clear they may have taking high flight. According to local people, Demoiselle Crane make autumn migration in large numbers that correlates with the monitoring conducted at Upper Mustang (BCN 2018) but the spring migration was less known among them.

The survey was able to document a good number of bird species under the IBA criteria i.e. 5 globally threatened species, 3 restricted-range species and 66 biome-restricted species. Some species such as Cheer Pheasant, Red-headed Vulture, Nepal Cupwing and Spiny Babbler falls into more than one category. The number and type of trigger species is similar to other mid-hill IBAs of Nepal e.g. Resunga Forest, Phulchowki Mountain Forest, Khandbari Num Forest and Panchase Protected Forest (BCN and DNPWC in prep.).

The Madane Protected Forest is managed through different approaches. There are 56 community forests, 8 leasehold forest, many private forests and the core area at higher elevation is managed as a core protected zone (Baral and Dulal 2073). However, there are many forested areas at lower elevations and there is high pressure on the core area for fodder harvesting, especially oak. Even though there is a mechanism for controlling fodder cutting through plots, some uncontrolled cutting was seen in the core zone. Illegal fodder cutting and collection by people from neighbouring districts is high. The oak forest is important for the watershed, fodder, leaf litter, firewood and timber. Oak is one of the most over-exploited species in Nepal. It fails to regenerate adequately and plantation has not been successful, so it is important to manage natural forest more effectively and sustainably (Shrestha 2003). Along with the pressure of fodder collection, there is illegal hunting from the neighboring districts and evidence of hunting from locals was also noticed during the survey. According to local people Kalij Pheasant hunting and trapping is common practice, Cheer Pheasant located in small patches of habitat may face the same problem, in addition to already facing habitat fragmentation and degradation through road construction. Therefore, to conserve this forest it is important to work with the Division Forest Office and local Community Forest User Groups to address the conservation threats.

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Appendix I: Checklist of Birds recorded in Madane Protected Forest

SN	Common Name	Scientific name	Abundance	IBA Criteria		
				A1	A2	A3
	Phasianidae					
1	Hill Partridge	*Arborophila torqueola*	18			B07
2	Black Francolin	*Francolinus francolinus*	3			
3	Koklass Pheasant	*Pucrasia macrolopha*	2			B07
4	Cheer Pheasant	*Catreus wallichii*	1	VU	RR	B07
5	Kalij Pheasant	*Lophura leucomelanos*	6			
	Anatidae					
6	Ruddy Shelduck	*Tadorna ferruginea*	1			
	Columbidae					
7	Speckled Woodpigeon	*Columba hodgsonii*	3			B07
8	Rock Dove	*Columba livia*				
9	Oriental Turtle-dove	*Streptopelia orientalis*	22			
10	Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon	*Treron sphenurus*	1			
	Caprimulgidae					
11	Grey Nightjar	*Caprimulgus jotaka*	2			
	Apodidae					
12	Alpine Swift	*Tachymarptis melba*	3			
13	Pacific Swift	*Apus pacificus*	1			
	Cuculidae					
14	Greater Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*	2			
15	Large Hawk-cuckoo	*Hierococcyx sparverioides*	2			
16.	Common Hawk-cuckoo	*Hierococcyx varius*	2			
	Ciconiidae					
17	Asian Woollyneck	*Ciconia episcopus*	1	VU		
	Ardeidae					
18	Indian Pond-heron	*Ardeola grayii*	1			
19	Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	1			
20	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	1			
	Phalacrocoracidae					
21	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	1			
	Scolopacidae					
22	Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	1			
	Strigidae					
23	Collared Owlet	*Glaucidium brodiei*	12			
24	Asian Barred Owlet	*Glaucidium cuculoides*	4			
25	Mountain Scops-owl	*Otus spilocephalus*	2			
26	Himalayan Owl	*Strix nivicolum*	1			
27	Eurasian Eagle-owl	*Bubo bubo*	1			
28	Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*				
	Accipitridae					
29	Bearded Vulture	*Gypaetus barbatus*	4			
30	Egyptian Vulture	*Neophron percnopterus*	5	EN		
31	Crested Serpent-eagle	*Spilornis cheela*	16			
32	Red-headed Vulture	*Sarcogyps calvus*	3	CR		B11
33	Himalayan Griffon	*Gyps himalayensis*	10			B05
34	Mountain Hawk-eagle	*Nisaetus nipalensis*	1			
35	Black Eagle	*Ictinaetus malaiensis*	8			

36	Steppe Eagle	*Aquila nipalensis*	7	EN		
37	Bonelli's Eagle	*Aquila fasciata*	3			
38	Booted Eagle	*Hieraaetus pennatus*	2			
39	Besra	*Accipiter virgatus*	1			
40	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	2			
41	Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*	1			
42	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	2			
43	Himalayan Buzzard	*Buteo refectus*	4			
44	Oriental Honey-buzzard	*Pernis ptilorhynchus*	4			
45.	Hen Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	1			
	Falconidae					
46.	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	10			
47	Eurasian Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*	2			
48	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	1			
	Meropidae					
49	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	*Merops leschenaulti*	1			
	Alcedinidae					
50	White-breasted Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	1			
	Megalaimidae					
51	Great Barbet	*Psilopogon virens*	25			
52	Golden-throated Barbet	*Psilopogon franklinii*	5			B08
53	Blue-throated Barbet	*Psilopogon asiaticus*	7			B08
	Picidae					
54	Speckled Piculet	*Picumnus innominatus*	1			
55	Black-naped Woodpecker	*Picus guerini*	16			
56	Brown-fronted Woodpecker	*Leiopicus auriceps*	3			
57	Scarlet-breasted Woodpecker	*Dryobates cathpharius*	1			
58	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos hyperythrus*	1			
59	Lesser Yellownape	*Picus chlorolophus*	1			
	Psittacidae					
60	Slaty-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula himalayana*	3			B08
	Oriolidae					
61	Maroon Oriole	*Oriolus traillii*	11			B08
	Vireonidae					
62	White-browed Shrike-babbler	*Pteruthius aeralatus*	7			
63	Green Shrike-babbler	*Pteruthius xanthochlorus*	1			B07
	Campephagidae					
64	Short-billed Minivet	*Pericrocotus brevirostris*	1			B08
65	Long-tailed Minivet	*Pericrocotus ethologus*	25			
66	Scarlet Minivet	*Pericrocotus flammeus*	5			
67	Indian Cuckooshrike	*Coracina macei*	1			
	Rhipiduridae					
68	White-throated Fantail	*Rhipidura albicollis*	11			
	Dicruridae					
69	Ashy Drongo	*Dicrurus leucophaeus*	2			
70	Lesser Racquet-tailed Drongo	*Dicrurus remifer*	1			
71	Hair-crested Drongo	*Dicrurus hottentottus*	2			
	Laniidae					
72	Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach*	9			
73	Grey-backed Shrike	*Lanius tephronotus*	3			B05
	Corvidae					
74	Rufous Treepie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*	1			
75	Grey Treepie	*Dendrocitta formosae*	19			B08
76	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa flavirostris*	3			B07
77	Red-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa erythroryncha*	2			

78	Common Green Magpie	*Cissa chinensis*	2			
79	Black-headed Jay	*Garrulus lanceolatus*	7			B08
80	Plain-crowned Jay	*Garrulus bispecularis*	1			
81	Common Raven	*Corvus corax*	1			
82	Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos*	16			
	Stenostiridae					
83	Yellow-bellied Fairy-fantail	*Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus*	9			
84	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	*Culicicapa ceylonensis*	31			
	Paridae					
85	Yellow-browed Tit	*Sylviparus modestus*	11			B07
86	Grey-crested Tit	*Lophophanes dichrous*	1			B07
87	Green-backed Tit	*Parus monticolus*	45			B07
88	Great Tit	*Parus major*	2			
89	Black-lored Tit	*Machlolophus xanthogenys*	10			B07
90	Red-headed Tit	*Aegithalos iredalei*	21			B08
	Cisticolidae					
91	Striated Prinia	*Prinia crinigera*	21			B08
92	Grey-breasted Prinia	*Prinia hodgsonii*	1			
93	Common Tailorbird	*Orthotomus sutorius*	6			
	Acrocephalidae					
94	Blyth's Reed-warbler	*Acrocephalus dumetorum*				
	Pnoepygidae					
95	Nepal Cupwing	*Pnoepyga immaculata*	1		RR	B07
96	Scaly-breasted Cupwing	*Pnoepyga albiventer*	6			B07
	Hirundinidae					
97	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	3			
98	Red-rumped Swallow	*Cecropis daurica*	5			
99	Eurasian Crag Martin	*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*	2			
100	Nepal House Martin	*Delichon nipalense*	10			B07
	Pycnonotidae					
101	Mountain Bulbul	*Ixos mcclellandii*	16			B08
102	Black Bulbul	*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*	42			B08
103	Striated Bulbul	*Pycnonotus striatus*	6			B08
104	Himalayan Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucogenys*	16			B08
105	Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*	8			
	Phylloscopidae					
106	Yellow-browed Warbler	*Phylloscopus inornatus*	5			
107	Hume's Leaf-warbler	*Phylloscopus humei*	36			
108	Lemon-rumped Leaf-warbler	*Phylloscopus chloronotus*	12			
109	Buff-barred Warbler	*Phylloscopus pulcher*	20			B07
110	Ashy-throated Warbler	*Phylloscopus maculipennis*	5			B07
111	Siberian Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus tristis*	1			
112	Green-crowned Warbler	*Phylloscopus burkii*	1			
113	Whistler's Warbler	*Phylloscopus whistleri*	9			
114	Chestnut-crowned Warbler	*Phylloscopus castaniceps*	4			
115	Greenish Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochiloides*	4			
116	Blyth's Leaf-warbler	*Phylloscopus reguloides*	4			
117	Grey-hooded Warbler	*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*	46			B08
	Scotocercidae					
118	Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler	*Horornis fortipes*	3			
119	Grey-sided Bush-warbler	*Cettia brunnifrons*	8			B07
120	Chestnut-headed Tesia	*Cettia castaneocoronata*	4			B07
121	Black-faced Warbler	*Abroscopus schisticeps*	13			B08
122	Aberrant Bush-warbler	*Horornis flavolivaceus*	1			B07
	Sylviidae					

123	Lesser Whitethroat	*Sylvia curruca*	1			
124	White-browed Fulvetta	*Fulvetta vinipectus*	5			
	Zosteropidae					
125	Stripe-throated Yuhina	*Yuhina gularis*	1			B07
126	Whiskered Yuhina	*Yuhina flavicollis*	28			
127	Oriental White-eye	*Zosterops palpebrosus*	21			
	Timaliidae					
128	Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler	*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*	16			
129	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-babbler	*Erythrogenys erythrogenys*	22			B08
130	Grey-throated Babbler	*Stachyris nigriceps*	4			
131	Black-chinned Babbler	*Cyanoderma pyrrhops*	20			B08
	Pellorneidae					
132	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	*Schoeniparus castaneceps*	4			
	Leiotrichidae					
133	Nepal Fulvetta	*Alcippe nipalensis*	6			B08
134	Striated Laughingthrush	*Grammatoptila striata*	2			B07
135	Spiny Babbler	*Acanthoptila nipalensis*	1		RR	B07
136	Jungle Babbler	*Turdoides striata*	2			B11
137	White-crested Laughingthrush	*Garrulax leucolophus*	7			
138	Spotted Laughingthrush	*Garrulax ocellatus*	34			B07
139	White-throated Laughingthrush	*Garrulax albogularis*	14			B07
140	Streaked Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron lineatum*	6			B07
141	Variegated Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron variegatum*	2			B07
142	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*	7			
143	Rufous Sibia	*Heterophasia capistrata*	31			B07
144	Red-billed Leiothrix	*Leiothrix lutea*	3			B08
145	Hoary-throated Barwing	*Sibia nipalensis*	2			
146	Blue-winged Minla	*Siva cyanouroptera*	8			B08
147	Bar-throated Minla	*Chrysominla strigula*	17			B07
	Certhiidae					
148	Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	*Certhia nipalensis*	1			B07
149	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	*Certhia himalayana*	3			B07
150	Hodgson's Treecreeper	*Certhia hodgsoni*	3			
	Sittidae					
151	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	*Sitta cinnamoventris*	1			
152	White-tailed Nuthatch	*Sitta himalayensis*	28			B07
153	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	*Sitta frontalis*	1			
154	Wallcreeper	*Tichodroma muraria*	1			B05
	Sturnidae					
155	Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	9			
	Turdidae					
156	Grey-winged Blackbird	*Turdus boulboul*	1			B08
157	White-collared Blackbird	*Turdus albocinctus*	28			B07
158	Black-throated Thrush	*Turdus atrogularis*	1			
	Muscicapidae					
159	Oriental Magpie-robin	*Copsychus saularis*	2			
160	Small Niltava	*Niltava macgrigoriae*	33			B08
161	Verditer Flycatcher	*Eumyias thalassinus*	32			
162	Himalayan Rubythroat	*Calliope pectoralis*	1			B07
163	Siberian Rubythroat	*Calliope calliope*	1			
164	Orange-flanked Bush-robin	*Tarsiger cyanurus*	18			
165	Golden Bush-robin	*Tarsiger chrysaeus*	4			B07
166	White-browed Bush-robin	*Tarsiger indicus*	1			B07
167	Little Forktail	*Enicurus scouleri*	1			

168	Spotted Forktail	*Enicurus maculatus*	2			
169	Blue Whistling-thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*	22			
170	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	*Ficedula tricolor*	1			B07
171	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	*Ficedula hyperythra*	3			
172	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	*Ficedula strophiata*	7			B07
173	Ultramarine Flycatcher	*Ficedula superciliaris*	6			B07
174	Blue-fronted Redstart	*Phoenicurus frontalis*	26			
175	Blue-capped Redstart	*Phoenicurus coeruleocephala*	13			B07
176	White-capped Water-redstart	*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*	4			
177	Plumbeous Water-redstart	*Phoenicurus fuliginosus*	4			
178	Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush	*Monticola rufiventris*	7			
179	Grey Bushchat	*Saxicola ferreus*	18			
180	Pied Bushchat	*Saxicola caprata*	1			
181	Common Stonechat	*Saxicola torquatus*	10			
	Chloropseidae					
182	Orange-bellied Leafbird	*Chloropsis hardwickii*	12			B08
	Dicaeidae					
183	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	*Dicaeum ignipectus*	25			
	Nectariniidae					
184	Fire-tailed Sunbird	*Aethopyga ignicauda*	13			B07
185	Black-throated Sunbird	*Aethopyga saturata*	4			B08
186	Green-tailed Sunbird	*Aethopyga nipalensis*	12			
187	Gould's Sunbird	*Aethopyga gouldiae*	1			
	Prunellidae					
188	Altai Accentor	*Prunella himalayana*	2			B05
189	Rufous-breasted Accentor	*Prunella strophiata*	3			B07
	Estrildidae					
190	White-rumped Munia	*Lonchura striata*	7			
	Passeridae					
191	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	1			
192	Russet Sparrow	*Passer cinnamomeus*	8			
193	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*	5			
	Motacillidae					
194	Olive-backed Pipit	*Anthus hodgsoni*	10			
195	Tree Pipit	*Anthus trivialis*	4			
196	Upland Pipit	*Anthus sylvanus*	7			
197	Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	6			
	Fringillidae					
198	Common Rosefinch	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	1			
199	Scarlet Finch	*Carpodacus sipahi*	1			B07
200	Pink-browed Rosefinch	*Carpodacus rodochroa*	3			B07
201	Red-headed Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*	2			B07
202	Dark-breasted Rosefinch	*Procarduelis nipalensis*	5			B07
203	Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch	*Carpodacus thura*	4			B07
204	Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	*Chloris spinoides*	4			B07
205	Eastern Goldfinch	*Carduelis caniceps*	1			
	Emberizidae					
206	Rock Bunting	*Emberiza cia*	9			
207	Chestnut-eared Bunting	*Emberiza fucata*	6			

Key to notes

A1: Globally Threatened Species
- VU: Vulnerable
- EN: Endangered
- CR: Critically Endangered

A2: Restricted-range species
- RR: Restricted-range species

A3: Biome-restricted assemblage
- B05: Biome 05: Eurasian High Montane
- B07: Biome 07 Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forest
- B08: Biome 08: Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forest
- B11: Biome 11: Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone

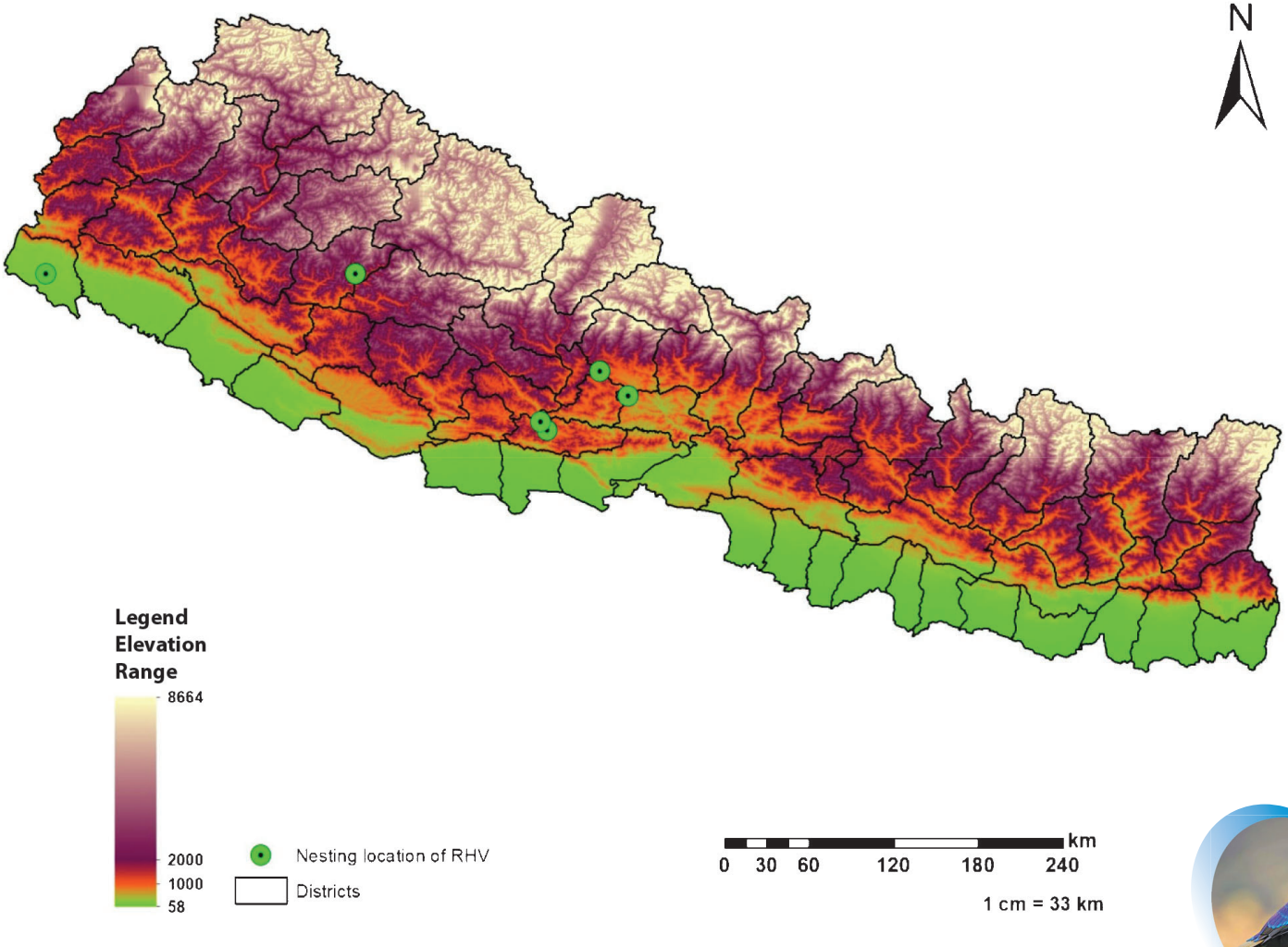
The Lowest Elevation Record of Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* Nesting in Nepal

Krishna Prasad Bhusal, Hiru Lal Dangaura, Deu Bahadur Rana, Ishwari Prasad Chaudhary and Ankit Bilash Joshi

Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*, once one of the common raptor in the world, nearly went extinct in the late 1990s through widespread poisoning by diclofenac, a Non-Steroid Anti-Inflammatory Drug in combination with other causes. For this reason it is classified as Critically Endangered. Red-headed Vulture is mainly distributed in Indian Subcontinent formerly widespread and generally abundant in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore and Yunan, China (BirdLife International 2019). It is widespread in Nepal, but has declined significantly such that it is virtually absent from most areas east of Kathmandu (Inskipp *et al*. 2016). Red-headed Vulture is the sole member of its genus *Sarcogyps*, and diverged around 10-11 million years ago. It is one of the few species of large vulture that does not live in large groups, usually solitary or in a breeding pair.

Population of Red-headed Vulture in Nepal has been estimated as 200 to 400 individuals (Inskipp *et al*. 2016). In the four year study period between 2012 to 2015, 102 sightings of Red-headed Vulture were recorded in western Nepal with the average flock size of 1.78 (□2) (Bhusal, *et. al* 2016). The maximum number of Red-headed Vulture recorded in a single sighting was 20 at Vulture Safe Feeding Site, Ghachok, Kaski on 24 June 2013 (Bhusal, *et. al* 2016).

Red-headed Vulture occurs in open country, often near human habitation, well wooded hills and deciduous forests with rivers usually below 2,500 m. Red-headed Vulture built nest at the top of a large tree from sticks and lined towards the centre with leaves and dry grass. Although, Red-headed Vulture is breeding resident of Nepal, there was no well-known record of its nesting and breeding success before. Its first nest of it was found at Tansen Municipality-12, Salghari, Palpa district in 2012 (Dhakal *et al*., 2014). Since 2013, the vulture team of Bird Conservation Nepal explored five active nest of Red-headed Vulture in Palpa, Jajarkot, Kaski and Tanahu district and continuously monitoring their breeding biology as well as nesting success. It is found that the average breeding success of Red-headed Vulture is about 60%. We are observing the breeding activities of Red-headed



Map showing the nesting location of Red-headed Vulture with elevation gradient in Nepal

Vulture during its breeding time December to June. It laid only one egg in one breeding season and both male and female took part in incubation and provide parental care. Red-headed vultures usually breed in the mid hills of Nepal and these all nests are locating in western mid hills with an elevation ranges from 1019m to 1519m. However, in the first week of April 2019, we found one active nest of Red-headed Vulture at an elevation of 176m in Shuklaphanta National Park, Kanchanpur district. This is the first known lowest elevation record of Red-headed Vulture nesting in Nepal and possibly throughout its range. Shuklaphanta National Park is a protected area in the Terai of the Far-Western Region, Nepal and comprise of open grassland, forests, riverbeds and tropical wetlands.

Red-headed Vulture occurs at lower density than Gyps vultures owing to its predominantly territorial behavior. It feels the disturbance especially during the breeding period so we need to be careful and during its monitoring and do not encourage to allow the photographer group and public mass around its nest.

Nepal's vulture population decline more than 90% as a result of diclofenac poisoning. Bird Conservation Nepal collaborating with communities, vet professionals, other conservation organisations and government agencies has been continuously working to halt and reverse these vulture declines. Since its beginning in 2002, our vulture recovery programme initiated an integrated approach, which involves advocacy, education, monitoring, research, captive breeding, supplementary feeding and site protection to help implement Nepal's Vulture Conservation Action Plan. The eventual recovery of vultures in Asia will be enhanced if it is possible to protect and retain small but key remaining vulture populations in the wild through creating Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) where there is a very low risk of poisoning in the areas surrounding remaining breeding colonies. A VSZ is an area surrounding one or more wild vulture nesting colonies, large enough to encompass the mean foraging range (>30,000 km2) completely free from diclofenac use. Diclofenac Free Districts have been declared in 70 districts out of 77 districts that is more than 90% of Nepal's area. The three VSZs established in the western lowlands of Nepal cover an area of 99,143 km2 with some parts of northern India. The nationwide survey led by Bird Conservation Nepal shows that the rapid decline of the White-rumped Vulture population from 2002 up to about 2013 has given way to a partial recovery between about 2013 and 2018. Similarly, Slender-billed Vulture rapid decline also gave way to partial recovery from 2012 onward. Similarly, the record of Red-headed Vulture nest and its sightings are increasing in the recent years and we are hoping of its recovery in the future.

Photo: Red-headed Vulture on its nest in Shuklaphanta National Park, Kanchanpur, Nepal by Hirulal Dangaura

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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. Further more, we will also be grateful if any one provides educational materials for our library. All support will be duly acknowledged.

News

Membership

Patrons:

Mr. Bhogendra Rayamajhi has joined BCN as a Patron. Mr. Rayamajhi is a very dedicated forester who served as a Assistant Conservation Officer at DNPWC for several years. He is currently working as a Senior Program Officer at ZSL Nepal.

Mr. Jaya N. Bhandari has joinied BCN as a Patron. Mr. Bhandari is a senior naturalist and has significant contribution in bird tourism and several BCN's bird watching events since more than a decade.

Life Members:

- **Prashid Kandel** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Kandel is working as Senior Project Officer at BCN.
- **Nabin Prakash Upadhyaya** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Upadhyaya has a very good experience in capacity development in forestry sector and currently working at Forest Research and Training Centre.
- **Dr Anuja Raj Sharma** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Dr. Sharma is a forestry expert who has served as Deputy Director General of Community Forest Division of Department of Forest and soil conservation.
- **Shambhu Bhattarai** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Bhattarai is currently working as Assistant Project Officer at BCN's PPN II programme.
- **Thanishwor Khanal** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Khanal is currently working as Technical Assistant at BCN's PPN II programme.
- **Kumar Paudel** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Paudel is currently associated with Green Hood Nepal.
- **Dev Bahadur Gurung** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Gurung is a freelance tourism professional who loves bird watching.
- **Debendra Pokhrel** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Pokhrel is a tourism professional and social worker.
- **Prabodh Chand** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Chand is currently involved in R.L. Multipurpose Pvt. Ltd. that focus on Business and Agriculture.
- **Tanka Duwadi** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Duwadi is a tourism professional who has deep regards of birds and nature conservation.
- **Ava Shah** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Ms. Shah is renowned figure in hospitality sector and currently working as Managing Director of Silver Mountain School of Hotel Management
- **Susan Shakya** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Ms. Shakya is renowned business woman currently leading Maruni Sanctuary Lodge, Chitwan of KGH Group.
- **Bhuwan Singh Thakuri** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Thakuri is a tourism professional who has deep regards for nature conservation.
- **Ghana Shyam Basnet** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Basnet is currently serving as Managing Director at Star Auto Enterprises.
- **Sasmit Jyu Thakuri** has joined BCN as a Life Member. Mr. Thakuri is a student who has deep regards for birds and nature and loves participating in nature conservation activities.

BCN's 36th Annual General Meeting

BCN's 36th AGM was held on 19 January 2019 at Hotel Moonlight, Kathmandu. The program was chaired by Rajendra Gurung, President of BCN and Gopal Prakash Bhattrai, Deputy Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation graced the event as the chief guest. Similarly, Shayam Sundar Bajimaya, Former DG of DNPWC, Dr. Anuja Raj Sharma, Former DDG of DOFSC, Prem Prasad Khanal, Under Secretary of DOFSC, Prakash Lamsal, Regional Director of Gandaki Province, Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung, CR of WWF, Dr. Prahlad Thapa, CR of IUCN and Dr. Tej Bahadur Thapa, Head of Zoology Department, TU were the special guest of the event.

Two technical reports on "Long Term Bird Monitoring" and "Biodiversity of Madane Protected Forest, Gulmi" were presented. BCN welcomed three new patron members, Chungba Sherpa, Umang Jung Thapa and Basant Raj Mishra. Similarly, Jatayu Research Grant 2018-19 was awarded to Sharmila Sigdel, Zoology Department, TU and Bharat Prasad Chaulagain, Agriculture and Forestry University, Hetauda. This year's NBCN Grant was awarded to Chandra Surya Yuwa Club, Jajarkot for their commendable contribution in raising awareness on importance of bird and biodiversity and Nature Guide Association, Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park for continuous work on biodiversity conservation while promoting sustainable eco-tourism. BCN also awarded special recognition to Yash Maharjan, President, Creative Bird Watching Club of Creative Academy, Kirtipur for his contribution in promoting birdwatching at school level. Patron, Chungba Sherpa committed NRs 1,00,000 to support students on research.

The second session included presentations from Vimal Thapa, General Secretary on annual progress and finance report by Ashok Bahadur Malla, Teasurer. The final session ended with discussion and concluding remark from the Chairman of the event.

Programme/Project Update

BirdLife South Asia Partners Meeting on Central Asian Flyway

Ms Ishana Thapa, CEO participated in BirdLife South Asia Partners Meeting on Central Asian Flyway from 21-24 January, 2019 in Orisha, India hosted by Bombay Natural History Society in collaboration with Chilika Development Authority, Bhubaneswar. The main focus of the meeting was partner co-operation and collaboration in the Central and South Asian region, engaging with the Central Asian Flyway and implementation of the Action of plans of regional, national and flyway levels, and joint events for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) Conference of Parties (COP) 13 in India during 2020.

World Wetland Day 2019

BCN jointly celebrated World Wetland Day in Ghodaghodi Lake Important Bird and Biodiversity Area on 2 February 2019 with Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment of far western province, Division Forest Office, Pahalmanpur, Ghodaghodi Lake Conservation and Tourism Development Board, Bird Conservation Network, FECOFUN Kailali, Basanta Protected Forest Council and Ghodaghodi Manch. The program was celebrated under the theme "**Wetlands & Climate change**".

Honourable Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment of far western province, Mr Prakash Rawal was chief guest of the programme and Special Guest were Mr Amar Bahadur Sawad, Parliament member of far western province and Mr Mamata Prasad Chaudhary, Mayor Ghodaghodi Municipality. It started with a rally joined by the Mayor, women groups and forest guard with banner, play cards and pamphlets advocating the importance of wetland conservation.

The participants were represented from government and non-government organizations including CFUGs, women groups, cooperatives, Nature Protection Groups, Schools, media, representing more than 3000 people.

People Partner with Nature II Programme Management Committee (PMC) meeting in Kenya

CEO, Ishana Thapa, Programme Manager, Mitra Pandey and Assistant Project Officer, Bharat Panthi participated in the People Partner with Nature (PPN II) programme's PMC meeting held in Malindi, Kenya from 19-22 February 2019. The PMC mainly focused on learning sharing among the four partners as well as strengthening advocacy, quantitative data, documentation of biodiversity impact, etc. Activities of Nature Kenya, like butterfly farming, eco tourism promotion, etc were also observed.

National Workshop of Nepal Bird Conservation Network (NBCN) in Bardia

Second national workshop of Nepal Bird Conservation Network (NBCN) was held in Bardia from 14 to 16 March 2019. Participants from the Local Conservation Groups (LCG) representing 25 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) out of 37 IBAs participated on the workshop. The inauguration session was chaired by Ram Bahadur Shahi, President of Bardia Nature Conservation Club and local organizer of the workshop and Mayor of Thakur Baba Municipality, Ghana Narayana Shrestha was the chief guest. The main objective of the event was to enhance the capacity of NBCN members for bird and biodiversity monitoring and conservation. BCN is also focused on spreading awareness to the key LCGs, communities and influencing stakeholders and agencies in positioning the IBA management and conservation actions.

The Chief Guest highlighted that the local government bodies are really keen to know the biodiversity and its conservation strategy on their respective sites and recommended to advocate them properly for mainstreaming the conservation and management agenda. The inauguration session was followed by short remarks from the other guests. They highly appreciated the progressive efforts and enthusiastic local participation for bird and biodiversity

conservation. The training session included detail about birds and IBAs status of Nepal and role of LCG presented by Krishna Bhusal, Vulture Conservation Program Officer and Mitra Pandey, Senior Project Officer, BCN. The second day session included presentation from LCG representatives on annual progress made on bird and biodiversity conservation with way forward. The workshop concluded with identifying the threats in IBAs of Nepal and its conservation actions.

Stakeholders taking actions to save vulture habitat in Kaptanganj, Dang

Local government authority and stakeholders took an action to save the Globally Threatened vulture habitat in Kaptanganj, Lamahi, Dang. Kaptanganj.

The nesting site of Critically Endangered White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture and Endangered Egyptian Vulture lies in lamahi Municipality-7, the Dang-Deukhuri Foothill Forest and West Rapti Wetland Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. Bird Conservation Nepal has been monitoring the vulture nesting colony since a decade and conducting several community awareness programs around the site. However, the site is encroached by local people and intentionally destroying the vulture nesting trees as well potential trees. To halt this situation stakeholder meeting was held in 10 March 2019; on the chairmanship of Kul Bahadur K.C., Mayor of Lamahi Municipality in the presence of Shankar Prasad Gupta, Division Forest Officer, Division Forest Office, Deukhuri, Gopal Gwanly, Narti Community Forest Co-ordination Committee, Lamahi, Arun Kumar Singh, Police Inspector, Lamahi, Dilli Bahadur Rawat, President, Environment Sustainable Development and Research Center (ESDRC), Dang, Ishwari Prasad Chaudhary, Vulture Technician of BCN, journalists and conservationist. The meeting made a decision to mark all the vulture nesting trees and potential tall and big trees and stop cutting them down in future. At the same tme participants also discussed to explore the potentiality of operating Home Stay in the area to promote ecotourism and livelihood improvement of local community. It is a very appreciative action initiated by local government authority on the vulture conservation.

Bird Watching initiated in Madane, Gulmi

Local people including school students of Madane have started bird watching activity in their surroundings in each alternate weekend (Saturday) from the month of April 2019. Bird watching activity has not only helped them to improve their bird identification skills but also helped them to connect closely to nature. The regular bird watching activity is led by Mr. Shambhu Bhattarai, assistant project officer in the community forests area of Madane protected forest.

Sharing of conservation documentary through local media in Gulmi

BCN has developed a conservation documentary named 'Madane and Reshunga in Biodiversity Conservation' in 2018. The documentary is being broadcasted through the 'Reshunga Television' of Gulmi since 15th March 2019 for 2 months in order to inform local public about the status of biodiversity in those areas as well as spread awareness for conservation. Similarly, the documentary was shown in the resource centers of Balithum and Paralmi of Reshunga where many community people had participated.

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.

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. 500 for any SAARC nationals and 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.

Sunrise Bank Limited, Gairidhara
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Account Holder: **Bird Conservation Nepal**
SWIFT CODE: SRBLNPKA

नेपाल पंछी संरक्षण संघ

Bird Conservation 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 120 organisations around the world, BCN also works on a worldwide agenda to conserve the world's birds and their habitats.

For further information please contact:

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