



## 2-3 February, 2024

## Jaljala Municipality, Lopre, Parbat

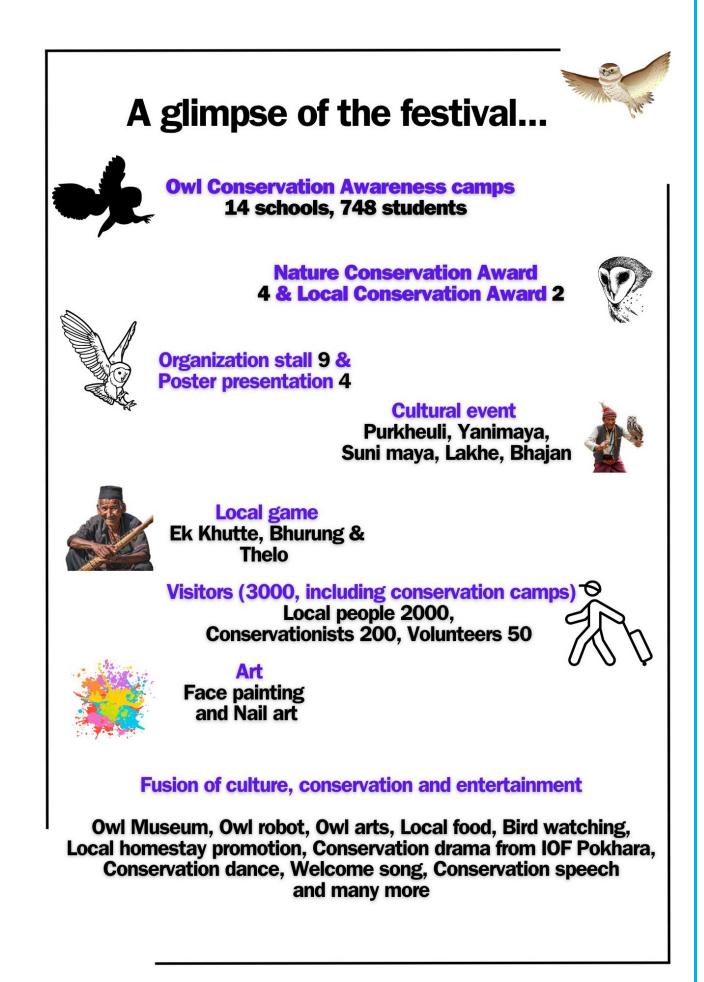


(EVENT REPORT)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to the organizers, supporters, partners, and all well-wishers for their vital contributions to the success of Nepal Owl Festival 2024.







#### FOREWORD

We successfully celebrated the Nepal Owl Festival 2024 at Jaljala Rural Municipality-5, Lekhphant, Lorpe, Pabat, with the generous contributions and support from our partners and well-wishers. Firstly, we extend our gratitude to Yam Kumari Gurung from the Natural Resource Conservation Organization who collaborated and made this event successful. We thank various local committees for supporting the travel and providing the venue, and our financial supporters for their crucial assistance. Special thanks to our media promoters for their efforts in promoting Nepal Owl Festival 2024. We appreciate Malika Basic School for providing the venue for temporary owl museum and conducting festival.

We are indebted to Yadav Ghimirey, Ram Lama, Ananda Rai, Kushal Neupane, Hanna and Jonas, Ram Chandra Nepal, Anil Raut, Carol Inskipp, Heidi Kretser, Nabin Baral, Tatjana Jovanovic, Chudamani Lamichhane, Gopal Joshi, Steve Powers, Prabin Sinhu, Paras Aryal, Biren Shrestha, Anisha Rana, Hein Bloem, Sabita Paudel, Bikalpa Gautam, Donatella Piras, Pamela Dimeler, Paul Marshall, Anuj Ghimire, Sunita Bati, Karla Bloem, Prashant Ghimire, Madhu Nepal, Shyam Paudel, Lizan Maskey, Hem Katuwal, Chungba Sherpa, Hemanta Dhakal, Jiban Baral, and Rajesh Acharya for their generous donations to make Nepal Owl Festival 2024 successful.

Special gratitude goes to Raju Acharya, Country Representative of the World Owl Trust, and our Executive Director for their exceptional leadership along with fundraising efforts. We acknowledge Suman Sapkota, Program Coordinator, for his pivotal role, along with Suman Hamal for conducting School conservation Abhishek Sapkota Bishal Gautam for camp and and documenting/photographing the festival. We also thank the Natural History Museum, Swoyambhu for providing the specimens of owls and their prey, and Hira Malla from Pokhara Bird Society for leading the birding team on both days of the festival.

We highly appreciate Cosmos College of Technology, Lalitpur for providing volunteers- Sameer Tamang, Suyog Ghimire, Rohan Shrestha, and Rishav Pandey to provide technical support and functioning of owl robots- the major attraction of owl museum. Ram Itani, Suruchi Mainali, Sushmita Khadka, Sikshya Gyawali, Yangchen Sherpa and Hunny Manandhar deserves applaud for their artistic contribution in face paint and nail painting. We appreciate Professor Karan Bahadur Shah's lyrical contribution and Rajman Maharjan's musical arrangement to make the welcome song magical.

The volunteers from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara: Prabesh Pandey, Rajan Marasini, Aashish Aryal, Jyoti Sharma, Ayusha Bogati, Anshu Thapa, Ashish Pariyar, Sushmita Koirala, Manish Pandey, Sandesh Neupane, Sikshya Gyanwali, Bipin Adhikari, Sushmita Khadka, Shristi Baral, Kashish Dahal, Sikha Dangi, and Yangchen Pinnasha deserves recognition for their conservation dance and drama.

We are thankful to Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, Bird Conservation Nepal-Pokhara Branch, Bird Conservation Nepal, Nature Conservation and Study Center, Biodiversity Conservation Society, Nepal Ornithological Union, Bird Conservation Network Kailali, Pokhara Bird Society and Koshi Bird Society for participating through organizational stalls. Local organizations showcasing culture and food stalls are also appreciated. We acknowledge Suman Sapkota, Suman Hamal, Menuka Shrestha, Hemanta Dhakal and Milan Baral for presenting their research and conservation works through posters. We are obliged to 'Dhaulagiri Mothers' Group', Lopre for their warm hospitality and logistic arrangements for our volunteers by providing hall and utensils for cooking. We are grateful to Yamen Pun and Kishor Pun for arranging/cooking delicious meals for all the volunteers throughout our stay.

Lastly, we deeply appreciate the dedication of our volunteers- Saurabh Sapkota, Sofiya K.C., Avisekh Hamal, Prabesh Pandey, Samar Baniya, Hitendra Jha, Neeta Pokharel, and Keshab Dahal.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the festival a huge success.

**Photographs:** Raju Acharya, Abisekh Sapkota, Bishal Gautam, Suman Sapkota, Suman Hamal & FON Nepal

# GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

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

## BACKGROUND

Nepal Owl Festival has been gradually expanding and evolving into multifaceted event since its inception in 2012. 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 to raise awareness of the need to protect owls found in Nepal.

Although the main festival is a two-day event, our team members meticulously plan 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 volunteers, 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 together with us to make the festival enjoyable and knowledgeable and so it is very crucial to establish good relationship with local community. A festival management committee (one) and sub-committees (seven) are established after reaching an agreement with a local organization/local community. This is followed by multiple meetings to apportion roles, to plan and discuss event structure, venue, and other aspects of the events.

We begin our social media promotions a few weeks before the events so that more people from all regions of Nepal would 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 weeks 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 are educated about owls and their significance. For owl-themed poems, story, 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.

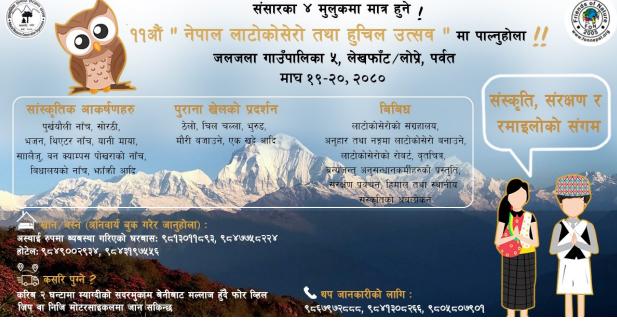
Finally, on the day of the festival we celebrate together.

### PROMOTION

The promotion for the festival began a month before the event through sharing of promotional videos and photos about the venue, program description and promotional materials on our Facebook page. We also announced a call for the poster presentation on our official Facebook page for national and international researchers to present their research and conservation activities during the festival. A press conference was conducted on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Kusma, district headquarter of Parbat, with the goal of reaching a wider audience and providing event details. The conference was attended by journalists (24) from different local and national media outlets. We also paid-boosted our festival post for a week on Facebook to reach a larger audience digitally. Banners were set up at the festival site after the press conference, and their photos were shared in Facebook groups. Various renowned personnel across the country and abroad shared the event on their personal social media profiles. We regularly share updates about preparation, weather forecasts, event details, logistics and transportation details on social media.



















#### **OVERVIEW**

Nepal has 23 species of Owls, and we are trying to protect and celebrate these magnificent creatures which serves a great ecological value to the food chain, from any possible threats like habitat destruction, illegal hunting through mass gathering spreading awareness and sharing cultural programs.

Every year FON Nepal has been organizing Nepal Owl Festival in different parts of the country. The festival occurs for two days long in collaboration with local parties, the programs aim to spread awareness on owl conservation as well as promote local tourism. This year, the 11<sup>th</sup> Nepal Owl Festival was held in Jaljala-5, Lekhphant, Lopre, Parbat on 2-3 February, successfully gathered public raising awareness about owl conservation by blending conservation, culture, traditional games, and art. The festival took place at Malika Basic School, attracting around 3000 numbers of people including locals, students, researchers, and conservationists across the country. Before the festival, conservation camps were organized in fourteen schools to educate students about the ecological importance of owls. This initiative reached out to 800 numbers of students. The festival featured an owl museum, cultural programs, organizational stalls, local traditions, cuisines, and games, including face and nail painting, which engaged visitors and effectively communicated about messages conservation and the ecological roles of owls.

### FESTIVAL SITE

Nepal Owl Festival 2024 was held in Jaljala Rural Municipality-5, Lekhphant, Lopre, Gandaki Province, Nepal. The location was 13 km uphill from the Beni Bazar, district headquarter of Myagdi at an altitude of 2300m and about 291 km away from Kathmandu. The Dhaulagiri range, Annapurna range and Mt Machhapuchre are the major scenic attraction of the place. The village has a large area of barren land with small hillocks with large patch of pine forest. Green-backed Tit, Long-tailed Minivet, Nutcracker, and Streaked Laughing thrush were few of the observed avifauna around Lopre. The main residency people were Pun in the uphill and Chettri in downhill. Lopre village has one homestay i.e. Lopre Falamedanda Community Homestay for domestic or foreign tourists. During the festival period, we have managed temporary homestays with basic facilities to accommodate large number of visitors.

The beauty of Parbat captivated everyone's hearts. Our team and guests were fortunate to experience snowfall a day before the festival, adding to the welcoming atmosphere of the event.



Lopre Village with Mt Dhaulagiri at the background

#### How to reach Lopre ?

- 1. Bus from Kathmandu to Beni.
- 2. From Beni, you have the option to hire a jeep or take a local jeep uphill to Lopre.
- 3. The journey from Pokhara to Beni takes approximately 2 hours, covering a road distance of 82 kilometers.
- 4. From Beni, it takes about 2 hours to reach Lopre, which is approximately 13 kilometers uphill.



Owl mascot display at festival site

### PREPARATION OF THE FESTIVAL

The local partnership has always been crucial for the Nepal Owl Festival. Our team members visited the place numerous times before finalizing the venue. A series of meetings and coordination with the local community was conducted to discuss the components of festival. Natural Resource Conservation Organization, Lopre came forward to partner with FON Nepal for organizing the festival and took all the responsibilities of local arrangements. Following a positive interaction, discussions were held regarding the festival schedule, work distribution, budget, venue, school competition, conservation camp and accommodation. Subsequently, the *Nepal Owl Festival 2024 Organizing Committee* was formed in Lopre, Parbat, chaired by Yam Kumari Gurung which includes 17 committee members. Apart from this, 7 sub-committees were formed to take responsibilities of security, cultural arrangements, games, sanitation, and fund arrangements.

Responsibilities within the committee were assigned for organizing the Nepal Owl Festival. Malika Basic School was designated for museum venue, while the basketball ground was selected for setting up organizational stalls. Additionally, the forefront ground near the school was identified as the ideal location for setting up the stage and accommodating the crowd.

Two weeks after the initial meeting, a follow-up session was conducted to review progress on the festival preparations, including stage setup, cultural program arrangements facilitated by local participants as stage setup and coordination with the school for organizing art, essay, and poem competitions. Later, one of our team members Suman Hamal visited to Lopre to conduct conservation camp around the school of festival sites. Also few days later, press conference was also held with journalists from different local and national media outlets.

Meanwhile, the remaining team members in Kathmandu were busy preparing for the festival. They managed everything from packing necessary items like curio, information charts, drawings, paintings, owl frames, and owl books, banners, posters, stationery, wires/bulbs, designed certificates, awards, museum specimen and owl masks, to inviting guests and confirming organizational stalls and volunteer teams. As the festival days approached, we gathered volunteers to pack all the items rapidly and get ready to travel to the festival venue.

All our volunteers arrived at the festival site on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 that is four days before the festival. From the day after, all the volunteers worked diligently to unpack all the items and prepare the decoration for setting up the owl museum.



Arrival of truck at Lopre, Parbat with all packed items for Nepal Owl Festival



All volunteers eagerly await the arrival of truck and jeep in Beni Bazar



Volunteers setting up the owl museum in the school





Community members busy setting up stages, food stalls and swing for the Nepal Owl Festival.



## SCHOOL COMPETITION

School competitions in poetry, art, and essay writing were organized. The art competition was open to students within grade of 5, while the poetry contest and essay competition was for students in classes 9 and 10.

We received the shortlisted essays and poems, which was evaluated by our team. Top 3 entries in each category were selected as winners. Winners were announced and awarded during the festival on stage.

Competition	Winner/ School Name	First runner	Second runner
Art	Suraj Pariyar	Karuna Armaja	Ashwin Garbuja
	Shree Janakalyan Secondary School	Shree Malika Adarbhoot School	Shree Malika Adarbhoot School
Essay	Samikshya pariyar	Samikshya Khatri Chhetri	Bishal Acharya
	Shree Janakalyan Secondary School	Shree Janakalyan Secondary School	Shree Krishna Bhawan Dharma
Story	Smriti Regmi	Raksin Mahat	Sony K.C.
	Shree Janakalyan Secondary School	Shree Janakalyan Secondary School	Shree Janakalyan Secondary School



#### WINNER OF THE STORY COMPETITION

২০০০ প্ৰমাহ ব্যু:হব জানকিষ্ঠা ভেল্বা আজি ব

ହୁଟା ତୁଳି ଜୁହୁରାର ହିନ୍ଦି ସେହ ବହୁରାରତ କୁଳି କାର୍ଷରୀ ଅଧି କେଣାଦ୍ୟରକ ପ୍ରସାହର ବିଜୁନି ସେଥା ଅନୁସା ଅନ୍ଥି କେଣାଦ୍ୟରକ ପ୍ରସାହର ବିଜୁନି ସେଥା ଅନୁସା ଅନ୍ଥି ହୋଇଥା ସୁସାହା ଛି ଚିନ୍ଦ୍ର ଦିନ୍ଥି ଦୁଳି ସାହୁରା ସାହୁରା ସେହୁରା ପୁଦ୍ର ସାହୁରିକର କୁଳି ସାହୁରା ଅନ୍ଥରେ ପ୍ରସାହର କରନ୍ଦ୍ର କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗ ଅନ୍ଥରେ ସାହୁର ଅନ୍ଥରେ ପାନ୍ତା ସାହୁର ସାହୁରା ଅନ୍ଦ୍ର ସେହୁରା ସୁସାହର ଅନ୍ଥରେ ହୋଇ କୁମ୍ବ ସହ୍ୟି ସେହି ବହୁରା ସହରପା ଦୁହା ସହୁରୁ କାର୍ଥରେ ଅନ୍ଥର୍ଗ ବହୁରା ସହରପା ଦୁହା ସୁସାହର କୁମ୍ବରା କର୍ଯ୍ୟ କର୍ଯ୍ନର କର୍ପ୍ତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ସେହୁର ସାହୁରା କଙ୍କି ସେହି ବହୁରା ସହରପା ଦୁହା ସୁସାହର କୁମ୍ଦ୍ର ସହୁରା ସହରପା ଦୁହା ସହର କାର୍ଥରେ ଅନ୍ଥର୍ଗ ବହୁରା ସହରପା କରି କର୍ କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ହିନ୍ଦି ସହରା ହୋର କର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସହରୁ କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ସେନ୍ଦି ସହରା ହୋର କର୍ଯ୍ଣ ସ୍ଥାନ୍ତର କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ସେନ୍ତି ସହରା ସହର କରି କରି କର୍ କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ସେନ୍ତି ସହରା ସହରା ସେଥିକା ସାନ୍ଦ୍ର କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ସେନ୍ତି ସହରା ପର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ସେନ୍ତା ପର୍ଯ୍ଣ ସହରା ସହରୁମ କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ସେନ୍ତ୍ର ସହରା ପର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରି କର କରୁମ କଙ୍କି ସେନ୍ତା ସହରା ପର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରି କର କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁମ୍ଭର ସହରା ପର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରି କର କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁମ୍ଭର ପର୍ଯ୍ଣ ସହରା କରୁନ୍ତ୍ର କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁମ୍ଭର ପର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ ସେଥିକା ସାନ୍ଦ୍ର କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ୍ଭର କରୁ ସେହୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁମ୍ଭର କର୍ଯ୍ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁମ୍ଭର କର୍ଯ୍ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ନ କରୁମ୍ଭ କରୁମ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କରୁମ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କରୁମ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍ଣ କର୍ଯ୍

न्देरूतु, क्लीक्रइले कुसारणा अन्तनानि खार्ड स्क्रैणा खिए, उसी ब्ब्बि लाना मेरा साधीकरूले क्री सुप्रालाई सिक्र र किया किया की उपरेले मिलाई त्यही कार्यके तेमनि रातमा आया देख्व सपने : क्रसाइरूले यही रातमा में आफनी रवल रवीन्न वाहिट विदिक्त त्यारकारण तिमीइरुलाई आपनी याफार यही सिल्ली र किसामकरत्मा पही सामि कर्ज सालत अच्छमा की रहेक मर्डले वक्र कल बुक्त (लकी सम्यमा त्यका सुमाओं क म्क पिर्फ्ट याग्रमी फिर, हर्न्स्ट (उन्स ২ কন্ড) ক্রেন্টে, ' একা বের্টার হুয়া জুই। মার্জা দ্র হল্ডে, প রুচ্ছ, কেহনা <del>জুই।,</del> রার্মান নিসলার্ক আলেকা হারিলা। রস্র জির্তায় নিজে হেট, হল্ডে হত্রয়া কুই ক্রে মার্হ জ রাল্লে চা: লেম্রা সানো সল্যন্তর্ভক, র্ ইহ লাতীক য় হা নিজন জ্বেজ্ঞ হাণোনা মান্ন स्वाट कवमा आरतीं देखन स्पह्नी र तमल रितीज्यने १ लार्ड सीमात संरह्ण गरीलात्य टेक्सा करारी दिलीक्रहकी संख्या गहा लिया तिरिटिंग हाइस का उँठा का स्टर्स के रिटेस टेग्लास मेल लयर्डक्र हातमा मान संरक्षा उक्त स्टाखु, तर दिनमा यी सम्झा ही हो र राजा भएर मात्र संएक्षण नर्खुयही करते हिंता। जत्याई इस्के रामा संरका गरीमा त्रायकारा लयाईहरूको उठलाई ही राजा वनाउँन उपयुक्त छन्छ,

स्तत यात्स्व तिरायात् के तार्थती सालाले आठना यति कुला अपताको रायतो प्रकार स्वत्रैर उन्हें एइठीसा आपर लाटीकी सेरीकाई अन्नुहुउछ, इन्हे तिनी किन टाति दु: रती अप्या हती, के तिमीमें सलाई आठनी प्रकारणा वतार्डत स्वयी तार्थाकर्य हुत्वक र अन्छ स्टिस्टर यत्वं आएठी आ म रोष्ट्र स्युपि अप्छा हु: रा कटकरणाई स्वया आ म रोष्ट्र स्युपि अपछा हु: रा कटकरणाई स्वया रायत्र के राक्ती स्वर्क्युटली त्रायसाधारी देखते अप्रजेती राजकी रात्र स्वया हता. देखते अप्रजेती राजकी स्वर्क्युटली त्रायसाधारी रेखते अप्रजेती राजकी उक्तुटली त्रायसाधारी रेखते अप्रजेती राजकी उक्तुटली त्रायसाधारी राहि कार्यत्त कारी उक्तुटली त्रायसाधारी व्यक्ति अर्थते की उठी पनि कार्या स्वर्थव्या वर्द्धत स्वर्ट वार्क कारी कार्य संस्थान कार्यत्व कार्य होता , के राहि स्वर्या वर्द्धत स्वर्ट वार्क कारी कार्य साधान क्यति के राती कीता, केकी स्वर्क्या राहि कार्यत्ति के राती कीता, केकी स्वर्क्त राहित्वा की ति रात्र की स्वर्ण राहित्वा की तिनी भार यात्र स्वर्क्त राहित्वा हु हो तिनी भार यात्री संविकत्ता उत्वरात्व हो तिनी भार यात्री स्वर्क्त राहीत्व कार्यते की तिनी भार यात्री स्वरिक्ता अत्वरा प्रवायकार्यते की स्वरायता स्वर्ण राहित्वा हो तिनी स्वरायता स्वर्ण स्वरित्व क्रायति की कार्य स्वर्क्त रातित्वा रात्री राह्त्या राति त्यति कार्या संवर्जन हो तिन्दी भार्य स्वर्ण्या संवर्जन हो तिन्दा भार्यताका साणि पति संवर्जन हो तिनी आखाल्या साहित्या अत्वरा यात्राकार्यता की संवर्धाता साण संवर्जन हो तिनी कात्वा सार्यता होता संवर्जन हो तातातीकी संवर्ध्या तिर्का सित्या अत्वराय संवर्धता हो तिन्ता स्वर्ण स्वर्ण संवर्णन हा तातातीकी संवर्ध संवर्धता नि

डी, ही अब फर्स्लार राजा कार्डने तोड ल्रायमी साताली अम्बुद्धुन्छ इतिमीफ्राइली वाक्र वाक्रा-राजा कासी न, उ धारित्यालि वन कहा द ans आपनी काम र कतिव्यलाई मिरुत्रिता पर देन्द्र, राहरूक के कार्डन ) उठ त्यरी वाद कि हो ला कही कार्यात्म की राजा कीयना वार्डक कि स्थाय लंस्मी मातली अन्न्रहुरुछ, उख, तेसी नर्युणमा यके इज्जा वेवुछ, साक्सिक्र के तसी संख्यापा फार्यक्स रीज्यालन उरिका च्नायायले गर्दा विषार राजी यही कात ह्याहर र सिफार राजी मार्ट यही कान्यून लाउँछा तिसी महत्व संसार भरि फैलिन्छा लीव अएफा युट्यालिक्रम यहा कीरी झाँउन सपछन् र लीय क हुन लाग्नेफालाई यहे क्याउँन सफ्तहा मेमी वक्त यापता सलता सल्ही तत्मातिका साधिद्वाकर्सना হুকিমিল গুৱা, হার্বাটমের বাব্য রেসোমেরা শোলসকলে। হেরেমিল গুৱা, হারাটমের বার্চা স্বায়টেলি যু প্রের সমিনিয়া মিরলেহি স ঐ সলল আজারন্ধ রুসী নিমা হিঁহি রাটিনেয়ালা হের্টী, সেম্ব্যা রহাতা এমল্য যেনি ভর্তী হ স্পের্টস্টনো সাহনে कुश मिमी घरसा आएमा वा विशेष समयामा देखिएम राज प्रायत इते कुरा यही कहि करीं सुहीत्हार से स्ट्य यम हो। तमाले आयूले आपूलाई म स्विंसटा দেহক হু ফার্ল জেলি হালত্র ল্যান্ট্র সাদেনী আহচেন্দ্র জ জেরি এরি হাঁহেয়তা বার্ল্ সাদ্যু ঘার হিন্তুই कुनु र अञ्चलाई यह रहुसी तमाउँहु शन्दी लहनी প্রতা ন্যল্গরিত **এ**ফান্ডান্ডন্ড ২ মেন্ট্রিয়ার্থন জের ফল্টা মহেরীরার্ড যন্ত্রতার ক্ষর্নি, পাহরা রামেমি রার্জ নের্হা হাভি হ স্<del>যায়ির্মীয়ার</del> রাম <u>স্</u>যায়হা। রাদেয়ে भाग कार्या के माताल वहित / दिसना रेग्मी, कता द. भी बनक त्याण जा दि

#### SECOND WINNER OF THE STORY COMPETITION

कुछिमाहा उत्रहर र उस्राको मिला।

रका देशमा राउटा कुलो जाड़ उल वियो रत्यो जाड़ जलमा धोरे (म्हातार वस्ते ज्ये 1 न्यो जाइजालमा राउटा कुलो रकरव विय जिल्लां म्ह्रमा उल्ह वस्ते आवर्शकाते आक्ते ख्यामा स्ट्रा त्रस्ते जहारी केरी स्वीरज्स र गाद्मा नेर्डात हिस्स किंग दाय कार्रको दिय न्यम लियो करो यसको ठिक उल्हे उल्एू कर्राको दिय वियया उल्ट्राह कर्श्न रहा पराउठी रिय्यानि ग्राही नाराहरू की उत्प्रताई हेट्यो र यो त महर्त उस्न गरिन्द्र रहेत्व रहेन्याट गालस्री रटंम्याट- गिम्ट हिसिल हि राग्र-गर्दि । दिलाक्रारि स्कुली र रातकारि उत्ते उत्फलाई यो स्ते क्रमा स्ट्रहा जरम्या ताउथ्या तर पति स स्पंत सेरो दिय स्ति टा व्यवहें ठाबोलि ब्रस्ट्यो , उल्ल्ह्यानि स्वीकी स्वाधी वठन - जासहरूयों गर करनेते मन नयाने हुना उन सोन में रहन्थ्यो न्यूसे जङ्गलमा चित पनि वस्ते जय्यों कित रक्ट्मे लोकिन - प्रा िग्रो उसले आफनो रक्सीमा लाजी जोयनि जार्थो कित ते रूफा र उत्पर्को जिन्म हरिव रूहिो शिर्मा र रायद उन उत्रुते महुआ जम्मी किल याशो काठोर लोका जार्थो र रहा स्कारताई काम परेका कारता केहि दिठाका लागे आको जाहाराल जिन्हे पट्ये । रूगा आमे जाड्रात जायो । रूगा जार पहिन उत्पत्त कार्य कायो गऊ करांग केवल चडटा क्रिस वियो त्यह क्रियती केही दिनको सामा खाहिर जारका कारत के जिरास कारो जात उर्या कोही र-112ी विराय का त जातायाताली . र-6गा हाहिर रायको उठी दिना नियत र करवता करता रार्ट विरु म्यारे स्वाय - २न व्यादेशे करयहि राखे र व्यवसी करहता हामा दिया रनाशी שקטוו דו לאב הסטאו כחלו פוולב שובטו בלכסבו צו נגובו यन्तो कुरा र-क्री उल्टर किरास हुठछ । उर्नले आफुले आफिला

को घटा उर-ते रनोटा रा त रनाटरे रहरह रहे काटकारे मा सी माइन कि माइन किराट का आदेत त्याजा नियम दालाको केही ठा यहिन स्कुमा स्नापते ज्यू म्हामा प्रकीहित 1 रक्ता आर पारिक उत्तर्कले रनावे राटमा का गाताई काठगाउहक रशो कार्वे क्रम 260 नयसे 2-22 उत्रहतार तिरेर जाहराणाहां जावल रकाले जादहवारनाँग क्रम गठी कोस्टिम्स गही कर क्रमा कादहवा नार्य्याते प्रायंत्र हाहर वाहर हिन्दर्मे यिया जिल्हारो क्रमा लय्मकोणहूक तोस्वयी देण्डलो स्वय्वमा उत्पर्त र महाग जावव्वत ב מדנמר ורצובל בתושיצובוו רצובל מוכר יבתושנים ומוכו בתוצה לבעלב שתיצוום הרוקטוביוה היה וכוו האשי שיוושו אוביבהיא 20 2-1020 12 012601 किंहो किंहते वनस्कारी वायले काह्रवाली रनमान्ताहन निरत उडेको कार्या कार्ट न्याउटे त्यायो त्य निरुशि वाहारी कार्यवालाई 2-12117001 दे2050 3 द्युर्के - 1.1050 पमि वार्टरा व्योरामा आफ्नो याञ्चना वयमारी रह.यो। उत्प्रताई ששני אוגרשו אשוי שעור הערוב בוובו הע היצ הצווני היצ היצמות שהאשות האומה שונה שי נמשיא בי ועובר וובני שובאווו וובנגיום שובאוווים (RUIROINDIN 5 2003 14675 5/152 (Bro 1500 203) 265 114 (ROEN) उठादिकट हन्मटा उत्रक्रको करा रहनेटा जाराते मन मनने कान्य मार्को त उत्रह मुर्च ए क्रांट्य तर उत्रहत त द्धिमात रहेए . सर गा वायते वाह्य नाह राहार रेगकतार जन्मताई वाहा हा मालर किया עצידו, אלא בדביבו האה הינגמומוב הוצא כדוג בחובי היובל स्टबन रहे ही जाता केर्नर 1 07831210 1 स्टिकर्ग होर्ग होर מהצמותים מרצור וא מהצמו היגוויצנורנה בוונו שוצו וביום פונו

म तिमो मित्र सधे खती रह अमी वन्ता गर्यो म्यान, अदहवा २ अल्फ स्मर्थ स्नायमा बम्ते जरे म

यासे दाहठाताई स्ट्रिंग स्टब्स एफावर स -पराते पछि। उत्पुहताई निम्न बठारु । स्ट्रे एफावरको उत्टह्न द्रिय किन जित्र बठयो ।

शिक्षा - हामी ले कर्स्साई प्रति हेप्ठह हरेत, स्ते जनाव्य वा -जनाला स्वापनी विश्वोद्या स्वय्वन

লাম - বহিততা সহন

0/84 - (5)

न्दिराते पठि स्मुठरू पार्टण । उस्ताको दिसा एवसा हिस्ते लायायो हित्यार स्नारोग का जोरा जरपटि चिंस कहरवाल र स्नाप्त्तो दित्यार स्नुकारोग । उस्ते कहतालाई तिसी स्नुका लायायला वित्यास स्नुकारो । उस्ते कहता लाटक जर २ परिण तिसीते वेलामा उत्रह्लों जिन्न हुको लाटक जर २ परिण तिसीते वेलामा उत्रहलों जिन्न हुको लाटक जर २ परिण तिसीते वोला देक स्वार्ण तिस्त र उत्रहलाई हामीते स्वरूपता कहेंन दिरलो क्स रास्तो कहरा स्नुठोर कहरवाते स्नुरूमा हुरेंन कार्यका गर्य दित्र ता काले पहि कारहवा दिसको द्वरपता स्निमी जलाइन्ट्रण

न्यर्श्वे राजरे दिन मध्या उत्तर कहाँ जान्छ । कद्हवा राउटा कुलो योख्वीमा वस्थ्यों न योख्वी न उल्द हास्तो ख्य सेरें टाहा हियरगा काटहवा ते लिखे जास स्वरमा उत्रह के लाजी मोरो कि जिल कारत की मारी स्तेरिक प्रस्ताब राख्या उत्रह र-6711 रायला कारण रायले कारको चिछो र्याता उत्रहताई यक्त्मको त्रित्र बठते इटटा वर्ति विशो ורטבא ברואטאו סאבצמוא הוא פושא עבותום אוצל מרנס कार्य हिच्छ हारी दिखा उल्ला रमाही राज्य विद्य प्रसान न्यिकार राहि न्या दिरायरिए कद्या र उत्हर जिले रिलते ואאת צוו שמור שמור שמלאשיב או שובי ומכוחא לאאחו הו היועה השתונות שתיצור בתובשאי ההנצוביוה שוורהו אות सामेको दियोग केही दिनपटी उत्स्रकहाँ निरत र कार्स्वा 2121 2 398,001 2100 35132 0568017 0,000 21601 1 2626 उलक य तेरे जिल्ल हो 500, तेरो याक्या लिक्को लागि योते लाटक रेको हु गा रक रहरी चारा होस, ज्यारवीर या जारतो קרשויה הוא הנריב על יאל האל האל ביר ההיא הוא הוא היא היא היא היא האלים המושבי היגוות האות כלבני ש הנה בדשל הומנש והיגוות

वाहिर जिम्लियो एक रक्ताले हेर जयहवा उल्लाल हरूले काउन्ह उठाको जालती होइन्टा उपरू जनावसे उल्लाई DETE म्हि सारिकाल्टा तर हो रनही होड्टा 13ल्ट रक द्विमाल - जतारय - प्रा हो , उत्हरताई कतिसीहरूते हेटको तर उत्हर लाई हेल्कु रुटेन 1378 575 देवी लक्ष्मीको पाहन हो। लाहन (तिमीलाई पाहन रेंठन करी, उत्तरहान दायेगा न्येको तिमीहार्ड कालन चहान्छ र उत्तरहाम के राजहान चार्य का जिली 25. हेर्न 2-0-20 1 212ने आफ्नो दारीलार 270. 2-422 22200 2-10-01 30700 2127211 रहेका जयी आडाराको आँधरी बठाइटरण उल्ले आग्र न्या भारत अलग २०, उ दिल्लार स्ट्रान्ट र रातनारि उठ्छ त्यस्ते हामीते जस्तार्ड म्हर्स साम्प्रिक यो गलत हो 15 दिहाशारि स्मुत्व र रात्झारि अहरू यत्रमा पहित हासे प्रमुख रू जह समी राती स्मुखी यात्रभा पाठा ते हाम प्रान्ध के काठा राजा करते. एक उत्रुद्ध राति उदेर दाइट्राको त्र्यवाती जटने रुख ज्यार्थ करत प्रान्ध्वा तिमीते उत्रुद्ध संज यतीवराम्र क्यार्ग दर्सा हो साम्रे प्रान्धे रुखा तम्प्री त्रिमी द्रमान वत्त्वाका रयो साम्रे प्रान्था तकायो क्राय्वा तिमीले ন্দিল্লী জুম হকটালা ভাগী না স্যার্থ প্রায় নির্বা নির্বা দেশ্রাজ স্বৌহিবসাসা ভিয় নের নিংশ সদন জ্যাহী অর্তিম্বা 7211 2-15711011 यत्र ग कारा र-6811 076801ते आसूते अरेको अलती त्याहा तार्यो ( स्ट्रमने सम्हता मर्ग) साफी प्राप्ती जाश्वता ले उल्तुस्पॅंग झाफी स्ताग्यो उल्स्हते प्राप्ती ढियो। अएस्ने स्रजालार्ड शहयावाद ज्यन्यो साधे उत्सहतो जिन हर्वाणान उत्कर्को राष्ट्र दिश्कोना । यहारताले स्कृता स्मेंत्र दाति त्र्याफी 10(40 2011), 096801 2 3006 जिम्स हारी 1 कार्सवाले

#### THIRD WINNER OF THE STORY COMPETITION

1	/ हिच्लि बर फ्ट्राइक्री	पाट्याड्यी हुचिलफी छरा सुठीर हारूठा शान्ह र भाठा
	एकदेशमा एउटा हृदिल छउटा गाउकी घठा।अङ्गलमा अस्पूरयी त्यी हृदिल दिख्स अस्टिक्डालमा खुतैर व्यति गएउ किर्डुक्ठ निरिक्डरयी। त्यी हृदिल दिख्स पादिन्दाति यातिन्दाहि	নামী মান নামী এগা গাঁওবা আল্ফা গুলিকা অন্যান্ড যান্দ্র। নির্বার্টি কেন্দ্র প্রার্টি কিয়া ক্রিটিকা অন্যান্দ্র। কেন্দ্রান্দ্র স্বার্টিন ব্যব্দ তাণ্ডবাল ক্রিমিকজ্জ। কেন্দ্র্যান্দ্র্যা
	പര്ദ്ധങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യം പ്ര പ്രത്യം പ്രത്യം പ്രത്യം പ്രത്യം പ്രത്യം പ്രത്യം പ്രത്യം പ്രത്യം	त्यस ठाउवाट गएकी केही स्प्रम्थयदि इत्तिल की अंभवा ब्रह्मह्व त्यती वेत्ना द्रात परिस्किकी स्थिरी । यत परिस्कि- पदि त्वउसलाई श्रीक लाठिस्किकी सिथी। यत परेपहि
	भ्याञ्ता,सर्प र हम्मे स्वेतनी वासी तारू आदादिने सुसानी स्वीजिमा इस्प्रिह्हार्थ्यो। त्थी हस्तिले आफुती राखनी २७०० सम्म सुमाउत सफ्दर्थी। वास्तविकमा ' त्यी हस्तिली स्रेर्	त्यो हिंचित्त आफ्रेकी खावाजी खार्जीमा आखतिर जावह । संद्येजी औ द्यातिमा रक्षेत तिर उर्ड सुसाफी बिजार उद्यि मीजवा गही जीजवा जाविस्क्रिपह्नि त्यस्वेती पेट
	র্ট স্ফল্ ভিশ্রী নহ বনিয়নিকা ভেষাত্রহনী ভেন্সন্টির্চা কদা হ সভল্ত টাঁর পরীহ सीट्ये। ন্যৌ প্রভূলিলে গ্রীই র্ট ব্রুটী প্রায়ন্টক্রী ভিশ্রী। ভেন্সে ভূতিলে ব্রুটী পাত্রচা	अश्विहह र राख तिर खुम्ब जिस्कहरू । स्वै प्राणी सुतीरहेको देवा इत्यित उठ्ह र स्वै प्राणी उडु उठेको देवा हत्यित मस्त हिहदामा उहहू । यतीको सम्यय
_	जायणले जाद त्यस हत्तिललाई सक्लि विस उठ्ठे २ दिस उठे पहि रहुसी हुन समय तया जाड़ी हुन्टयो । विश्वीघ उदी त त्यी हत्तिन सुतेनी वेला जसैले त्यसको 'जिह्दा'	তি বিদ্যা বিদ্যাল প্রথম গেছে দে। ক্ষর্জ থিনেরে। হলে ক্লিল্যেরি বিদ্যাল স্কর লাক্ষ হ হলি এতা ওত্তহর দে ভূলিল স্রান্ডা শুলির দ্বীকী কিচি বসায়তারি দেশ্রাজ্য ভূলিল সাংসী তাউসা যুহর য স্পের হলিললার্জ ভিষ্কাত্তর
-	Com दी थी भी भी भी दान्रे मा स्तुरी र जाती हुन्दे विति रहे जी	नियम अग्रेज कि
	ਦियो। एउटा फट्राइग्रा न्याहि हचिल स्रातेन्स्रेमे देला ते आपर जिस्काइ जिस्काइ णित गाउएयो। हचिल ले फट्राइग्री ताहि घठह कि प्रमुलाई सुला दिगुहीस्ट	ামখা ৬০ তাওঁহতা। ভাষে বিজ্ঞান বিদেশিয় বিজ্ঞান ব বিজ্ঞান বিজ্ঞান বিজ্ঞা বিজ্ঞান বিজ্ঞান বিজ্য বিজ্ঞান বিজ্ঞান ব
-	मेत्री सुन्ही सम्मय यति मेला ही ही, सर्वेकी आज्ञाफ्ही	Story (illor ( total olocic ortaliste)

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## OWL CONSERVATION CAMP

Students were educated about owls, their ecological significance, and the threats they face. Through slide presentations and owl-related videos, students learned about the importance of conserving these birds. Over 748 numbers of students participated in this conservation camp. Out of 748 students, 353 students have seen owl, 2 students have seen owl egg, 193 have heard the owl call, 10 of the students have consumed their meat, 274 numbers of students have catapult and among them 9 have killed an Owl. We hope that our conservation messages reached to the students and teachers and lower the killing of an owl within the area.

S.N.	Nome of the School	Total
5.N.	Name of the School	lotal
		number
		of
		students
1	Giddheswor Basic school, Kuwapani, Parbat	13
2	Devisthan Basic school, Gairigaaun, Parbat	15
3	Sivalaya Basic school, Sivalaya, Parbat	13
4	Maalika Basic school, Lopre, Parbat	22
5	Panchamul Basic school, Panchamul, Parbat	17
6	Jyoti Secondary school, Okhareni, Parbat	56
7	Gramprakash Higher Secondary school, Raatmaataa,	48
	Parbat	
8	Himanchal Higher Secondary school, Naagi, Myagdi	85
9	Vidhyajyoti Higher Secondary school, Mallaj, Parbat	48
10	Phatkedhunga Lower Secondary school, Mallaj,	38
	Parbat	
11	Mt.Everest Awasiya Secondary school, Beni, Myagdi	58
12	Beni Boarding Secondary school, Beni, Myagdi	26
13	New West Point Higher Secondary school, Beni,	202
	Myagdi	
14	Shalija Secondary school, Shalija, Parbat	107
	Total	748









Students and school staff during the owl conservation camps

### **BIRD WATCHING**

During the Nepal Owl Festival, one of the favorite events is bird watching. We organize birding event as previous years, lasting 3 to 4 hours on both days of the festival. This year, Hira Malla from Pokhara Bird Society led the bird watching session and brought together 25 participants, including students and locals. In the pine-dominated forest area of Lopre participants witnessed diverse group of forest birds, raptors, and tits. The first day of the birding recorded 21 species followed by 29 species recorded in the second day. Asian Barred Owlet, Himalayan Griffon, Steppe Eagle, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Red-headed Tit, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, Rock Bunting, Bearded Vulture, Black Eagle, Eurasian Skylark, and Russet Sparrow are the few birds observed during the birding session.







## THE OWL MUSEUM

The owl museum creatively decorated by all the volunteers in four rooms was displayed for the festival. Local visitors explored the decorated rooms and showed interest in certain displays. The volunteers assisted them by providing knowledge about owls and discussing owl conservation efforts. The robotic owl, owl call device and documentaries about owls of Nepal caught the eye of many, especially children, and added an extra exciting element to the festival, amusing everyone.



Museum room filled with owl research equipment along with owl cups and photographs



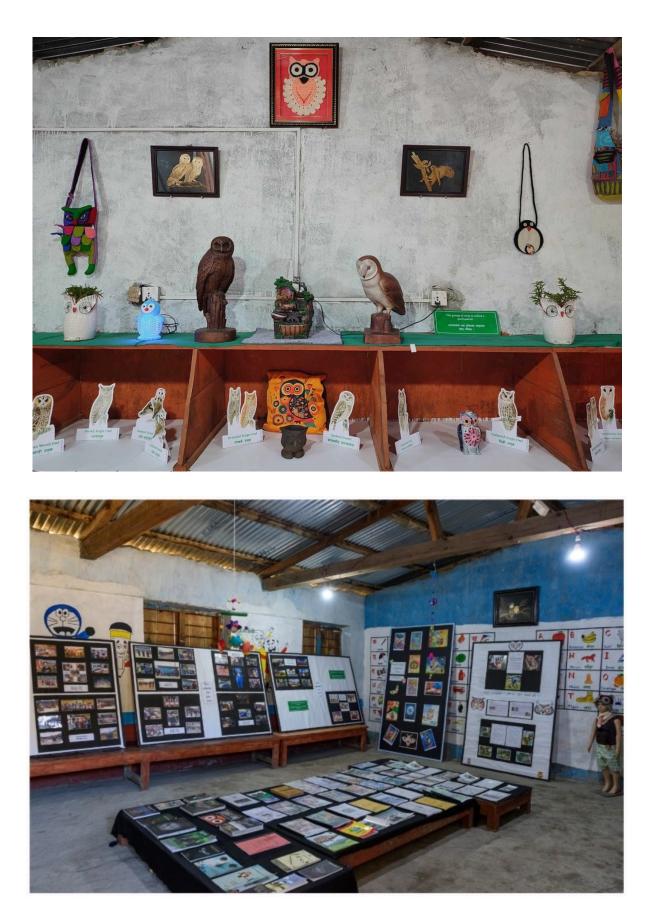
Display of Owl Specimen and its prey



Owl art on fruit



Visitor watching Owl Robot



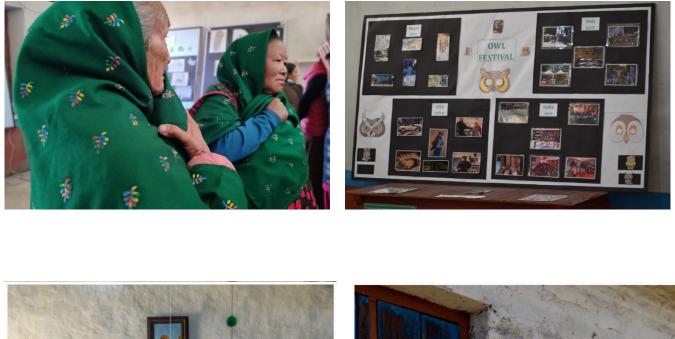
An array of owl statues, books, information, and photographs exhibited in the Owl Museum



Profile of Nature Conservation Award winners and Local Conservation Award winners



Owl statues, owl curios, and other owl-related decorative items are displayed in the Owl Museum







Display items including owl books and photographs are being viewed by visitors

## PARTICIPATION OF VARIOUS GROUPS

Nepal Owl Festival attracts various groups and visitors locally and across the nation. We witnessed the participation of numerous local groups- youth clubs, mother's group, communities, and lot more in the two days event. The atmosphere was surrounded by several ethnic groups with their unique attire and culture. *Kuwapani Samaj, Himsuseli Youth Club, Shivalaya Bhajan Samuha, Samaj Sudhar Mothers' Group, Dhaulagiri Mothers' Group, Karbakeli Samuha, Naumati Baja Samuha, Himanchal Higher Secondary School*-to name a few were actively participated. Apart from this, visitors from Jajarkot, Kailali, Koshi and far away districts attended the mega event.















#### THE CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND LOCAL GAMES

The major festival attraction of Nepal Owl Festival has always been about different cultural performances and local games. This year too, there were many cultural programs performed by women group, student group and the local games. Visitors were seen enjoying the local and traditional dances like *Purkhyauli Naach, Lakhe Naach, School Performance, Conservation Drama, Panche Baja, Jhankri, Suni Maya, Salaiju, Yanimaya Song, Theater Dance, Sorathi,* and *Bhajan.* Apart from these various local games like *Thelo Falne* (a kind of Shot Put game in which the spherical object known as '*thelo*' is thrown from starting point, and the farthest distance covered wins), *Bhurung* (locally made wooden object, rotates when thrown with the help of rope, the longest rotation time wins), *Ek Khutte* (a kind of cock fight, in which one leg is folded and supported by hand. Game played inside circle and pushing the opponent), and *Chil Chilla* were performed in the festival.

#### Welcome Song from FON Nepal

Regardless of being busy while setting up the museum during the day, our volunteers gathered at the evening to practice the welcome song for the festival. The song is written by Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah and composed by Rajman Maharjan. The song when played during the festival engaged the audiences and few danced with their enjoyment too.



Children and women performing and welcoming everyone in the Nepal Owl Festival







Women performing cultural dance on the stage



Local men in their traditional attire performing cultural dances



Students from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara after performing their group dance on stage



Visitors dancing and enjoying the cultural performances on stage



Bhurung-a traditional game played by the locals



Thelo Falne- a traditional game played by the locals



Viewers enjoying and documenting festival events

#### OWL CONSERVATION GRANT

Every year on Nepal Owl Festival, we provide student with a grant amount who are willing to work on research and conservation of Owls. This year Owl Conservation Grant recipient- Sanskar Subedi, permanent resident of Kankai-3, Jhapa, is perusing bachelor's degree in Institute of Forestry, Pokhara Campus. The grant is awarded for his project entitled "Assessing the influence of land use land cover in the occurrence of owls in Pokhara valley, Nepal."

We are positive the outcome from this project broadens the understanding on owls of Nepal.



Sanskar Subedi with certificate of the grant

#### TRADITIONAL SWING



Local culture and traditional values are the important aspects of Nepal Owl Festival.

We are thankful to local community for installing the swing made from the rope of dry straw and bamboo upon our request. Visitors enjoyed the traditional swing and were eagerly waiting for their turn for the unique experience.

#### OWL DOCUMENTARY ROOM

The goal of Nepal Owl Festival is to spread conservation messages to every individual attending the event. To imprint the owls in the mind of visitors, we imply audio-visual methods. There is a separate documentary room, which showcases owl related documentaries, for instance owls of Nepal, ecological importance of owls, threats and myths, interesting facts/ behaviors, conservation measures, and previous owl festivals. The documentary runs the whole day and often seems crowded with people. Visitors seem to be excited and worrisome after leaving the documentary room and many of them discuss with our volunteers about their queries on owls.



Visitors enjoying the owl documentary

#### CONSERVATION SPEECH

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

Conservation speech was delivered by Raju Acharya (Country Representative, World Owl Trust, UK), highlighting the ecological roles of owls especially focusing on owls as friends of farmers. He shared his experiences of previous owl festivals and praised the locals for being positive on conservation of nature and biodiversity. Similarly, President of Jaljala Rural Municipality Raju Prasad Acharya was excited to welcome huge number of visitors from different parts of the country. He was unknown about the importance of owls in ecosystem and had committed to contribute on nature conservation. There were at least ten local politicians/representatives of local government who delivered their speech on what can be done locally to contribute to nature conservation.



Conservation speech: Raju Acharya (Left) and Raju Prasad Acharya (Right)



#### FESTIVAL 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/promote their products in the festival. Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, Bird Conservation Nepal-Pokhara Branch, Bird Conservation Nepal, Nature Conservation and Study Center, Biodiversity Conservation Society, Nepal Ornithological Union, Bird Conservation Network Kailali, Pokhara Bird Society and Koshi Bird Society were some of the national organizations to set their stalls. Likewise, there were several local stalls which sell items exclusive to local culture and products. 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 masks, cup, keyring, t-shirt, posters were displayed and sold. The amount collected from the stall shall contribute to organize next Nepal Owl Festival.



SMCRF and Bird Conservation Nepal with their stalls



Bird Conservation Nepal, Pokhara Branch, showcasing their captivating owl stone art and owl drawings for sale at the festival stall



Local foods in the festival stall



Women trying owl earring on the FON stall

Students visiting the festival stalls

#### OWL DART BOARD

Excitement filled the air as children gathered around the owl dart board, one of the festival's highlights. Two dart boards hung with owl and hunter pictures drew crowds. The aim was simple: hit the hunter for a prize, hit the owl for a fun fine. Many gathered to test their luck. Hitting the hunter earned them an owl mask, making them feel like winners.





Children wearing owl mask

## FACE PAINTING AND NAIL ART

The most crowded area in the festival-face painting 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, Suruchi Mainali, Sushmita Khadka, Sikshya Gyawali, and Yangchen Sherpa were always busy and was a tough task to manage the crowd. However, they manage face paint/nail art for 800 people.





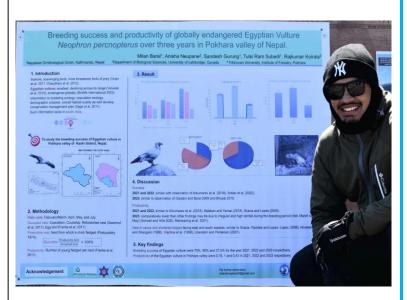


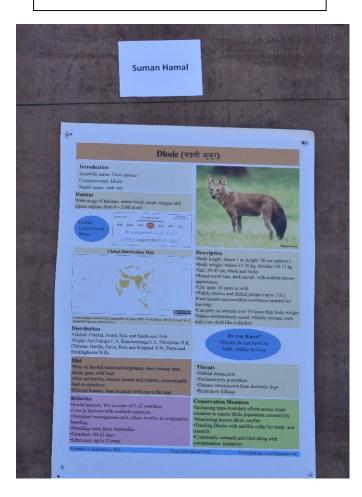
#### POSTER PRESENTATION

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

#### Poster displayed in the festival

- a. Dhole Conservation, Suman Hamal
- b. Research and conservation of Egyptian Vulture, Milan Baral
- c. Research and conservation of Frogs, Suman Sapkota
- d. Ecological importance on owls, Menuka Shrestha
- e. Vulture conservation: Hemanta Dhakal







#### NATURE CONSERVATION AWARDS

FON takes gratitude towards awarding and celebrating nature conservationist and local level conservationist in every Nepal Owl Festival. This year, Mr. Rajendra Suwal, Mr. Hirulal Dangaura, Mr. Yam Bahadur Rawat and Mr. Kumar Paudel were awarded for Nature Conservation Award (NPR 25000 and certificates for each) while Mr. Adipta Giri and Mr. Sameer Regmi has been awarded with Local Conservation Award for their dedication toward wildlife conservation. Bird Conservation Network (Kailali), a dedicated organization for birds in western Nepal, has also received organizational felicitation.



Nature Conservation Award winners in the stage with the Nepal Owl Festival organizers



Rajendra Narsingh Suwal Researcher and Conservationist Head - Partnerships Development, WWF Nepal

Born in Kathmandu in 1962, Suwal's passion for exploring Nepal's diverse landscapes emerged at a young age. He commenced his journey as a naturalist at the Gaida Wildlife Camp from 1984 to 1990. Currently, he holds the esteemed position of Head of Partnerships Development at WWF Nepal. Inspired by influential figures like the late Hari Sharan Kaji and Karna Shakya, Suwal became a founding member of the 'Nepal Bird Conservation' at the age of 20. In 1994, he pioneered the concept of the Saras Crane Conservation Area in the Lumbini region. Additionally, he actively participates in the International Scientific Committee of Lumbini and the Environmental Protection Council for three years.

With a postgraduate degree in Zoology, Suwal embarked on a remarkable journey, covering 58 districts, engaging in wildlife research, bird observation, photography, and Eco-tourism. He has authored 15 research reports on various species, along with 19 scientific articles, seven of which focus on nature-related topics published in national newspapers. Suwal has played a pivotal role in Nepal's wildlife and tourism promotion, leading the production of 17 international documentaries showcasing Nepal's wildlife. Notably, in 1995, he authored the first red data book on wildlife published by the Government of Nepal. Suwal has been fortunate to host distinguished international figures such as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter (2013) and Japanese Crown Prince (Fumihito) (1996) during bird-watching visits to Nepal. Following in the footsteps of his father, the late Parashar Narsingh Suwal, a distinguished scientist, Rajendra Suwal has dedicated four decades to wildlife, biodiversity, and tourism. He firmly believes that studying, researching, and applying wildlife conservation practices can significantly contribute to the country's development. Beyond his academic contributions, Suwal has actively participated in conservation initiatives, documenting a new bird species (Bean Goose) for Nepal, and organizing various wildlife conservation workshops in Kathmandu, Lumbini, and Koshi regions. Notably, he is involved in the conservation and rescue efforts for owls in Nepal, showcasing his commitment to the broader cause of preserving Nepal's rich biodiversity.



Hirulal Dangaura Conservationist Field Project Officer, Bird Conservation Nepal

Hirulal Dangaura, aged 41, is a prominent advocate for bird conservation in Nepal. His conservation journey began as the president of the Eco Club at his school, founded in 2056 B.S. Over the past 24 years, Hirulal has actively studied, researched, and conserved waterfowl, migratory birds, dolphins, and other wildlife in the Kailali region. Starting during his school days, he participated in the Slang Shoot Control Campaign, contributing significantly by collecting over 3,000 slang shots. This effort earned him recognition through four national awards.For the last 14 years, Hirulal has served as a field project officer for Bird Conservation Nepal. He has actively participated in eight bird research expeditions across Nepal, contributing to 14 published scientific articles. Holding a postgraduate degree in 'Rural Development,' he is also involved in community-based initiatives.

Inspired by Bhoj Raj Shrestha (Guleli Baje), Hirulal has organized wildlife conservation camps for 75 schools and 250 local groups. Engaging 75 youth in the 'Community-Based Anti-Poaching Control' campaign, he has conducted over 10 radio interviews on bird-related topics. Hirulal documented 148 bird species in the Ghodaghodi region, including six owl species, and led the plantation of 22,000 seedlings. His active involvement led to the declaration of the 'Bird Conservation Sanctuary,' significantly impacting wildlife conservation in the region. Hirulal played a crucial role in organizing the 'Nepal Owl Festival' in Kailali District. Recently, he successfully rescued and rehabilitated five owl species in their natural habitat.



#### Yam Kumar Rawat *Conservationist* Ranger, Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation

Born in the Salyan district, 33-year-old Yam Bahadur Rawat graduated from the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. For the past eight years, he has been actively serving as a ranger in Banke and Shuklaphanta National Parks, acknowledged as an exemplary conservationist contributing to the study, research, and rescue of wildlife. His role model is conservationist Laxman Prasad Paudel. Yam Bahadur holds a particular interest in wildlife crime investigation, photography, and the rescue of reptiles. Recognizing the essential link between science and conservation, Yam Bahadur actively integrates scientific principles into his conservation work. Engaged in various wildlife crime control initiatives, he has almost lost his life twice in the line of duty. Despite these challenges, he continues to contribute regularly.

Yam Bahadur has directly investigated 60 wildlife crime incidents. He has been involved in over 1,000 forest patrols for wildlife conservation offenses. He has conducted 260 awareness campaigns/ workshop for the conservation of species. His efforts have led to the successful rehabilitation and release of over 80 mammals, reptiles, and birds, including the rescue of 1,200 snakes. He has played a vital role in organizing more than 200 bird-watching events and other wildlife observation events for many stakeholders. Yam Bahadur has authored eight scientific articles, and his book, "Butterflies of Shuklaphanta," has been published. He has recorded two species new for Nepal (Leopard Gecko and Laudankia Vine Snake). He has provided training to over 400 park employees on various dimensions of wildlife, including leadership roles. He has organized more than 50 human-wildlife conflict resolution workshops. His contributions extend to investigating illegal trade and the conservation of owls too. He has rescued two owls.



Kumar Paudel Conservationist and Researcher Director, Greenhood Nepal

Kumar Paudel, a 34-year-old native of Sindhupalchok, Nepal, has gained community recognition for his ability to articulate the outcomes of his advanced research in an accessible manner. Holding an MPhil degree from the University of Cambridge in the UK, Paudel currently serves as the director of Greenhood Nepal.

In 2010, he delved into research focusing on individuals convicted of wildlife hunting and illegal trade within Nepalese jails, exploring the multifaceted aspects of "Hunting and trade." This research extended to compiled information on owls as well. Paudel initiated Gandharva, a traditional music initiative in Nepal, with the goal of curbing illegal wildlife trade and spreading awareness about conservation to thousands of people.

While keeping wildlife parts at home is common among both elite and traditional individuals in Nepal, Paudel registered a case in the Supreme Court and successfully won. This legal victory facilitated government actions, allowing for the confiscation of wildlife parts as per the Supreme Court verdict.

Dedicated to pangolin conservation, he spearheaded the "Pangolin Roundtable" and served as co-coordinator for two years in the National Youth Network for Rhino conservation. Paudel's expertise in biodiversity conservation and wildlife crime has led to collaborations with Interpol, the University of Oxford, and the University of Leicester. Throughout his journey, he has traveled to over 50 districts and more than 35 countries.

In the realm of academia, Paudel has authored over 10 scientific articles and four books, covering topics such as community-based conservation, climate change, and forestry. Seven of his articles on forests and wildlife have been published in national newspapers. His contributions have earned him seven national and international grants and honors. Additionally, he has actively contributed to the environmental management course at Pokhara University and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Thirteen of his students have been engaged in research. He has played a key role in developing 20 types of conservation posters, conducting more than 10 awareness camps, and producing five documentaries related to conservation.

## ORGANIZATIONAL FECILITATION 2024



Thirteen years ago, an organization was established in Kailali district, dedicated to the holistic development of women and the environment. It has been actively engaged in various areas such as agriculture, wildlife conservation, cultural preservation, and capacity building. Over this time, the organization has collaborated with 230 young individuals, 2100 students, and 14 eco clubs, working together on diverse wildlife initiatives.

In the Ghodaghodi wetland area, the organization consistently participates in bird monitoring and bird watching. It has played a pivotal role in curbing wildlife hunting and trade. Apart from its efforts in wildlife study, research, and conservation, the organization has undertaken activities such as publishing books and posters, working closely with schools and local communities.

Notably, the organization has taken a leadership role in transforming Ghodaghodi wetland into a Bird Sanctuary. It achieved a milestone by successfully organizing the 10th 'Nepal Owl Festival'.

## LOCAL

#### CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS 2024



#### R K Adipta Giri *Parbat, Nep<u>al</u>*

Protecting river through "Save the Kaligandaki River Campaign", Conserving archaeological heritages through "Century House", and Promoting ecotourism of Parbat district through writing, meet **Mr. R K Adipta Giri** from Kusma Municipality-6, Parbat



Samir Regmi *Parbat, Nepal* 

Exploring and advertising the natural touristic destinations in rural parts of the country, meet **Mr. Samir Regmi** from Kusma, Parbat

## LONGTERM VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

Rajman Maharjan and Bishal Gautam was felicitated for their engagement for eight years in Nepal Owl Festival with **Best Audience Award**.

Ram Prasad Itani was felicitated for his volunteer engagement and support in making Nepal Owl Festival successful for four years





Happy Faces: Proud moment while receiving Volunteer Recognition Award

## LOCAL GAME WINNERS





Local game winners proudly awarded with certificates and cash

#### MEDIA COVERAGE

Nepal Owl Festival 2024 was covered by several local and national medias. Many individuals and media broadcast featured news and videos of the festival.

#### Online News (National and Local)

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- https://tinyurl.com/4xt7kyfu
- https://tinyurl.com/2s33psuu
- https://tinyurl.com/yc4768yu

#### Online News/Documentaries (International)

https://shorturl.at/HMT07

https://rb.gy/qawsdj

https://tinyurl.com/2p8j7nb4

https://shorturl.at/bcsyE https://rb.gy/cpgki9

#### YouTube Links

https://tinyurl.com/2p7e5yn2 https://tinyurl.com/mrxaenwp https://tinyurl.com/mr2v5p94 https://tinyurl.com/32xzs9nz https://tinyurl.com/2tm3xn23 https://tinyurl.com/4rnzay36 Other photos...













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