



# NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL 2018

Event report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Nepal Owl Festival held in Jiri, during 2-3 February

**Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal**

Kathmandu, Nepal

[www.fonnepal.org](http://www.fonnepal.org)

[www.facebook.com/fonnepal2005/](https://www.facebook.com/fonnepal2005/)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank all the organizations whose support and contribution made the Nepal Owl Festival 2018 possible.

## ORGANIZER



## CO - ORGANIZER

जिरी नगरपालिका  
गौबिडांकम संरक्षण क्षेत्र परियोजना  
जिरी प्राविधिक शिक्षालय

## SUPPORTERS



## PARTNERS



## **CONTENTS – PAGE**

FOREWORD – 4

AN OVERVIEW OF NEPAL OWL FESTIVALS – 5

NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL 2018 – 6

FESTIVAL PROMOTION – 7

FESTIVAL SITE – JIRI – 10

CONSERVATION AWARENESS CAMP – 11

CLEANING PROGRAM – 14

BIRDING/PHOTO WALK – 16

CULTURAL PROGRAM – 18

CONSERVATION SPEECH – 26

OWL MUSEUM – 27

POSTER PRESENTATION – 36

FESTIVAL STALLS – 38

AWARDS – 43

OWL FESTIVAL IN MEDIA – 51

NOF2018 VOLUNTEERS – 53

AFTERWORD – 56

OWLS OF NEPAL – 57



# FOREWORD

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved for their help and support to organize this amazing event.

We are grateful to all the organizations who supported this event. We would like to thank our co-organizer, Yuwa Sanjal Jiri, a local youth organization, for their support and co-operation during the festival. And we would like to thank Jiri Technical School for letting us use the premises of their institution to host the event. In addition to our primary supporting organizations, we also received partial support from some organizations and individuals. For that we would like to thank Nepal Foresters' Association (NFA), Carol Inskipp, Tim Inskipp, Rajesh Acharya, and Rabi Kanta Acharya.

We would like to thank Raju Acharya, Country Representative (Nepal) of World Owl Trust for his leadership, coordination, implementation and fund-raising for the festival; Yadav Ghimirey, event co-ordinator; Roshan Bhandari, owl festival museum curator; Shyam Subedi, our account and admin officer; Rajendra Deshar for his various artistic contributions and live stone art, Yagyalal Gyawali and Vivek Gaudel who recorded the events as our official event photographer and videographer; Madan Gyawali, Raunak Karki, Sudip Ghimire, and Mohan Gurung for electronic displays (owl robots and audio/visual devices on owls); and Hathan Chaudhary and Bishal Gautam for leading the birdwatching/photowalk event.

We want to thank Natural History Museum for providing their museum specimen of owl and its prey. We would like to thank Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah and Raj Man Maharjan for their special owl song; Students of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, added extra charm to the festival with their wildlife and owl-themed dance for which they deserve special mention. We want to thank Manoj Sakya Panju for his colorful face art, and Hunny Manandhar for her owl nail art. For participation in poster presentation we would like to thank Chiranjeevi Khanal, Suman Ghimire, Prashant Ghimire, Kul Bahadur Thapa, Bikash Ghimire, Prarthana Neupane, Jeevan Rai, and Kaushal Yadav; and for festival/organization stalls we would like to thank Koshi Bird Society, Bird Conservation Nepal, Himalayan Nature,; Sushma handicrafts, and Shristee Panthee and Bandana Subedi (Butterfly stall). We would like to thank the rest of the team of volunteers - Bidhan Adhikary, Aastha Joshi, Apsana Kafle, Prabal Rana, Alka Ghimire, Ashish Joshi, Anup KC, and Laxmi Sinchury.

Finally, we would like to thank the people of Jiri for their enthusiasm and participation in the festival.

*Photo Credit (Report) – Yagyalal Gyawali, Bishal Gautam, and Jeevan Rai; Report Design – Bidhan Adhikary.*

# AN OVERVIEW OF NEPAL OWL FESTIVALS

Ever since its inception in 2012 AD, the festival has been gradually growing bigger and evolving into a multifaceted event. The Nepal Owl Festival is celebrated in solidarity of the International Festival of Owls, which is celebrated in Houston, Minnesota every year in March.

When we first started, our aim was to take the festival to different parts of the country. Illegal hunting and trade is a serious threat to owl species in Nepal. We wanted to spread conservation awareness about owls found in Nepal by creating a festive environment where people would have access to all kinds of information about the species and could interact with conservationists and vice-versa.

While the main festival is celebrated as a two-day event, our team members go through careful planning months ahead, to find the optimum location and coordinate with the local agencies. It is essential to build good relations with the local community as community members and representatives have an important role in constructing and promoting the event, and they work hand-in-hand with us to make the festival fun and beneficial (in terms of knowledge gained), for everyone.

Once an agreement is reached with local community members or a local organization, a festival management committee is formed, followed by several meetings to discuss and allocate responsibilities; to plan and discuss event structure, venue, promotions, etc.

Event site planning and necessary preparations for the festival at our office in Kathmandu are carried out simultaneously a month prior to the festival date. Initial planning phase includes logistic arrangements and preparation, and collection of festival display components. A dedicated team of our staff and volunteers from different professional backgrounds work together round the clock and contribute their valued input to improve and support our work.

We start our promotions on social media few weeks preceding the event so more people from different parts of Nepal will have information about the event and can plan a possible weekend getaway. We often receive some curious international visitors as well, attracted by the event.

Couple of weeks prior to the festival, conservation awareness camps are held in schools located in and around the town/village of the festival site. The young children are taught about owls and their importance through interactive presentation by our experts. An interschool competition is held for art, poetry and essay writing on owls. Winners of the competition are later awarded during the festival and their work is displayed among the exhibits of the owl museum.

Back in our office in Kathmandu, the team divide and work on different tasks. After making sure we have everything ready, the team moves to the festival site several days ahead to prepare the festival venue. At the venue, we work with the local organizers, plan event components and schedules, get everything ready and running like clockwork. Finally, the day of the festival is here, and together we celebrate!

## NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL 2018

### नेपाल लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सव २०१८

This year we celebrated the 7th Nepal Owl Festival at Jiri, a small town in Dolakha district of Nepal. Jiri lies in the north-eastern region of Nepal and is located 1900m asl at a distance of 183 km from the capital city, Kathmandu.

Around 6000 people participated in the event (including participation during school/public camps and the festival visitors). Jiri saw a boom of tourists as well during the festival week.

In the following chapters we have presented the proceedings of Nepal Owl Festival 2018 through pictures and photographs.



## FESTIVAL PROMOTION

### उत्सवको प्रचार-प्रसार

A month before the festival, we started promoting the festival through online social media, and later through Radio Kantipur, which has a wide network coverage in Nepal. We also had a press conference in Charikot, the headquarter of Dolakha district where the town of Jiri is located at. We wanted to spread the word and increase participation. Banners were put in strategic public locations in Jiri and nearby towns.



PHOTOS: Posts to promote owl festival in online social media.

**Friends of Nature-FON Nepal**  
Published by Bishan Adhikary (7) · December 25, 2017 · 🌐

Nepal Owl Festival 2018!!! 2-3 February @Jiri, Dolakha. Stay tuned for updates and program details! 📅 🗨️

**NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL 2018**  
2-3 February

Hello everyone,  
Mark your calendar!  
This February we would like to invite you all to the scenic landscape of Jiri, Dolakha to celebrate and join hands in solidarity for the beautiful guardians of the night.

\*More event updates coming soon!!!

6,479 people reached

Like Comment Share

Ecf Nepal, Varun Tiwari and 117 others

33 Shares

Write a comment...

**Bhumi Tharu** Bijesh Raut, Amod Khadka, Are you guys free then... We will be there...  
Like · Reply · Message · 9w

2 Replies

**Prashant Ghimire** Very best wishes!!  
Like · Reply · Message · 9w

View 3 more comments

PHOTOS: Posts to promote owl festival in online social media.

**Friends of Nature-FON Nepal**  
Published by Raju Acharya (7) · January 12 · 🌐

**Mark Your Calendar for Nepal Owl Festival (2-3 Feb, 2018) Jiri, Dolakha**

Friends of Nature-FON Nepal  
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

26,192 people reached

Recent Activity

Boosted on Jan 16  
Audience: Nepal, 15 - 65+  
By Raju Acharya · Completed

Like Comment Share

Bellase Ganesh, Karká Mā Śuraj and 3.8K others

9 Shares

Write a comment...

**Nayan Basnet** Raut: Upreti  
Kun festival arey  
1 Like · Reply · Message · 5w

1 Reply

**Jirel Hikmat** Welcome to jiri  
1 Like · Reply · Message · 5w

View 10 more comments

**Jeevan Rai** is with Kaushal Wild Wayfarer and 3 others  
January 7 · 🌐

A short video to show how the preparation of Nepa Owl Festival 2018 is going. The festival is happening at Jiri, Dolakha on 2-3 February and everyone is invited. See you there!

805 Views

Like Comment Share





Experience a unique festival of owls...yes you read it right...Owls!!!

Enjoy the scenic beauty and landscape of Jiri...road might be a tad bit bumpy, but you'll love it!

Experience culture, art and games...and a rich exhibit dedicated to owls...yes, it's all about owls...

Need we say more?

Be owlme! Be there!

**GETTING BORED OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE???**

...Huh...you are!??? ...want a **weekend getaway** with your family or friends? ...or maybe just disappear on your own for a day or two? Hmm...looks like we might have something just for you.

This **February (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)** escape your monotonous everyday routine (just run away!) and experience something **crazy, fun, and amazing!!!** Break free from the city and say goodbye to work and stress (well they aren't going anywhere but you get the drift...), and come to **Jiri, Dolakha** to the **7<sup>th</sup> Nepal Owl Festival**. Come join us!

**Nepal Owl Festival 2018**

<https://www.facebook.com/innepal2005>

दोल्खा जिल्लाको जिरी नगरपालिकामा यहि माघ १९ र २० गते 'नेपाल लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सव २००४' को आयोजना हुदैछ ।

स्थानिय खेल, लाटोकोसेरो संरक्षण तथा संस्कृतिको संगम ही यो उत्सव । जिरी जाडो, लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सवमा रमाओ

आउनुहोस न ।

आउने पन्थो नि ।

PHOTOS: Posters and e-flyers to promote owl festival.

## FESTIVAL SITE – JIRI

## उत्सव स्थल - जिरी



PHOTOS: (Top) Satellite image view of Jiri (Source: Google Earth), (Bottom) South-west view of Jiri

# CONSERVATION AWARENESS CAMPS

## - SCHOOL CAMPS / PUBLIC CAMP

### संरक्षण चेतना शिविर

Couple of weeks prior to the festival, conservation awareness camps were held in 11 schools in Jiri.

The young children were taught about owls by our experts. They were taught about the ecological importance of owls and encouraged to help protect the species.

Interschool competition was held for art, poetry, and essay writing on owls. Students from 6 schools participated in two submission categories – Basic level students (Class 1-7), and Secondary level students (Class 8-10). Each school called for participation among their students, evaluated, and submitted their best entries to compete in the interschool competition. We received the shortlisted 12 Drawings, 12 Essays and 9 Poems, which was evaluated by our judges. Top 3 entries in each category from Basic and Secondary levels (total of 18 entries) were selected as winners. They were displayed during the owl festival in the owl museum, and the students were awarded with certificates and prize during the festival.

We also held a public camp during the evening of the first day of the festival. We set up projector and speakers at the local bus station and had a short presentation and documentary show on owl conservation.



PHOTO: Children attending a school camp.



 **Jeevan Rai** · Nepal Owl Festival 2018 · January 25 · 🌐

Owl-themed competitions are an important part of Nepal Owl Festival. Students of Shree Cherdung Primary School created a few more owl arts than required which they hung in their classrooms. Be at Jiri on 2-3 February to find out the best of their submissions.

 Like  Comment  Share 

 12

2 Shares

 Write a comment...    

PHOTO: (Top) Raju Acharya conducting a school camp on owl conservation, (Bottom) Facebook update on owl-themed inter-school competition.



PHOTOS: (Top) Jeevan Rai running a school camp a week before the festival, (Bottom) Public presentation on the importance of owls during the evening of the first day of the festival.

## CLEANING PROGRAM

### सरसफाई कार्यक्रम

Local volunteers participated in cleaning the public bus station area as a part of owl festival cleaning campaign to welcome visitors to the festival.



PHOTO: Local volunteers cleaning the Jiri bus station area.



PHOTOS: Stills of local people and military volunteers participating in cleaning program.

## BIRDING / PHOTOWALK

### चरा अवलोकन / प्रकृतिको फोटो खिच्ने

We started the owl festival with birding/photowalk program. Interested local people, children, and visitors joined us after their morning breakfast to explore the surrounding forest and greet the birds. The event was held in both days of the festival. Hathan Chaudhary (Birder) and Bishal Gautam (Photographer) led the group of around 27 people. A total of 59 species of birds were recorded.



PHOTO: Birdwatching/photowalk group exploring the hills of Jiri.



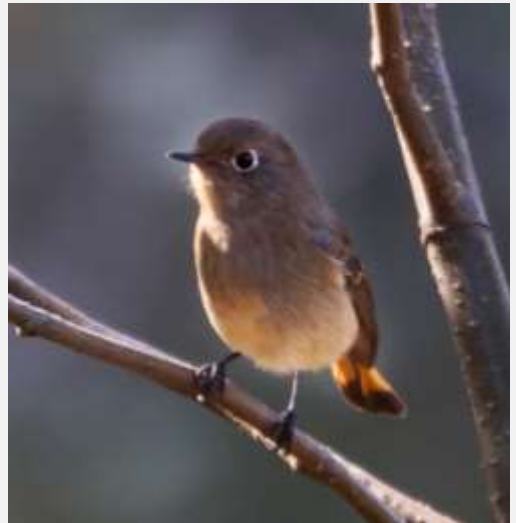


PHOTO: Stills from birdwatching/photowalk session.

## CULTURAL PROGRAM

### सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम

During the festival, various local artists and students performed traditional dances, songs, and plays on different themes. It reflected the ethnic diversity of Jiri region.

Students of Institute of Forestry (IOF) Pokhara, also participated with their song and dance performance. A traditional game, '*Tutu*' competition was also held.



PHOTO: Cultural program in the premises of Jiri Technical School.



PHOTOS: (Top left) Sunuwar dance performance; (Top right) Students from Institute of Forestry (IOF) Pokhara, dancing to the tunes of an owl conservation-themed song; (Bottom) Jirel dance performance.



KINDRED. SPIRIT

PHOTOS: Prabal Rana joins our owl mascot to dance to our special owl conservation song – written by Karan Bahadur Shah, composed by Raj Man Maharjan and sung by our team.





PHOTOS: Sights from the event.



PHOTOS: (Top) School children attending the event; (Bottom) People observing the traditional *Tutu* game.



PHOTO: (Clockwise from top) a. Lakhe dance performance; b. A girl performing traditional dance ; c. A girl in traditional *Newari* attire ; d. A young festival visitor.



PHOTOS: (Clockwise from top) a. Audience watching stage play; b. Women observing the cultural show; c. Sunuwar dance team; d. Tamang dance performance.





PHOTOS: (Top) Sherpa Dance team; (Bottom) Students of Institute of Forestry (IOF) Pokhara with our owl mascot, after their biodiversity conservation themed dance performance.

## CONSERVATION SPEECH

### संरक्षण भाषण

Conservationists and local leaders took stage to give speech on the importance of nature and biodiversity conservation during the cultural programs.

Conservation speech were given by Raju Acharya (Country Representative, Nepal, World Owl Trust), Shova Manandhar (Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalist), Bed Bahadur Khadka (Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation), Krishna Bhusal (Bird Conservation Nepal), Roshan Sherchan (Conservationist and Writer), Tanka Jirel (Mayor of Jiri), Uddav Prasad Ghimire (Conservationist), and Laxman Khadka (Journalist).



PHOTOS: (Left) Raju Acharya, and (Right) Shova Manandhar giving speech on importance of owls and biodiversity conservation.

## OWL MUSEUM

### लाटोकोसेरो संग्रहालय

The owl museum is the centerpiece of the festival, the nucleus. Filled with artwork, curios and information on owls of Nepal, it takes a lot of work and dedication to plan, execute and put it together.

We rack our brains every year to plan the smallest details, and our venue decision is hugely influenced by availability of space for the museum.

The transformation of the storage room of Jiri Technical School into our owl museum was a delight to watch.



PHOTO: Visitors exploring the owl museum



PHOTOS: Preparation of owl museum.



PHOTOS: Preparation of owl museum.



PHOTOS: Artist Rajendra Deshar creating owl sculpture on brick which was in display in the owl museum.



## LITTLE HOUSTON IN NEPAL

The story of Little Houston is a fascinating one. Carrying his small passport, this brave backpacker started his journey from his hometown in Houston. He is on a world tour, spreading the message of owl conservation. He has travelled from America to Kenya, Portugal, Netherland, and now he is in Nepal.

This February, Little Houston arrived at Jiri to attend the Nepal Owl Festival 2018. He helped with festival preparations - providing encouragement to our team and welcoming visitors to our owl museum.



PHOTO: (From left) Little Houston, and Raju Acharya (Country Representative (Nepal), World Owl Trust) at Chitre, Nepal.



PHOTOS: Final preparations, and (Bottom) the completed owl museum. Ready for business!





PHOTOS: Owl museum during festival day.



PHOTOS: Owl museum during festival day.



PHOTOS:  
 (Clockwise from  
 Top) a. Owl visual  
 information device;  
 b. Visitors using the  
 owl call device; c.  
 Museum specimen  
 of barn owl; d.  
 Visitors using the  
 owl visual  
 information device;  
 e. Owl robot



## POSTER PRESENTATION

### पोस्टर प्रदर्शनी

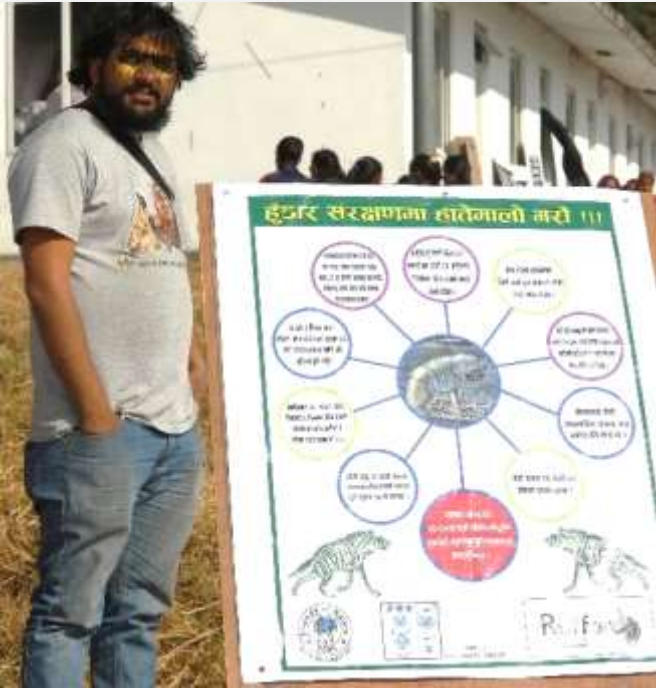
Researchers and conservationists from different organizations participated and presented posters of their work.

Poster presentation titles, presenters, their affiliation, are as follows (in the same order):

- a. *Small carnivores community of Eastern Nepal*** – Jeevan Rai, Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal
- b. *Human-Himalayan black bear conflict in Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal*** – Kaushal Yadav, Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal
- c. *Striped hyena conservation in Deukhuri valley, Nepal*** – Chiranjeevi Khanal, Institute of Forestry (IOF) Pokhara
- d. *Population status, distribution and conservation initiation of Asian Woollyneck in Western lowlands of Nepal*** – Prashant Ghimire and Nabin Pandey, Institute of Forestry (IOF) Pokhara
- e. *Survey and participatory conservation initiative for Accipitridae vultures in Salyan district, Nepal*** – Suman Ghimire, Institute of Forestry (IOF), Pokhara
- f. *Conservation of King Cobra in Palpa district, Nepal*** – Kul Bahadur Thapa, Himalayan Nature
- g. *Green School Project, Salyantar, Nepal*** – Bikash Ghimire and Prarthana Neupane, Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal



PHOTO: Organization stalls, poster presentations, and gift shops.



PHOTOS: Poster presentations on biodiversity conservation and research.

## FESTIVAL STALLS

### उत्सवमा राखिएका स्टलहरु

Organizations working in wildlife conservation sector in Nepal, and few individuals had stalls where visitors could go for information on their work and activities. Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Himalayan Nature, Koshi Bird Society (KBS), and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF), had organization stalls with representatives to explain their activities, using informative posters and books. Shristee Panthee and Bandana Subedi, students of Institute of Forestry (IOF) Pokhara, had a Butterfly stall to give visitors information on the rich variety of butterflies of Nepal.

Sushma Handicrafts had a souvenir stall to sell owl themed and local handicraft products. Artist Rajendra Deshar displayed live performance of owl stone art.

FON Nepal also had some festival stalls. We had a small souvenir shop for fundraising for the next owl festival, with books on sale on owl status and conservation issues in Nepal titled '*Latokosero ki bathokosero*', festival t-shirts and owl keyrings. We also had free owl face-painting and nail-painting stalls, and a photo-booth to add to the festive environment.



PHOTO: School children visiting the festival site.



PHOTOS: (Clockwise from Top-left) a. Nail art by Hunny Manandhar ; b. Butterfly stall; c. Face painting by Roshan Bhandari, d. Visitors at stall of Himalayan Nature; e. Live stone art by Rajendra Deshar



PHOTO: (Clockwise from Top-left) a. Visitors at the handicraft stall; b. Stall of Bird Conservation Nepal; c. Curious children and locals inspecting curios at the handicraft stall; d. School children flocking around the stall of Koshi Bird Society (KBS); e. Cultural dance participants in the festival photo-booth.





FACE . ART

PHOTOS: Face art has always been a popular festival attraction; (Center left) Face painting by Manoj Shakya Panju





PHOTOS: (Clockwise from Top-left) a. Poster presentation and festival stalls site; b. Owl festival T-shirt for sale; c. Stone owl on display at the festival stall area, made by Rajendra Deshar

## AWARDS

### पुरस्कार

This year the **Nature Conservation Award 2018** was presented to three distinguished individuals who have made significant contribution to biodiversity and nature conservation in Nepal through their work in Governmental sector, Non-Governmental sector, and Journalism.

Local conservation award was presented to two individuals from Jiri and organizational conservation award to two organizations that have made contribution to help in advocacy of environmental and biodiversity conservation issues in Nepal.

Certificates and prizes were awarded to school children who won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, place in interschool competition on art, essay, and poem writing in basic (Grade 1-7), and secondary (Grade 8-10) level.



## NATURE CONSERVATION AWARD (NCA2018) WINNERS

This award is presented to individuals, both national and international who have made outstanding contribution to nature and biodiversity conservation. The individuals who receive this award is nomination-based and selected through a systematic review process. The selected awardees have a long history of professional contribution in the conservation sector. The award winner profiles are presented in the subsequent pages.



PHOTO: (From left) Krishna Prasad Bhusal, Bed Bahadur Khadka, and Shova Manandhar; the Nature Conservation Award 2018 winners



## **NCA2018 Winner Profile**

**Award category: Government  
Sector**

### **BED BAHADUR KHADKA**

*Assistant Conservation Officer*

*Chitwan National Park,  
Department of National Park and  
Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)*

At the age of 53, Bed Bahadur Khadka has a rich experience of working in 6 different protected areas in Nepal, ranging from the plains of Terai to the high mountains. He started as a ranger at the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), and is currently working as an Assistant Conservation Officer at Chitwan National Park.

During his 30 years of work, he has worked in research and conservation of many species such as red panda, rhinoceros, tiger, hispid hare, Bengal florican, gharial crocodile, mugger crocodile, spotted deer, bar-headed goose, winter migratory birds, vultures, etc. He has also rescued and rehabilitated around a dozen owls in the wild.

He has conducted over 200 conservation awareness camps and published over 50 articles in various newspapers, newsletters, and magazines. He also has over 20 research articles published in national and international scientific journals, 10 of which are on birds. He has travelled to India, Sri Lanka, and South Africa to share his experiences on crocodile research and conservation in Nepal.

An avid birder and crocodile enthusiast, Mr. Khadka is very passionate about working in nature. His future plans includes opening a private crocodile breeding center, and a nature park for birds. He believes that there is a need to increase public awareness of the importance of small wildlife and through this we can move closer to our goal of biodiversity conservation.



## **NCA2018 Winner Profile**

**Award category:  
Journalism**

**SHOVA  
MANANDHAR**

*Journalist*

*Nepal Forum of  
Environmental Journalist  
(NEFEJ)*

Shova Manandhar has been involved in journalism for a long time. She has 17 years of rich experience working in different media platforms - Nepal Television (England), Metro FM, Channel Nepal, and Future in our hands (Norway). Her experience ranges from being a producer, reporter, editor, and cameraperson.

For the past 9 years, she has been working as a producer and presenter for Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalist (NEFEJ). She is also in the production team of television programs *Aakhijhyal* and *Naya Pusta*, which are very popular TV shows that highlights various issues in Nepalese society.

Ms. Manandhar who completed her MBA degree from Tribhuvan University in 2001, has been advocating environmental and conservation issues for almost a decade. Her main interest lies in understanding the effects of development on livelihood, natural environment, and biodiversity. She has written numerous environmental news reports and produced over 200 video reports and documentaries. Her programs have focused on a wide range of environmental topics including owl conservation. She has covered issues such as – biodiversity conservation, environmental pollution, natural disaster, watershed conservation, climate change, development, energy sector, etc.

She enjoys travelling, reading, and working with rural communities. She wants to continue her work and help highlight issues on biodiversity conservation through media.

## **NCA2018 Winner Profile**

**Award category: Non-  
Government Sector**

**KRISHNA PRASAD  
BHUSAL**

*Vulture Conservation  
Program Officer*

*Bird Conservation Nepal  
(BCN)*



Krishna Prasad Bhusal has been working on vulture research and conservation for the past 9 years. He has travelled across 56 out of 75 districts of Nepal and conducted conservation programs and activities.

He has participated in 143 public awareness camps and programs focused on birds and biodiversity conservation. He has contributed as a co-author on 3 different books on vultures. And, has organized 36 vulture conservation camps in various schools and colleges. He has also helped spread conservation awareness by appearing on various radio and television programs. He has published scientific research articles on birds, and written several other articles, of which 8 are on owls. He contributed important information on the status of various owl species while preparing the national Red List on the status of birds.

Inspired by renowned veteran ornithologist Dr. Hem Sagar Baral, Mr. Bhusal enjoys travelling and writing. He likes collecting indigenous knowledge and strongly believes in participatory conservation. He wants to continue his work on vulture research and conservation in the near future. He thinks that stakeholder involvement and unity is necessary for any conservation effort to be successful.

## LOCAL CONSERVATION AWARD 2018 WINNERS



**Local Conservation Award 2018:** This award was presented to individuals from Jiri, who have contributed to biodiversity conservation at a local level. The award was presented to Uddav Prasad Ghimire (Top-left photo), who contributed to red panda conservation, and Laxman Khadka (Top-right photo), who has contributed to nature conservation through journalism.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD 2018 WINNERS

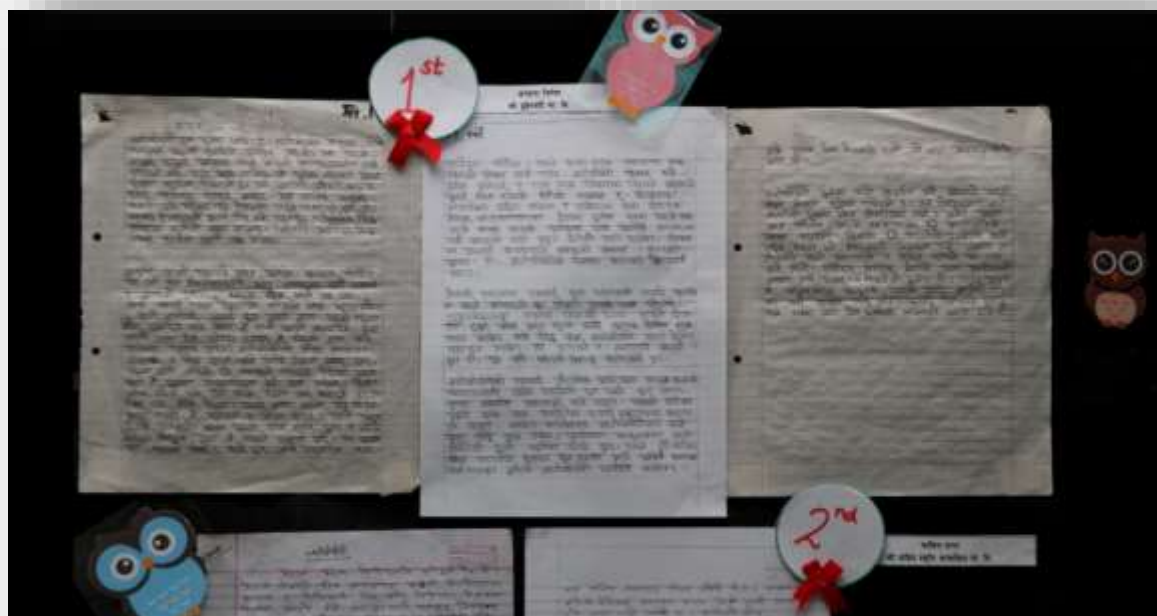
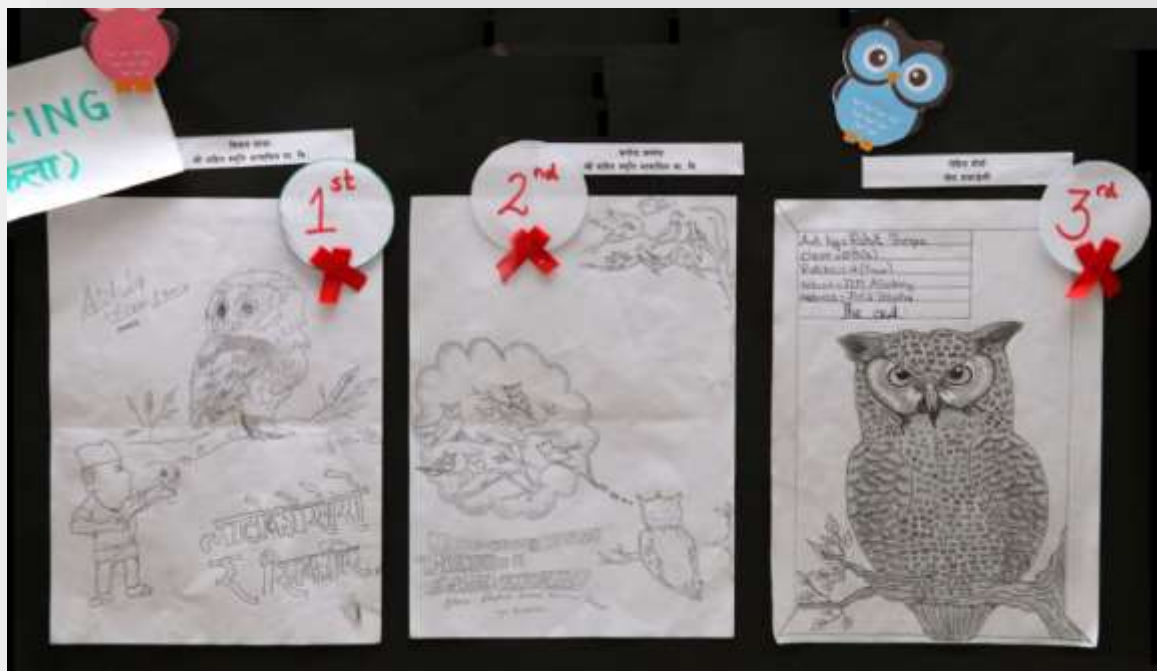
**Organizational Conservation Award 2018** was presented to *Resources Himalaya*, and *Amaltari Bufferzone Community Homestay* for their outstanding contribution towards wildlife research and conservation.



PHOTO: Representative of Resources Himalaya (Right) receiving award  
<http://resourcehimalaya.org/>



PHOTOS: Students who won the interschool art, essay, and poem competition were awarded with prizes and certificates





PHOTOS: Other awards – Awards were presented to cultural show performers , Tutu (local game) competition winners, poster presenters, volunteers, participating organizations and schools.

# OWL FESTIVAL IN MEDIA

## संचारमा लाटोकोसेरो उत्सव

Nepal Owl Festival 2018 was covered by several national and local news media through newspapers as well as feature programs in national television. We also went live in our Facebook page during the event.

### Video Links (Nepali)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0eF4u2vxo&feature=youtu.be> (ABC News TV Program)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BVFPS4Upq0> (Naya Pusta TV Program)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6COiNmhhFpI> (Aakhijhyal TV Program)

### Online News in English

- <https://nenow.in/nepal-owl-festival.html>
- <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2018-02-04/dolakha-hosts-national-festival-dedicated-to-conservation-of-owls.html>

### Online News in Nepali

- <http://annapurnapost.com/news-details/93505>
- <http://www.pahilopost.com/content/-46807.html>
- <http://abcnepal.tv/news/2018/02/03/19997.html>
- <http://annapurnapost.com/news-details/89970>
- <http://awajonline.com/news/5454/>
- <http://bit.ly/2FdyE6X>
- <http://bit.ly/2oFKn42>
- <http://bit.ly/2tmp0cX>
- <http://himalkhabar.com/news/6496>
- <http://jirionline.com/2018/02/03/वर्षेनी-दुई-हजार-हुचिल-प/>
- <http://khabarquick.com.np/?p=4236>
- <http://nagariknews.com/news/36469/>
- <http://naturekhabar.com/ne/archives/8662>
- <http://news.hamro-pathshala.com/index.php?id=24430>

## Online News in Nepali (contd.)

- <http://pokharanews.com/2018/01/45672/>
- <http://radionepal.gov.np/news-details/11828/2018-01-19>
- <http://rajdhanidaily.com/2018/01/18/78878/>
- <http://rajdhanidaily.com/2018/02/02/81589/>
- <http://ratogurash.com/2018/01/17/लाटोकोसेरो-तथा-हुचील-उत्.html>
- <http://sansarnews.com/archives/80873>
- <http://simpalonline.com/201-2091/>
- <http://simpalonline.com/201-2596/>
- <http://ujyaaloonline.com/news/92852/>
- <http://www.a2zsamachar.com/22173>
- <http://www.bbc.com/nepali/news-42956094>
- <http://www.enayapatrika.com/2018/01/20/16741/>
- <http://www.everesttimesnews.com/jiri-owl-festival/#sthash.DrqtW7Qk.dpbs>
- <http://www.everesttimesnews.com/owl-festival/#sthash.IPFY35EA.s2Q4NbC6.dpbs>
- <http://www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/50385>
- <http://www.pahilopost.com/content/-45393.html>
- <http://www.pahilopost.com/content/-46807.html>
- <http://www.sailungonline.com/news-details/5374/2018-01-17>
- <http://www.tamakosionline.com/2018/02/02/8267/>
- <https://dangkhabar.com/2018/02/04/37279>
- <https://egallerynepal.com/2018/01/505/>
- <https://ganthan.com/nepal/owl-gari-ma-latokosaro/>
- <https://himalayatv.com/news-4900/>
- <https://karobardaily.com/news/country/1629>
- [https://revoscience.com/np/owlfesta\\_jiri/](https://revoscience.com/np/owlfesta_jiri/)
- <https://sabaiko.news/tourism/friday-from-the-wired-owl-celebration-140396/>
- <https://sabaiko.news/tourism/wired-owl-and-the-huge-celebration-to-start-141313/>
- <https://setopati.com/ghumphir/ghumphir-experience/129942>
- <https://setopati.com/social/128474>
- <https://www.himalpari.com/2018/2467>
- <https://www.kendrabindu.com/post/1517616585>

## NOF2018 VOLUNTEERS

### नेपाल लाटोकोसेरो उत्सव २०१८ का स्वयंसेवकहरु

Our team of volunteers deserve special acknowledgement for their hard work and dedication in making the owl festival a big success.

After arrival at Jiri from Kathmandu, which is a full day ride on the bus, the volunteers camped together and worked from morning till late hours for the next four days preceding the festival. They performed multitude of tasks involved in festival preparation. During the day of the event, they supervised the proceedings to make sure everything went without a hitch.

We would like to thank everyone for their high spirits and dedication.



PHOTO: NOF2018 Volunteers.



PHOTOS: NOF2018 Volunteers.



PHOTOS: NOF2018 Volunteers.

# AFTERWORD



**SEE YOU @ NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL 2019, FEB 1-2!**



# OWLS OF NEPAL

## नेपालमा पाइने लाटोकोसेरोहरू



नीछे लाटोकोसेरो  
Common Barn Owl  
(*Tyto alba*)



घांके लाटोकोसेरो  
Eastern Grass Owl  
(*Tyto longimanus*)



लघुकर्ण लाटोकोसेरो  
Short-eared Owl  
(*Nufl. flammeus*)



नेकाली उलुक  
Mountain Scops Owl  
(*Otus scopschabai*)



महाक्रीडिक  
Spot-bellied Eagle Owl  
(*Bubo eximius*)



जाम्बोजुक  
Dusky Eagle Owl  
(*Bubo coromandus*)



मलाहा हुचील  
Brown Fish Owl  
(*Nyctax nyctemus*)



केली मलाहा हुचील  
Tawny Fish Owl  
(*Nyctax tawnyi*)



लोमके उलुक  
Oriental Scops Owl  
(*Otus Javan*)



चिरी उलुक  
Collared Scops Owl  
(*Otus bakkamensis*)



दुमाली हाफिलो  
Eurasian Eagle Owl  
(*Bubo bubo*)



हाफिलो  
Indian Eagle Owl  
(*Bubo bengalensis*)



कोचलनाडे लाटोकोमोरो  
Spotted Owlet  
(*Ninox japonica*)



ब्रानपेचक  
Brown Hawk Owl  
(*Ninox scutulata*)



ब्रान वलुक  
Brown Wood Owl  
(*Strix leptogrammicus*)



केलो पहाडी वलुक  
Himalayan Wood Owl  
(*Strix fulva*)



महाकीचिक  
Spot-bellied Eagle Owl  
(*Bubo squamatus*)



आमोनुक  
Dusky Eagle Owl  
(*Bubo coromandus*)



बलहा हुचील  
Brown Fish Owl  
(*Ketupa zeylonensis*)



केलो बलहा हुचील  
Tawny Fish Owl  
(*Ketupa flavipes*)



मज्जा लाटोकोमोरो  
Mottled Wood Owl  
(*Strix scutulata*)



लसकाडे लाटोकोमोरो  
Long-eared Owl  
(*Asio otus*)



बिना लाटोकोमोरो  
Oriental Bay Owl  
(*Phodilus badius*)

नेपाल लाटोकोमोरो  
तथा  
हुचील उद्भव

 प्रकृतिका माथील्क  
FRIENDS OF NATURE

(Illustrations by Mr. Alan Harris)



PC: Jeevan Rai