

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

---

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

---

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Aditya A Roy
Project title	Status and Conservation of <i>Gyps</i> vultures in Provisional Vulture Safe Zone Central Gujarat, Ahmadabad
RSG reference	12431-1
Reporting period	12 months (Actual time taken 18 months)
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	feathered.bipeds@gmail.com
Date of this report	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2015

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Advocacy and Awareness			√	Covered more than 1200 villages in important vulture breeding and feeding areas of central Gujarat and also outside the project limit area during personal visits, distributed awareness posters, showed films, interacted with villagers, veterinary doctors, quacks (unauthorised veterinary practitioners) and students
Vulture Ecology and NSAIDs monitoring		√		Complete monitoring of all vulture nesting colonies at 15-day intervals from November 2014 – May 2015 was done. Over 40 samples of dead white rumped vultures were analysed in detail including analysis of pesticides for 15 <i>Gyps bengalensis</i> (mass mortality case) in which we found alarming amounts of DDT levels. Over 500 liver samples of livestock carcasses have been collected from all important vulture feeding sites. Analysis of carcass samples is not fully complete due to some technical issues, which we intend to finish by end of 2015, which is the reason why this objective is considered as partly fulfilled.
Distribution of Subsidized Meloxicam			√	Distributed more than 2000 (100ml) vials of vulture safe meloxicam at subsidized rate drug to over 50 veterinary doctors and livestock inspectors working in most important vulture areas.
Rescue and treatment of injured/sick vultures			√	Rescued/ collected 25 white rumped vultures from a radius of 120 km around Ahmedabad between December 2013 to June 2015 in live/dead condition. All the live vultures were treated at different facilities and all the samples from dead vultures were analysed for veterinary painkillers and pesticides (in particular

				case of 15 vultures mass mortality).
Creation of volunteers at local level			√	Local volunteers were encouraged and trained to take systematic observations of vulture colonies in every village where vultures were nesting. Field equipment like binoculars were also given to those volunteers who showed deeper interest.

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

- We faced some issues while obtaining permissions for transport and analysis of dead vulture tissue samples which was solved after doing repeated meetings with forest officials.
- Some issues were created by other people working in same field trying to defame our work. Such issues were solved using support of media.
- During the laboratory analysis of tissue samples we faced some technical issues which we were able to solve after discussion with other people working in the same field. We have faced some lack of manpower in this particular area and that has delayed the analysis of carcass tissue samples which we are targeting to finish by end of 2015.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- We were able to monitor the vulture breeding cycle in great detail which would have been impossible without the support of RSG funding. This has given us great knowledge about the behaviour and ecology of white rumped vulture.
- With help of RSG and great support from the largest dairy co-operative (AMUL) we were able to reach out and distribute awareness material in over 1300 villages covering livestock owners, veterinary doctors, skimmers and students.
- In a case of mass mortality in July 2014 we were able to do detailed analysis of dead vulture tissue samples and to our surprise we have found very high amount of banned chemical DDT which can be another threat to already dwindled population of white rumped vultures.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).**

Local community involvement was one of our objectives and we have achieved it in very successful manner. Distribution of meloxicam at subsidised rate was very instrumental in creating a friendly repo with the most hard to interact community of veterinary doctors and quacks. Generally they are not much interested in awareness material, but the moment we started providing economic benefit by giving the vulture safe drug at one third cost of the market price they became very friendly and started participation in our work also. Now we have a strong network of veterinary doctors working in these rural areas and they also call when they see vultures on field. Now they have also understood the importance of these birds and actively participating in their conservation.

Another important local community was the skimmers, considered to be the lowest caste according to the Hindu belief and most of the time very poor and neglected people. Our regular interactions with skimmers created a deep interest about vultures in them and now they have started keeping regular watch on vulture numbers in the carcass dumps. They regularly send us the updates from the field also.

Third important local community was the villagers living in the villages where vultures are nesting. We were successful in creating at least one or two local young volunteers who are now regularly observing the vulture colonies and guarding the nesting habitat. We were also able to pay them for this work which gave them very good boost.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, we will continue to do the awareness and monitoring of colonies for coming years. We are also planning to extend our work in other regions and across different states with help of local NGOs and friends. We have also formed an NGO for continuation of this work in more intense and systematic manner. We are also planning to involve some commercial venture like taking tourist to see and photograph vultures in carcass dumps or roosting sites which will also generate revenue for continuation of conservation work and also employ local villagers.

**6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

We are planning to write a scientific paper on the chemical analysis and nest monitoring and also write a general article on the whole project to publish in some newsletters for birdwatchers and conservation magazines

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The RSG grant was used for 18months instead of 12 months.

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Project coordinator and biologist (1)	2400	2400	0	-
Field Assistant (1)	600	600	0	-
Travel cost for monitoring and awareness	1500	1500	0	-
Rescue and treatment	500	500	0	-
Printing awareness material	200	200	0	-
Toxicity testing	800	800	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

- Expansions of the same activities in larger area.
- Continuation of monitoring and awareness in the same area.
- Making the work more self-sustained by incorporation of activities like tourism (Nepal has been able to do that).

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, we used RSGF logo in all our printed materials as well as all the presentations. RSGF received publicity by use of its logo in our presentations and that inspired many of our colleagues and other organisations working in conservation field to write for RSG funding.

**Poster developed in vernacular language for awareness in villages**



**आपणा सङ्गै कामदार**  
**गीधने बचावो**

गीध कुदरतमा सौमी जडपी सङ्गै कामदार छे. गीधनी ओक भोटो समूह लैस जेपस भरेला होरने डलन ओक कलाय करला पञ्च लोका समकाम सङ्गै करी जाय छे. आ रीते तेसो आपणुने हडकवा अने गेयोके जेवी जंगीले लीकरीभोली बसले छे. जनां पाएनु पञ्चभोमी वसनी पापी वपु छे त्वां रोगमुक्त अने स्वस्थ पर्यावरणनी जालवही माटे गीध भुलज अजलान छे.

**तमे ज्ञाणी छी ?**

मेसल २० वर्ष मां गीध नी वसनी आरजनस जसपे पटी रही छे अने धने हने लुङ्ग खीडां गीध बसवां छे तमार विलनरमां जुना वृद्धो अने होर नी संख्या सारी लेवावी गीध लुङ्ग बसवा छे

**गीध ना विनाशनुं मुख्य कारण:**

पञ्चभोमी सारवार माटे वपसती डाईकोडेमाक सोडीयम नामनी हवा. आ हवा रही जसै तेसो मेसु मपोस होरने पावावी ६३ की ७२ कलासमांज विनरल जसैक नामनी लीमासी की गीध मरी जाय छे.

**अज्ञातता कायदानो लोका न करीये**

पञ्च सारवारमां २००६ की डाईकोडेमाक हवाला उपयोग पर प्रतिबन्ध मुकमल आब्यो छे

परंतु मानव उपयोग माडेनी डाईकोडेमाक सोडीयम लुङ्ग पञ्चभोमी सारवार माटे उपयोमां लेवाउं रही छे.

जे तमने कौणल पञ्चभोमीक डाईकोडेमाक सोडीयमनी उपयोग करत जस्य तौ ते बाबने समुद्र ध्यान छीरे. ते ओक शलनी जुने छे.

**आपणु गीध बचावी शहीये छीये**

पञ्चभोमी सारवार माटे डाईकोडेमाक सोडीयमनी उपयोग ना बाय तेनी आगुह राणी.

सोबी सुरक्षित मेलोक्सीडेम हवाला उपयोग नी आगुह राणी

सुकेर नामना लेरनी उपयोग राणी

धरतन बचाववा माटे पाका मांजनी उपयोग राणी

गीधने वसवाट होय तेवा वृद्धोने बचावो

**जे तमने गीधना माणा/ वसवाट अथावा धायल/बिमार/भरेली शालतमां गीध जोवा मणे तौ तरत अमने ज्ञाणु करी**

**आदित्य : ०९८७९७५४२०४**

**डाईकोडेमाक असेकोडेमाक छोडो कीटोप्रोजेन**

**मेलोक्सीडेम अपनावो**

The Rufford Foundation  
www.rufford.org

صندوق محمد بن زايد  
للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

SoAR  
Species at Risk Register

UNFCCC

डेडीकास / डीआएन: आदित्य रोय