

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<b>Project Title:</b>	Averting the Extinction of Critically Endangered Vultures in the Western Ghats
<b>Date of Report:</b>	10 December 2011
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**CEPF Region: Western Ghats**

**Strategic Direction: 2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action.**

**Grant Amount: \$99,957.00**

**Project Dates: January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011**

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): Bombay Natural History Society, Birdlife.**

The Bombay Natural History Society was the primary implementing partner. Engagement of the two key resource people in Western Ghats was made by and through BNHS, as was the linked breeding programme work in Haryana. There was also a considerable number of local NGOs and individuals involved within the Western Ghats, as detailed within the main reports, but all administration, accounting and day to day responsibility for the work was carried out by BNHS, involving Vibhu Prakash and support staff in Mumbai as well as those on the ground in the Western Ghats. RSPB added technical and coordinating input to the above involvement, with staff meeting the field staff several times and developing methodology and planning of the work programme.

### Conservation Impacts

*Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.*

*Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.*

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

**Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

The level of engagement in the vulture issue is clearly entrenched for the staff engaged in the project and also for several of the NGOs that became involved and continue to do so. We are already aware of press releases and media coverage since the programme funding ceased. The breeding programme in Pinjore is ongoing, and the CEPF was a very important boost to maintain this through the project period, and is being progressed with a variety of funding streams, and growing Government support. It was significant the Haryana and Central Indian Government funds to expand the aviaries by 25% was received

during the early part of 2011 and this is an important signal that this will continue to receive the support it needs to reach the reintroduction phases.

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

**Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

The captive breeding stock is growing and more secure than at the beginning of the project, and set to continue improving quite dramatically having almost doubled productivity in each year. The conservation and veterinary community awareness of the diclofenac threat to vultures has undoubtedly improved radically within the Western ghats, and now having clear baseline vulture population levels data, this will certainly allow ongoing monitoring to further highlight any additional declines. The role of diclofenac in vulture declines was not previously well accepted in many areas, and although some discussions continue, most conservation and veterinary communities accept the main conclusion, but with some provisos that other factors such as cattle-carcass disposal is changing and less food is probably now available than in the past.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: N/A

Species Conserved: Long-billed Vulture, White-rumped Vulture

Corridors Created: N/A

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

*Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)? None*

## Project Components

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

**Component 1 Planned:** Size, distribution and rate of change in vulture (*Gyps bengalensis* and *G. indicus*) populations in the Western Ghats hotspot identified.

**Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

The surveys completed for the Western Ghats have secured baseline population levels, and given good information with 111 vulture sightings illustrating low vulture population levels, and the main centre of population around Mudumalai, with some ten nests monitored at Wayanad. Detection of a population trend within the project period was only partially achieved due to the brief time span involved, but nevertheless, these results are a key step and are currently being written up for publication. Details of data collected were submitted in the six-month report.

**Component 2 Planned:** Threat to vulture populations in the Western Ghats hotspot from diclofenac identified

**Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

The availability and use of diclofenac by veterinary practitioners was established through the survey work, and user-groups sensitized of the threat this poses to vulture populations. Other perceived threats to vultures within the Western Ghats region have meant that diclofenac had not previously been taken seriously as a problem in the area. The awareness work and publicity has made significant progress in changing this and raising awareness of the threat.

**Component 3 Planned:** A population of at least 20 captive pairs of *Gyps bengalensis*, *G. tenuirostris* *G. indicus* producing 10 chicks per year by end of project.

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

The captive stock at Pinjore exceeded projected productivity targets with over 20 pairs but significantly, 15 fledged nestlings (all alive and healthy juveniles in November 2011) of these two species.

**Component 4 Planned:** Advocacy trialled at local (within hotspot) levels, and long-term advocacy programme devised by end of project.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

Multiple awareness meetings were held, and several local NGOs continue to carry out advocacy work in the region with clear messages concerning the threat of diclofenac. Encouragingly, there has been significant press coverage as well as follow-up awareness events since the end of the project.

**Component 5 Planned:** National- and state-level vulture advocacy programme implemented.

**Component 5 Actual at Completion:**

Although there was a change of personnel fairly early on in the programme, which led to reduced presence of the programme within Delhi and with Central Government, this role was continued in the interim by BNHS Director and Deputy Director amongst others. There were still multi-ministry meetings regarding diclofenac in 2011, and newly appointed advocacy officer work priorities focused more on the pharmaceutical companies where

there was major progress in understanding the issues and engagement for resolving them.

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

***The only components so far unrealized were some of the planned cattle-carcass sampling to test the environmental levels of diclofenac within the Western Ghats region. This will still be undertaken in future, but will now be a follow-up to the existing programme, and will complement the pharmacy-survey work already achieved. The other aspects were well covered and the overall impact of the project was not impaired.***

***Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.***

## Lessons Learned

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

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

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

By working through BNHS, and through them and the appointed staff on to local NGOs within the Western Ghats, this strengthened BNHS links with the conservation community within the region, and also enabled the field team to operate unimpeded. Once or twice, whilst these links were being established, this also meant some delays for permissions to survey certain areas, but overall this did work well.

On the negative side, was the fact that the locally based NGO staff involved in some of the outreach work were not always familiar with submitting receipted accounts for expenditure which caused delays in their payments, and some consequential frustrations on their part. This could be regarded as a learning process, but would have been easier all round if this had been avoided. The delay in later payments from CEPF to RSPB was largely accommodated by RSPB so that ground-workers were paid, but this did further add pressure to the overall situation.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

The fact that most vulture work has previously concentrated on the northern states in India where vulture densities were higher prior to the recent catastrophic declines, and the conservation community within the Western Ghats had previously been less directly exposed to the diclofenac issue and work establishing the drivers of declines, generated additional challenges but also added value to extending the work in this way. Clearly there are other threats to vultures in addition to diclofenac, and these vary between regions. The exposure of the BNHS team to the situation in Western Ghats adds important perspective when summarizing the situation across India, and these are probably more balanced as a result of this work.

### Additional Funding

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

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
RSPB	A - Co-funding	\$130,312	As earlier committed in proposal
BNHS	A - Co-funding	\$2,466	As earlier committed in proposal

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

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

### Sustainability/Replicability

*Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.*

*Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.*

### Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

### Additional Comments/Recommendations

## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

**Please include your full contact details below:**

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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please  
complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	n/a	n/a	Difficult to quantify in hectares
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table**



