



NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL



Event Report

3-4 February, 2023
Maghi Homestay, Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary, Kailali



SUMMARY

Owls are enigmatic yet magnificent creatures. Despite their status as a symbol of wisdom, they are subjected to superstition, illegal trade, and hunting. Many rumours describing owls negatively are prevalent in various parts of Nepal. Knowing this, Friends of Nature is dedicated to educating people in various parts of the country through various means. Nepal Owl Festival (NOF) is one of its kind, which is directly concerned about conservation and well-being of owls. This yearly event was halted due to covid-19 pandemic for two years. Conservationist around the nation were eagerly waiting for this unique event to happen, now the wait was over.

Calendar was marked for February 3rd and 4th 2023, and the venue for tenth Nepal Owl Festival was Maghi Village Homestay, Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary, Kailali. The festival is fusion of conservation, local culture, and traditional games. With the main objective of generating awareness among general public, the festival was organized in Nava Prabhat Basic School. The festival was attended by around 5500 local, students, researchers, and conservationists from different countries. The festival was also successful in raising awareness among 1904 students through conservation camps held at their school. Local tradition and culture, cuisines, games, art and crafts were seen to engage lots of visitors and the festival was seen effective to deliver conservation messages and ecological roles of owls.



Owl mascot with local children

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of organizers, supporters, partners, and all well-wishers for making Nepal Festival-2023, a grand event.

Organizers



Festival Partners



Financial Supporters



Ghodaghodi Municipality
Kailali

Bhajani Municipality
Kailali

Bardagoriya Rural Municipality
Kailali

Province Government, Sudurpaschim Province
Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment
Province Tourism Development Program
Implementing Unit, Dhangadi, Kailali

Division Forest Office
Pahalmanpur, Kailali

FOREWORD

Since its inception in 2012, Nepal Owl Festival is celebrated as an annual event. The effect of covid-19 pandemic has hindered the festival for two years. It was tough time for all the researchers and conservationist in the country. Finally, the tenth event was celebrated with great success. We would like to appreciate all the support and efforts made by different organizations and individuals to make this possible.

We would like to express our gratitude to the local organizer of the festival, Bird Conservation Network, Kailali for their relentless efforts and support from very beginning to completion of the event. We are obliged to Nava Prabhat Basic School for providing venue and technical support. We are thankful to all the financial supports without whom it would be very difficult to organize such a big event. We are grateful to Raju Acharya, Country Representative, World Owl Trust, for his leadership to conduct Nepal Owl Festival for the tenth time in the country. His coordination and management before and after the festival deserves a huge respect. A special mention to Bikash Ghimire, for his fundamental role in every step of the festival. We are thankful to DR Chaudhary Hirulal Dangaura, Krishna Chaudhary, Ram Kumar Chudhary, Manisha Chaudhary for their local support and coordination. We are grateful to Manoj Ghimire and Ruby Adams for conducting conservation camps and inviting schools/colleges in the event. A special thanks goes to Kushal Neupane, Rajesh Acharya and Hemanta Dhakal for their financial support for the festival. All the local partners and member of organizing committee deserves our appreciation.

Natural History Museum, Swoyambhu deserves a special mention for continuously providing museum specimens of owls and its prey items to display in the museum. The contribution of Manshanta Ghimire in leading the birding team in both days of the festival is highly appreciated. We are thankful to Yogesh Rayamajhi, Nischal Chand Thakuri and Santosh Kumar Yadav for operating Owl Robot, Owl Video Device and Owl Call Device along with other electrical equipment. Dipa Gurung and Jyoti Sharma deserves a special thanks for their artistic ideas in decorating owl museum. We are thankful to Pokhara Bird Society for providing mounted owl photographs to be displayed in the festival.

We are thankful to Abhishek Sapkota for capturing and documenting every activity of the festival through his lens. For additional photographs Raju Acharya, Manoj Ghimire, Bikash Ghimire and Suman Sapkota deserve a special mention. We are obliged to Ram Itani, Dipa Gurung, Shila Gurung, Ayusha Bogati and Binita Timilsina for making the festival colorful with their face painting skills. We are grateful to Hunny Manandhar for her efforts to attract visitors by beautiful nail painting. Professor Karan Bahadur Shah deserves an honorable mention for writing beautiful lyrics for our welcome *Deuda* song. We are thankful to Rajman Maharjan, Bikash Ghimire and Mohan Buchha Magar for composing and adding soothful music to the very song. We are grateful to the team of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara for presenting their beautiful conservation dance and drama. All the participants of cultural program and traditional games deserve our appreciation.

ELA Foundation, Bird Conservation Nepal, Himalayan Nature, Pokhara Bird Society, Nepal Ornithological Union, Bird Conservation Nepal, Pokhara deserve our gratitude for their attending the festival through their organization stalls. A special mention for ELA Foundation India for their glorious presence in the festival from neighboring country. We are grateful to different local organizations for displaying/portraying local culture and cuisine through stalls. We are thankful to Barsha Adhikari, Suman Sapkota, Rojina Ghimire, Nikita Phuyal, Sanjeev Baniya, Chiranjeevi Khanal, Aman Sunar,

Snake Conservation Society and Prabhat Kiran Bhattarai for presenting their research and conservation works via posters.

Last but not the least, we are grateful and highly appreciate the efforts of our volunteers: Bikash Ghimire, Tribeni Maharjan, Suman Sapkota, Barsha Adhikari, Durlav Parajuli, Sujan Sunar, Saurabh Sapkota, Manoj Ghimire, Ravi Bikram Shah, Prabesh Poudel, Pushpa Khanal, Hunny Manandhar, Amrit Nepali, Dipa Gurung, Jyoti Sharma, Ruby Adams, and Susma Gosai.

We are thankful to all the local volunteers, people of Maghi Village and Maghi Homestay for their homely environment, support and participation for making the festival a huge success.



Pumpkin Owl displayed in museum

GOAL AND OBJECTIVE OF 'NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL'

The overall goal of the program was to enhance public participation in owl conservation in Nepal. The specific objectives were as follows

1. To discourage the hunting and trade of owls in Nepal by elevating conservation awareness of local people, media, and political leaders
2. To enhance the local capacity in owl conservation via education program
3. To recognize the hidden conservation heroes and sheroes of Nepal
4. To promote traditional culture and games of the area
5. To promote eco-tourism in the area
6. To encourage and mentor young graduates for owl conservation via opportunity of volunteering in the event



Main banner of NOF 2023

BACKGROUND

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

Our aim was to take the festival to different parts of the country, where illegal hunting and trading has caused serious threat to the owl species. We create a fun festive atmosphere where people could access a variety of information about the species and interact with conservationist and vice-versa in order to raise awareness of the need to protect owls found in Nepal.

Although the main festival is a two-day event, our team members plan meticulously months in advance to find the ideal location and work in coordination with local agencies. A month before the event, our team in Kathmandu office simultaneously plans the festival site and makes all the essential festival preparations. The initial planning step includes making logistic plans and gathering festival display elements. Our staff and volunteer, who come from a variety of professional backgrounds, work tirelessly as a dedicated team to support and advance our work.

Local community members and representatives play a significant role in constructing and promoting the event, they work hand-in-hand with us to make the festival enjoyable and knowledgeable and so it is very crucial to establish good relation with local community. A festival management committee (one) and subcommittees (seven) are established after reaching an agreement with local organization/local community. This is followed by multiple meetings to apportion roles, to plan and to discuss event structure, venue and other aspect of the events.

We begin our social media promotions a few weeks before the events so that more people from all regions of Nepal world learn about it and be able to plan a potential weekend vacation. The event frequently attracts some curious foreign visitors, who visit us during the festival.

A few week before the festival, conservation awareness camps are held in schools around the village of festival site. Through an engaging and interactive presentation by our professionals, the young children's are educated about owls and their significance. For owl-themed poem and essays, an interschool competition was held. Winners of the competition are awarded during the festival and their work is displayed in the owl museum.

The team travels to the event site a few days beforehand to set up the venue after making sure everything is ready. We collaborate with local organizers at the venue, plan event components and work on schedules.

Finally, at the day of festival we celebrate together.

PROMOTION

The tenth event of Nepal Owl Festival was waited for two years due to covid-19 pandemic. There was excitement among local people and conservationist to participate in the event. The promotion started a month prior of the festival through social media sites, Radio Ghodaghodi, Radio Api FM, Kailali FM and online news portals.

Press conference was held on Dhangadi (27th Jan), the headquarter of Kailali district, with the aim to convey the conservation message and the information of the event to wider audience. There were 27 journalists in attendance from various local and national media outlets.

Promotion of the events was also done through social media sites and by installing event banners at different strategic locations. Furthermore, information about the event was broadcast through local FMs on daily basis.



Banners for promotion of NOF 2023 in online social media



Friends of Nature-FON Nepal

January 14 · 🌐

'लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सव' हेर्न कसरी पुग्ने? कता बस्ने? बेलेमा बुक गर्नुहोला है! (माघ २०-२१, माघी होमस्टे, घोडाघोडी ताल, कैलाली जिल्ला)

यसपालिको उत्सव कैलाली जिल्लाको माघी होमस्टे नजिकैको नव प्रभात विद्यालयमा हुँदैछ। यो क्षेत्र राजमार्गमा पर्ने घोडाघोडी ताल नजिकै पर्छ। नेपालको विभिन्न ठाँउहरूबाट धनगढी जाने बसमा सुखड सम्मको टिकट काट्नु होला। सुखड नजिक रहेको घोडाघोडी तालबाट करिब १ किलोमिटर पश्चिम रहेको सिमथारी चोकमा झर्नुपर्दछ। यो चोकको दाहिने पट्टि 'माघी होमस्टे' लेखि... See more



Friends of Nature-FON Nepal

July 20, 2022 · 🌐

'Owls & Art'

Conserving Owls through Conceptual Art Competition

(Please share this and tag the school/teacher in your network)... See more



Deadline : 30th August 2022 Conceptual Owl Art Competition

Binaya Ghimire, Bishal Neupane and 58 others 10 49





Press conference at Dhangadhi, Kailai



Information displayed at Welcome gate

FESTIVAL SITE: MAGHI HOMESTAY



Maghi Village is located in Ghodaghodi Municipality, Kailali district, just close to the Ghodaghodi lake. The village is at about 5.5 km distance from the Ghodaghodi Lake, about 624.3 km away from Kathmandu and 62.4 km from Dhangadi. Tharu are the main inhabitants of the area, so visitors can enjoy Tharu culture, cultural dances (Sakhiya, Laathi nach etc.) and local dishes.

Maghi village has the home-stay facilities i.e. Maghi community home-stay for domestic or foreign tourists. There are fifteen functioning home-stays with environmental friendly and responsible tourism practices. Major attraction of this village is the Ghodaghodi lake and Sita Kuwa temple.

Sal and Saaj are the major tree species in the village which is habitat for spotted deer, fishing cat, leopard cat, common leopard, monkey etc. Ghodaghodi lake complex is the first official bird sanctuary of Nepal. Thus the lake and surrounding is home to several avifaunal species i.e. Great Slaty Woodpeckers, the Great Hornbill, Darter, Jungle Owlet, Brown Fish Owl, Mallard, Ruddy Shelducks, Gadwall, Eurasian Teal etc.



In and around Maghi village, the event site for 'Nepal owl festival'

CONSERVATION AWARENESS CAMPS

A couple of weeks prior to the festival, conservation awareness camps were held in 20 schools in and around festival sites of Maghi Homestay, Kailali. All schools/colleges of Ghodaghodi Municipality were visited to aware students about the importance of owls.

A total 1904 students were participated in 66 conservation camps. A survey was carried out with students participating in the camps. The results from the survey indicated the use of catapult by 392 students. Among the total students 751 had seen at least one species of owl, 325 students had heard their call and 29 students had even saw their eggs. Fraction of students (76) was aware about the illegal trade of owls. The survey also revealed 34 students had either killed or consumed the meat of owls.

Conservation camps were successful in delivering the message on ecological importance of owls and encouraged to help protect the species. Besides, the camps also aimed on eliminating the myths/superstition about owls and students were determined to stop the use of catapults.



Raju Acharya sharing owl conservation message in one of the conservation camps

INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Interschool competitions were held for poem and essay writing on owls prior to the main festival event. Students from different schools participated in these competitions. Each school called for participation from among their students; evaluated and submitted their best entries to compete in the interschool competition.

We received the shortlisted essays and poems, which was evaluated by organizer. Top 3 entries in each category were selected as winners. The students were awarded with certificates and prize during the

	Position	Name	Grade	School
Essay	First	Mrs Sandhya Acharya	10	Melghatti High School, Dipnagar-8
	Second	Mrs Rachana Magar	10	Janjyoti High School, Sukhad-1
	Third	Sagar Kandel	10	Chadi High Scholl, Belar-1
Poem	First	Mrs Sandhya Kandel	6	Janjyoti High School, Sukhad-1
	Second	Arush Singh	7	Little Angel English School, Sukhad-1
	Third	Sahim Chaudhary	7	Gangri Basic Secondary School, Baguliya-3



NATIONAL ART COMPETITION

The tenth Nepal Owl Festival was a big event and full of surprises. The announcement for the national art competition was made in our Facebook page six months before the event. This national wide art competition was first of its kind, and we were very happy to see the huge number of participants from different parts of the country. It was conceptual owl art competition (social and cultural dimension) with conservation message on owls. The competition was targeted for those Nepalese students who are studying in grade 10 and below. The art was evaluated by the team of experts under three different themes: quality of the art, concept, and conservation message.

The result was announced before the festival and top ten art were exhibited in the owl museum. The winner of the competition was Achhata Dahal from Motherland High School, Pokhara. Aastha Singh from Creative Academy, Kirtipur and Peeyush Lamgade from Triyog Higher Secondary School, Kathmandu were first runner-up and second runner-up respectively. Winners were awarded with the prize money, certificate, token of love and arrangements to visit the festival.





First: Mrs Achhata Dahal from Motherland High School, Pokhara



Second Mrs. Aastha Singh from Creative Academy, Kirtipur



Third : Mr. Peeyush Lamgade from Triyog Higher Secondary School, Kathmandu

BIRDING AND NATURE WALK

Nepal Owl Festival is a place where conservationist all around the nation gathers and participate in different activities. Birding/Nature walk started at early morning for two days (February 3 and 4) before the main event.

Any interested participants were free to join the birding with experts. Prior to birding participants were gathered and informed about the code of conducts.

A total of 86 locals, visitors, students and birders participated where they visited nearby forest and Ghodaghodi Lake, the first bird sanctuary of the country and recorded 64 species. The event was led by Mr. Manshanta Ghimire, a conservationist and founding president of Pokhara Bird Society, on both days.



Participants involving in birding

CULTURAL PROGRAM

As Nepal Owl Festival is fusion of conservation and local culture, various local dances and games were performed in the event by different artist. Visitors were seen enjoying the local and traditional dances such as *Mangrahuwa dance*, *Sakhiya dance*, *Jhumra dance*, *Lathi dance*, *Hurdunga dance*, *Deuda game and Hudke dance*. It was pleasure to see the cultural diversity in the event although the main inhabitant of the village was Tharu community.

Conservation song of Maniram reflected the respect and urge towards nature conservation by local community. The major attraction of the event became the conservation dance performed by Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. Students performed flash mob ending with drama related to conservation of owls.

The event was successful to recall the traditional flavor through different games like *Sai Kichkich*, *Chur*, *Titi and Koili Didi*. Visitors were welcomed to the event by the *deuda* song which was written by Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah. *Deuda* is the popular dance form practiced in western Nepal in which a group of boys and girls gather and dance together. *Deuda* was sung by the team of Dipa Gurung and Ravi Bikram Shah. Music was carefully composed by Rajman Maharjan who played Harmonium; Bikash Ghimire and Mohan Buchha Magar added the music by Madal and Guitar respectively.



Local people with traditional musical instruments



Students of IOF Pokhara performing their dance



Young girl with their traditional dress





Indigenous cultural programme by a local ethnic group

OWL MUSEUM

The main attraction of the festival, owl museum is the collection of curios, information, news, art and crafts,

This temporary museum created within four days prior to the main event is the result of hard work and dedication of volunteers who put forward their skills and creativity to convey the message on ecology and conservation of owl.

The museum contains the information about the news on owls, glimpse of previous owl festivals, museum specimens on owls and its prey, owl stories, demonstration of owl created from fruits and vegetables and much more. Visitors are seen spending majority of their time in these stuffs. Owl robots, owl call device and documentaries about owls of Nepal was seen quite engaging to the visitors. Museum was set in four different rooms (additional one room for conservation video) and 2-3 volunteers per room were available to clear any queries raised by the visitors.







OWL DART BOARD

Owl dart board is one of the fun stuffs of the festival. Children were seen gathering to the area where the dart board was set up. Two different dart board were placed at the wall which contains pictures of owls and a hunter. The rule was simple, hit the hunter for reward and hit the owl for fine.

Many people were gathered to test their luck and skills for a reward of owl mask, which will make them feel like a winner. Those who hit the owls donate voluntarily to contribute for next owl festival.



Local students trying to hit the hunter!

POSTER PRESENTATION

Researchers and conservationists from different organizations participated and presented posters about their work during the festival.

Following below is the list of presentation titles and presenters:

- a. Indian Flying Fox, Prabhat Kiran Bhattarai
- b. Bats of Nepal, Sanjeev Baniya
- c. Striped Hyena, Chiranjeevi Khanal
- d. Pangolin, Nikita Phuyal
- e. Butterfly, Aman Sunar
- f. Ecological importance of Frogs, Suman Sapkota
- g. Research on Asian Openbill, Rojina Ghimire
- h. Activity Pattern of Bat, Barsha Adhikari
- i. Snakes of Nepal, Snake Conservation Society



CONSERVATION SPEECH

Nepal Owl Festival is one of the biggest conservation events in the country. Different veteran researchers and conservationist throughout the nation participate and deliver conservation speech to highlight more about nature and environment.

Conservation speech was delivered by Rajendra Narshing Suwal (Partnership Development Head, WWF Nepal), Keshab Parajuli and Gokul Rijal (Divisional Forest Officer, Kailali), Raju Acharya (Country Representative, World Owl Trust, UK), DR Chaudhary (President, Bird Conservation Network) and Dr. Satish A. Pande (Managing Director, ELA Foundation, India). There were at least ten local politician/representative of local government who deliver their speech on what can be done locally to contribute to conservation.



Dr. Satish Pande of India gives a conservation speech.



Mr. Raju Acharya, Country Representative for the World Owl Trust, delivered the owl conservation message and described the owl festival's journey in Nepal.



Mr. Rajendra N. Suwal, Partnership Development Head at WWF Nepal, delivered his conservation speech and remembered his first visit to the area in 1988.

ORGANIZATION STALLS

Owl Festival is an opportunity for different International, National, and local organizations to promote and advertise their works. We provide spaces for these organization to sale/distribute their products in the festival.

Bird Conservation Nepal, Himalayan Nature, Pokhara Bird Society, Nepal Ornithological Union, Bird Conservation Nepal, Pokhara Branch were some of the national organizations to set their stalls. This year we also had space for ELA Foundation from India to publicize their work. Likewise, there were several local stalls which sell items exclusive to Tharu culture. Beautiful art and crafts made from wood was the attraction of Bhatta Merit Kastha Udhyog. People were seen to gather around these stalls to buy souvenirs and to get informed about the activities done by each organization.

Friends of Nature also managed to set up small stall in the festival. Different items related to owl and the festival such as ball pen, masks, cup, keyring, t-shirt, tote bags were displayed and sold. The amount collected from the stall shall contribute to organize next Nepal Owl Festival.



Stall of FON Nepal and Bird Conservation Nepal-Pokhara Branch



Stall of Bird Conservation Nepal



Stall of Ela Foundation from India

NATURE CONSERVATION AWARD

Nepal Owl Festival is also the event where we acknowledge those people who had made significant contribution to biodiversity and nature conservation. Four individuals from Nepal and India were presented with **Nature Conservation Award 2023** for their remarkable contribution to science and conservation. Awardees for this year were Govinda Bahadur Singh, Hem Bahadur Katuwal, Ramesh Kumar Poudel and Satish A. Pande (right to left)

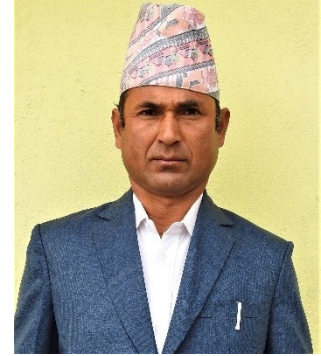


Nature Conservation Award winners 2023

WINNERS PROFILE

Govinda Bahadur Singh

Govinda Bahadur Singh is a Veterinary Officer at Barekot Village Municipality, Jajarkot by his profession. However, his passion motivated him to dwell into nature and click amazing photographs of wildlife and landscapes, as a result, Barekot is now a famous name among nature enthusiasts in the country. He has been conducting wildlife research, and conservation, rescue operations, conservation sensitization and awareness programs using his own resources.



Mr. Singh has documented 72 nests of Himalayan Griffon, 9 nests of Bearded Vulture, 4 nests of Egyptian Vulture, and 1 nest of Red-headed Vulture from 6 districts of Jajarkot to Humla. Further, he has documented Cheer Pheasant from Jajarkot, Rukum and Jumla districts. Furthermore, he has been active in rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife. So far, he has successfully rescued 32 birds, one Himalayan Black Bear cub, one Otter, six Himalayan Gorals, nine Barking deer, two Leopard Cats, two Bats, and four Snakes. In the past 10 years, he has removed a total of 260 iron made snares and 400 bird traps from different forests.

Mr. Singh has conducted 20 conservation camps at school levels and 30 sensitization programs at community levels so far. He has published 5 scientific articles and shared his conservation opinions in dozens of newspapers and FM stations. His conservation camps are mostly centered around owls and their conservation, so far, he has published three articles on owls. Mr. Singh has sighted and monitored six nests of owls including nationally vulnerable species namely Rock Eagle Owl and Brown Fish Owl.

Hem Bahadur Katuwal

Hem Bahadur Katuwal has completed his PhD in "Ecology and Conservation of Farmland Birds in Nepal" from Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is a post-doctoral research fellow at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.

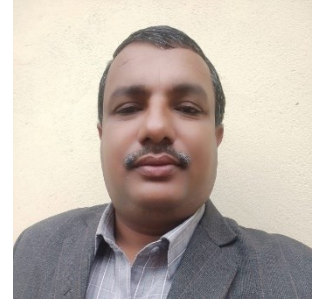


He spent 12 years of his life serving at Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation and Bird Conservation Nepal. He is passionately conducting research and conservation of Chinese Pangolin, Bengal Florican, and farmland birds. He has conducted conservation camps for 2000 students and 2000 farmers. He is the first-person discovering threats to Yellow-breasted Bunting.

Mr. Katuwal has published 34 scientific articles including 21 articles in journals with impact factor. As a result of his research contribution, two sites of Sarlahi and Dhanusha Districts have been listed as "Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas". He is actively fighting against bird poaching and trade, as well as in advocating the reformation of policies for the same. He believes that studying different aspects of human-wildlife relations, and conducting sensitization activities in community level would contribute significantly to wildlife conservation.

Ramesh Kumar Poudel

Ramesh Kumar Poudel is affiliated with Kantipur Daily as a journalist since 6 years. Before that, he was associated with Nagarik Daily. Born on 7 September 1978 in Naryangarh Chitwan, he had started professional journalism from October 2000 at local Chitwan Post Daily.



Mr. Poudel is the winner of 'Environmental Journalism award' in 2005 AD awarded by Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ). He has also been honored by Press Chautari Chitwan in 'Environmental Journalism Award' category in 2076 BS. Further, he is the winner of National Photo Competition, organized by Photo Journalist Club in 'Nature and Wildlife' category in 2016. Mr. Poudel centers his columns in subjects like forest, wildlife, protected areas, environment, rivers/ streams, birds, and local issues/ affairs. He has been writing about One-horned Rhinoceros, Bengal Tiger, Gharial, and other rare wildlife. His columns on Owls and other birds are regularly published in Kantipur Dainik. He has also rescued Owls.

Mr. Poudel has around 200 news, articles and features about forest, environment, birds and animals in Chitwan Post Dainik, Samaya Rastriya Saptahik, Nagarik National Daily and Kantipur National Daily. He frequently gives his opinions about special environmental issues in local Synergy FM.

Satish A. Pande

Residing in Pune, India, Dr. Satish A. Pande is a radiologist by profession. However, he is rigorously involved in research, conservation, habitat conservation, sensitization camps, rescue and rehabilitation of Owls. Dr. Pande has completed his PhD in 'Breeding Biology, Nesting Habitat, and Diet of the Rock Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bengalensis*)'. He is the director of ELA foundation.



Dr. Pande has pioneered 'Owl Festival' in India and organized the festival three times so far. An idol for Indian youth and conservationists, he has been awarded with 8 different awards/ recognitions from USA, Scotland and India for his contribution. He is conducting research on habitat selection and breeding biology of eight species of Owls in India. He has 22 scientific articles on Owls. He has also written about life history of 5 different Owls and published brochure on 'Indian Owls'. He is the author of two books on Owls. So far, he has rescued and rehabilitated 240 Owls. In his leadership, 'International Owl Conference' was organized in 2019 in Pune India.

Dr. Satish A. Pande has been proactively involved in conservation talks throughout India. He has raised his voice of conservation and reached to more than one lakh people all over India. Besides Owls, he is also interested in Raptors, Otters, Hyenas, Foxes, Forest Carbon, Climate Change and so forth.

ORGANIZATIONAL FELICITATION 2023

Creative Academy

Founded in 2003, with the maxim "Seek and You Shall Find", Creative Academy is a renowned academic institution located at Kirtipur-09, Kathmandu. The students are actively involved in nature and environmental conservation by organizing myriad of activities including Bird Watching, Mini Paper Zoo, School Waste Management, Eco Parent's Fair, Hoarding Board Display, Kirtipur Biodiversity Research Project, Creative Museum and so forth.



The academy also conducts other student led activities such as Plogging (picking of trash while jogging), Pit and vermicomposting, webinars, Article publication in local newspapers, Blog writing, Celebration of environment day etc. Creative Bird Watching club has conducted 23 birding events including students from grade 4 to 8, installed 2 hoarding boards in Tribhuvan University premises with information of all the birds found in Kirtipur area, prepared more than 200 herbariums, and published an e-book on plants of Kirtipur.

To date, Creative Academy has been awarded International School Award 2016-19, reaccredited for 2020-23, Duke of Edinburgh Award, iEarn, Social Action Project (SAP), and several other crucial honors. The academy has also been honored with NPR 1,50,000/- prizemoney to produce a Climate Change based short film "The Young Naturalists", by British Council, Into Films, UK, and Film Development Board.

FELICITATION FOR EIGHT YEARS AND FOUR YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT IN NOF

Ravi Kanta Acharya was felicitated for his engagement for eight years in Nepal Owl Festival with **Best Audience Award**.

Bird Conservation Nepal, Pokhara and Sujan B.K were felicitated for their engagement and support in making Nepal Owl Festival successful for four years with **Special Achievement Award**.



Ravi Kanta Acharya



Sujan B.K



Bird Conservation Nepal- Pokhara Branch



NAIL ART AND FACE PAINT

The most crowded area in the festival, face paint and nail art are some of the many attractions. School children, local villagers, visitors and even guests were seen keenly waiting their turns with their own design to be made on face/nails. Our artists Ram Prasad Itani, Hunny Manandhar, Dipa Gurung, Binita Timilsina, Ayusha Bogati and Shila Gurung were always busy and was a tough task to manage the crowd. However, they manage face paint/nail art for 1000 people.



Mr. Ram Itani, painting owl in face (TOP); Ms. Hunny Manandhar painting owl in nails (Bottom left); Shila Gurung, painting owl in face (Bottom right)

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of Nepal Owl Festival. Many students are interested to volunteer for this great cause. This year we have volunteers from 10 different districts, and local volunteers from Maghi village. The relentless effort of all the volunteers resulted the festival to be a grand success.

All the tasks from museum preparation to cleanliness, decoration and management is collective work of volunteers. It was wonderful experience for them to know each other and culture of Maghi village. With little to no rest, all the volunteers were seen enjoying and somehow manage to entertain themselves with different creative activities. A huge applaud to the wonderful team of volunteers involved in Nepal Owl Festival 2023!







MEDIA COVERAGE

Nepal Owl Festival 2023 was covered by several local and national medias. Many individuals and media broadcast featured news and videos of the festival.

Online news (Local)

<https://bit.ly/3HWewE8>

<https://bit.ly/3YLLimT>

<https://bit.ly/3YKnTgO>

<https://bit.ly/3Yul5oq>

<https://bit.ly/3RYY1vr>

<https://bit.ly/3lAP27P>

<https://bit.ly/3lIiojb>

<https://bit.ly/3K5v8Md>

<https://bit.ly/3YwVD1u>

<https://bit.ly/3xm0Ey4>

<https://bit.ly/3k0d8In>

<https://bit.ly/3K6iJb0>

<https://bit.ly/3xnryWm>

<https://bit.ly/3jYuWnu>

<https://bit.ly/3jQFQvx>

<https://bit.ly/3Xudkxe>

<https://bit.ly/3XyKvQm>

<https://bit.ly/3YtFY30>

<https://bit.ly/40VmeqE>

<https://bit.ly/3xqjt2U>

<https://bit.ly/3lqiLZW>

<https://bit.ly/3E9xaqU>

<https://bit.ly/3YAdTHu>

<https://bit.ly/3XuXAub>

<https://bit.ly/414ASMq>

<https://bit.ly/3RWMe0I>

<https://bit.ly/3E4EjZF>

<https://bit.ly/3Ijopgr>

<https://bit.ly/3E7jhtf>

<https://bit.ly/3YJo6ko>

<https://bit.ly/3lzD2Dt>

<https://bit.ly/3E6MnZQ>

<https://bit.ly/3XIXEGR>

<https://bit.ly/3K5lhG3>

<https://bit.ly/3xo3C57>

<https://bit.ly/3E0xLLx>

<https://bit.ly/3jVD1JA>

<https://bit.ly/3XuiREd>

<https://bit.ly/3YOHg8t>

<https://bit.ly/3xr6vlr>

<https://bit.ly/3xmpzRV>

<https://bit.ly/3Yx9yoi>

<https://bit.ly/410RvIW>

<https://bit.ly/3K96o5L>

<https://bit.ly/3I1xt8f>
<https://bit.ly/3K96Cd7>
<https://bit.ly/3xqjHag>

<https://bit.ly/3EaMXFP>
<https://bit.ly/3jUd7Gb>
<https://bit.ly/3XyyUkv>

Online news (National)

<https://bit.ly/3lzBVUj>
<https://bit.ly/40Qly5Q>
<https://bit.ly/40TVA19>
<https://bit.ly/3XrzrEM>
<https://bit.ly/3YJniMZ>
<https://bit.ly/3lx4tOi>

<https://bit.ly/3YKXEa3>
<https://bit.ly/40Qwgt8>
<https://bit.ly/3jQEuRt>
<https://bit.ly/3xnqjGG>
<https://bit.ly/3XsJXeS>

YouTube Coverage

<https://bit.ly/3K6i6ya>
<https://bit.ly/3E3ns9i>
<https://bit.ly/3K6iixo>
<https://bit.ly/3YK MJ00>
<https://bit.ly/3Yz8Y9x>

<https://bit.ly/3E67iMr>
<https://bit.ly/3InZp7U>
<https://bit.ly/3XsY1oH>
<https://bit.ly/3YIwjoM>
<https://m5.gs/TU1qTX>

**Radio
broad
cast**

CIN
Netwo
rk
Radio
Nepal

**Television
broadcast**

Kantipur
TV
Sagarmath
a TV
Himalayan
TV
Galaxy 4K

**National
Newspaper
coverage**

Kantipur
Gorkhapatra
Nayapatrika



SOME GLIMPSE OF NOF 2023















Dya-s-Art
(Art by Dipa Gurung)

See you soon! (2-3 Feb)
'NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL 2024!'

