

**FUSION OF CONSERVATION,
CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT**



NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL 2025

EVENT REPORT



Owl Festival in a Glimpse



Visitors : 7000



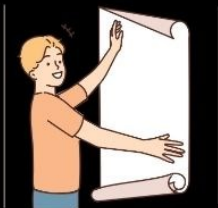
Local Culture: Jhijhiya,
Maharai, Tamang Selo,
Sama Chakewa, Jhari Jhari,
Ram sita song, Jata Jatin



Nature Conservation Award-4
Local Conservation Award-3
Organization Felicitation -1



School Conservation camps
(27 schools & 2146 students)



Poster Presentation : 14



Face painting & Nail art



Organization stalls:27



Local Game: Kusti, Golagoli,
Kabbadui, Taalpuli, Titi, Gitigiti



Conservation theater,
song, and dance.

Owl Museum, Owl Art, Local Food, Mithila Art, Conservation
Speech, Bird Watching, Conservation Dance and Drama,
Welcome Song and many more

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely appreciate the invaluable contributions of the organizers, supporters, partners, and well-wishers to the success of the Nepal Owl Festival 2025.

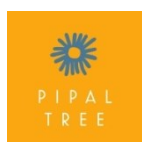
Organizers



Partners



Financial Supporters



Other Supporters



FOREWORD

We successfully celebrated the 2 days Nepal Owl Festival 2025 at Mithila Bihari Municipality Ward No. 2 and 3, Purandaha, Dhanusha, with the generous contributions and support from our partners and well-wishers. Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal is always indebted to all the partners, supporters and participants to make this event lively.

Firstly, we extend our sincere gratitude to Mithila Wildlife Trust and Mr. Dev Narayan Mandal for their collaboration in making this event successful. We also appreciate Shree Sahid Chandeshwor Basic School for providing the space and materials to set up the temporary owl museum and for hosting the festival. A dedicated team from MWT, especially Sachin Kumar Singh, Sita Paudel, Sumit Jha, Pradip Ram, Amarnath Yadav, Ravi Sharma, Rasilal Pandit, and Dipika Lama, also deserve our heartfelt appreciation. Additionally, we are grateful to the entire team from MWT, Cultural Village, Climate change pioneers Madhesh team and Incredible Mithila for their support and contributions.

A special gratitude goes to Mr. Raju Acharya, Country Representative of the World Owl Trust, and our Executive Director for his exceptional leadership along with fundraising efforts. We acknowledge Mr. Suman Sapkota, Program Coordinator at FON Nepal, for his pivotal role in supervision of the preparation, along with Mr. Ashish Thapa, Mr. Aayush Dhungana and Mr. Nikeet Pradhan for conducting school conservation camps. We are grateful to Ms. Barsha Adhikari and Ms. Sofiya KC for their support during preparation in Kathmandu. We acknowledge Mr. Nikeet Pradhan, Mr. Rohit Giri and Mithila Wildlife Trust for capturing the precious moments of the festival. We also thank the Natural History Museum, Swoyambhu for providing the specimens of owls and their prey and Mr. Som GC for leading the birding team on both days of the festival.

We highly appreciate Cosmos College of Technology (ICT Lab), Lalitpur for providing volunteers- Subash Poudel, Aayush Karki, Gaurav Neupane, and Bhusan Bartaula to provide technical support and functioning of owl robots- one of the major attractions of owl museum.

Mr. Ram Itani, Ms. Hunny Manandhar, Ms. Dipa Gurung, Mr. Bipin Adhikari and Ms. Siksha Gyawali deserves an applaud for their artistic contribution through face paint and nail

painting. We appreciate Professor Karan Bahadur Shah for lyrics and Mr. Rajman Maharjan for composing music to make the welcome song magical.

The volunteers from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara: Aayusha Bogati, Anshu Thapa Chhetri, Susmita Koirala, Ranjita Shrestha, Puja Adhikari, Aashish Pokhrel, Sunil Singh Bhandari, Kiran Dahal, Rojita Sharma Banjade, Pratima Tharu, Bipin Adhikari, Shiksha Gyawali, Ashish Pariyar, and Shikha Dangi deserve recognition for their conservation dance and drama.

We are thankful to Nature Conservation and Study Center, Chandra Gurung Conservation Foundation, Nepal Ornithological Union, Wild Care, Bird Conservation Nepal, Raise Hands Nepal, Bat Friends Pokhara, IFSA Pokhara, Bird Conservation Nepal (Pokhara Branch), Nepal Conservation and Research Center, Society for Wildlife Research and Conservation, Jane Goodall Institute, Greenhood Nepal, WWFC Dang, Pokhara Bird Society, Bird Conservation Nepal (Hetauda Branch), Koshi Bird Society, and Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation for participating through organizational stalls. Local organizations showcasing culture and food stalls are also appreciated.

We acknowledge Ms. Shila Gurung, Ms. Binita Timilsina, Mr. Ashish Thapa, Mr. Deepak Basnet, Ms. Prakriti Pathak, Mr. Ramesh Kathariya, Ms. Neeta Pokharel, Ms. Jyoti Sharma, Ms. Rashmi Dhital, Mr. Nari Soundarrajan, Mr. Aman Sunar, Ms. Anu Acharya, and Ms. Nikita Phuyal for presenting their research and conservation works through posters. We are obliged to Mithila Bihari Municipality Ward No-2 Office, Purandaha for their warm hospitality and logistic arrangements for our volunteers by providing hall and utensils for cooking. We are grateful to Shyam Kumar Thakur for arranging/cooking delicious meals for all the volunteers throughout our stay.

Lastly, we deeply appreciate the dedication of our volunteers- Keshab Raj Sapkota, Bal Kumar Gurung, Prabal Bir Jung Rana, Binaya Ghimire, Anu Paudel, Sangam Poudel, Shusmita Basnet, Sudarshan Parajuli, Aayush Dhungana, Jyoti Sharma, Dipa Gurung, Saurabh Sapkota, Sujan B.K, Ashish Thapa, Prabesh Poudel, Samar Baniya, Ribu Gopali, Aman Ghamal, Nikeet Pradhan, Neha Joshi and Karuna Dahal. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the festival a huge success.



Local villages in and around the festival site.



Janaki Mandir, one of the most important religious sites in Nepal, is located 13 km away from the festival site.



Local kids were happy to witness the owl festival in their village and had eagerly awaited it.

BACKGROUND

Since its inception in 2012, the Nepal Owl Festival has steadily grown into a dynamic and multifaceted event. It is celebrated in solidarity with the International Festival of Owls, held every March in Houston, Minnesota.

Our goal has been to bring the festival to various regions of Nepal, particularly where illegal hunting and trading pose significant threats to owl populations. By creating a lively and engaging festival atmosphere, we provide an opportunity for people to learn about owl species, interact with conservationists, and foster mutual understanding to promote the conservation of owls in Nepal.

Our team puts in months of preparation for the festival, starting with finding the perfect location and collaborating with local agencies. A month prior the event, our team coordinates with the local organizer and handles all the necessary preparations. The process begins with logistical planning and gathering display materials for the festival. Our dedicated staff and volunteers, who come from diverse professional backgrounds, work tirelessly to support and enhance our mission.

Local community members, organizer and representatives are vital to building and promoting the event. They collaborate with us to ensure the festival is both enjoyable and educational, making it essential to maintain strong relationships with the local organizer. After reaching an agreement with a local organization or community, a festival management committee and seven sub-committees are formed. This leads to several meetings to assign roles and discuss the event's structure, venue, and other important details.

We kick off our social media promotions a few weeks before the festival to reach people from all over Nepal, helping them plan a potential weekend visit. The event often draws curious international visitors as well.

A few weeks prior to the festival, we organize conservation awareness camps in schools near the festival site. Through engaging and interactive presentations by our experts, young students learn about owls and their ecological importance. An interschool competition featuring owl-themed poems, stories, and essays is also held. The winners are celebrated during the festival, and their work is showcased in the owl museum.

A few days before the festival, the team travels to the event site to set up the venue, ensuring everything is prepared. We work closely with local organizers, finalize event components, and coordinate schedules.

On the festival day, we come together to celebrate and enjoy the event.



Owl written by t-shirts as a memorandum of Nepal Owl Festivals from 2012 to 2025



The Owl Festival is designed and organized for people of all ages and genders.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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

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



PROMOTION



Every year we choose different region to conduct Nepal Owl Festival with a hope of spreading conservation messages to diverse communities. But it requires a great effort for the promotion and advertisement to cover a larger mass of probable visitors. We promote the festival and festival site all year round through our official facebook page and groups.

The intense Promotion for the festival started a month before the event by sharing promotional videos, photos of the venue, program details, and other materials on our Facebook page. We also invited national and international researchers to present their research and conservation work through a call for poster presentations on our official page.

On January 26th, a press conference was held in Cultural Village, Dhanusha, managed by Mithila Wildlife Trust, to reach a broader audience and share event information. The conference was attended by 8 journalists from various local and national media outlets.

To expand our digital reach, we also boosted our festival post on Facebook for a week to reach audiences from Kathmandu, Dhanusha and Madhubani, India (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18d3xWxAFH>). Following the press conference, banners were displayed at the festival site, and photos of them were shared in Facebook groups. Many well-known figures from Nepal and abroad helped promote the event by sharing it on their personal social media profiles.

We consistently provided updates on social media about festival preparations, weather forecasts, event schedules, and logistics and transportation information.

नेपाल लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचिल (मुहदुसा) महोत्सव २०८१
मा यहाँलाई हार्दिक निमन्त्रणा !
 सबैजना यो विशेष महोत्सवमा सहभागी बर्नौ ।
 मिति: २०८१/१०/२५ र २६ गते
 स्थान : मिथिला बिहारी नगरपालिका - २ र ३ (जनमुक्ति चौक नजिक), धनुषा
 समय: बिहान १०:०० बजे देखि बेलुका ५ बजे सम्म

- स्थानीय सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम
- चरा अवलोकन (Bird Watching)
- लाटोकोसेरोको संग्रहालय
- झिझिया नृत्य, झरि झरि नृत्य आदि

Mithila Wildlife Trust

Welcome to
Nepal OWL Festival
 7-8 Feb, 2025 (Dhanusa)

नेपाल लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचिल (मुहदुसा) उत्सव
 माघ २५ र २६ गते
 मिथिला बिहारी नगरपालिका, वडा नं. २ र ३ अन्तर्गत पुरवदाहास्थित चण्डेश्वरी आधारभूत विद्यालय
 (कन्चरल मिलेज नजिक)

विश्वका चार मुलुकमा मात्र हुने यो उत्सव यसपाली धनुषामा
 आयोजना हुँदैछ।
 प्रवेश निशुल्क

- सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमहरु
पुराना खेलहरु
लाटोकोसेरोको संग्रहालय
स्टल र अनुसन्धान प्रस्तुति
- नृत्य र नाटक
अनुहारमा लाटोकोसेरो बनाउने
रेथाने खाजाहरु
चरा अवलोकन

नेपाल लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचिल (मुहदुसा) उत्सवमा स्वागत छ
 तामाङ सेलो पनि हेर्ने होइन त!!

२०८१ साल माघ २५ र २६ गते
 मिथिला बिहारी नगरपालिका, वडा नं. २ र ३
 जनमुक्ति चौक

Mithila Wildlife Trust

Mark your calendar !

NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL
 7-8 FEB, 2025
 Mithileshwar, Janakpur

Mithila Wildlife Trust

WE ARE NOT DIFFERENT

Nepal OWL Festival, 2025
 Mithileshwar, Dhanusa
 7-8 February, 2025

FUSION OF CULTURE, CONSERVATION AND ENTERTAINMENT !

nearby Janakpur

Promotional Materials of NOF 2025 posted in Social Media



Remainder for NOF 2025 designed by team of local organizer



Glimpses of Press Conference for NOF 2025

OVERVIEW

Nepal is home to 23 species of owls, and we are committed to protecting and celebrating these magnificent creatures, which play a vital ecological role in the food chain. Through large gatherings, awareness campaigns, and cultural programs, we aim to safeguard owls from threats such as habitat destruction and illegal hunting.

Every year, Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal organizes the Nepal Owl Festival in different regions of the country. This two-day event, held in collaboration with local stakeholders, not only raises awareness about owl conservation but also promotes local tourism.

This year, the 12th Nepal Owl Festival took place on February 7-8 2025 in Mithila Bihari Municipality 2 and 3, Purandaha, Dhanusha in collaboration with Mithila Wildlife Trust. The event, hosted at Shree Sahid Chandeshwor Basic School, successfully brought together conservation efforts with culture, traditional games, and art. It attracted around 7000 attendees, including locals, students, researchers, and conservationists from all over Nepal. In the lead-up to the festival, conservation camps were held in 27 different schools to educate students about the ecological importance of owls, reaching 2146 students.

The festival offered a range of attractions, including an owl museum, conservation dance and drama, conservation posters, organizational stalls, local foods, local cuisines, bird watching, robotic display and local games. Activities like face and nail painting engaged visitors while effectively conveying messages about conservation and the vital ecological roles of owls.



Inauguration ceremony with a tree planting by our esteemed chief guest, Ms. Carol Inskipp, renowned writer and ornithologist.

FESTIVAL SITE

The 12th Nepal Owl Festival took place in Mithila Bihari Municipality, specifically in wards 2 and 3, with the main program and museum set up at Shree Sahid Chandeshwor Basic School. Purandaha is a village located in Ward No. 2 of Mithila Bihari Municipality in Dhanusha District, Madhesh Province, Nepal. The festival site



showcased rich local traditions through

captivating performances such as Jhijhiya Nach, Jhari Jhari Nach, Sama Chakhewa, Ram Sita songs, Tamang Selo, Damphu Nach, and Maharai. Visitors experienced the unique sounds of local musical instruments, while traditional games like Kusti (wrestling), Kabaddi, Titi Giti Giti, Taal Pulli and Guchha.

In addition to its involvement in conservation efforts, Purandaha is home to the Cultural Village, an agritourism center established and managed by Mithila Wildlife Trust. This center offers visitors an immersive experience of rural life and farming activities, promoting local culture and traditions.

Geographically, Purandaha is situated near Dhanushadham, approximately 5 kilometers to the northeast. The area is rich in cultural heritage and natural beauty, making it an attractive destination for those interested in experiencing the traditional lifestyle and ecological diversity of the region.

The festival's location was surrounded by several interesting tourist destinations, providing an ideal cultural and nature retreat. Nearby attractions included Janakpur Dham, Dhanushadham, Mithila Bihari Temple, Parshuram Talab Temple, Kamala River, Dhanushadham Protected Forest, Jaleshwarnath Mahadev Temple, and the Janakpur-Jaynagar Railways. The area offered immersive experiences like ox cart rides, village tours, and visits to the Miyawaki Plantation site, proposed Dhanusha Bird Park. Nature lovers appreciated the region's rich biodiversity, which included wildlife such as Nilgai (Blue Bull), Wild Boar, Fox, and numerous bird species including 7 species of owls.

How to reach Festival Site?

1. You will get bus for Janakpur from major cities.
2. From Dhalkewar, head towards Janakpur.
3. After approximately 20 kilometers, you will see Bhatbhateni Supermarket on your right.
4. Continue straight for another 300 meters, where you will find Baba Petrol Pump, also on your right. This is your final destination by bus.
5. Opposite to the petrol pump, take the left turn towards Dhanusadham. Tempos and local buses are available at the departure point.

Drive for about 10 kilometers on this road. You will reach Cultural Village immediately after Shahid Chowk, where you need to get off.



Thousands of visitors gathered at festival site to see owl performance

PREPARATION OF THE FESTIVAL

Local partnerships played a vital role in organizing the Nepal Owl Festival. Our team visited the proposed venue multiple times, holding meetings with the local community to discuss festival plans. Mithila Wildlife Trust in Dhanusha partnered with FON Nepal, taking charge of local arrangements. Following positive discussions, we finalized the festival schedule, work distribution, budget, venue, school competitions, conservation camp, and accommodation.

The Nepal Owl Festival 2025 Organizing Committee was established in Purandaha, Dhanusha, with Dev Narayan Mandal as chairperson and subcommittees for security, cultural programs, games, sanitation, event management, and fundraising. Shree Sahid Chadeshwor Basic School was designated as the museum venue, with its premises for poster presentations, while a nearby open ground was allocated for the stage, stalls, and audience.

A follow-up meeting two weeks later reviewed progress on stage setup, cultural programs, and school competitions in art, essay, and poetry. Team members Aayush Dhungana, Nikeet Pradhan, and Ashish Thapa, supervised by Mr. Raju Acharya, conducted conservation camps around the festival site. A press conference with local and national media covered the festival schedule, ecological significance of owls, award winners, and itinerary.

The Kathmandu team handled logistics, including packing museum materials, books, banners, owl-related items, and coordinating guest invitations, stalls, and volunteers. Additionally, Mithila Wildlife Trust organized a parallel two-day event with local volunteers. On February 2, 2025, volunteers arrived at the festival site, five days before the event, to unpack and set up the owl museum, ensuring all preparations were in place.





Dedicated volunteers decorating the owl museum



Preparing eco-friendly leaf badges for our guests



Volunteer maintaining the alignment for the display



Local setting up stalls and stage for NOF 2025

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

1. OWL CONSERVATION CAMPS IN SCHOOLS

Sensitizing students and inviting them to the event is integral part of the owl festival. The school camps are targeted to every school around the festival site. In those camps, students learn about owls, their ecological importance, and the threats they face through PowerPoint slide presentations and owl-related videos. A total of 2146 students participated this year from 27 different schools. The list of the participated schools is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: List of schools where school conservation camps were conducted

S.N	School Name	Class	Total Students
1	Shree Namuna Secondary School, Dharapani	9,10	68
2	Super Sense English Boarding School, Dharapani	9,10	78
3	Shree Bhanu Secondary School, Krishanpur	9,10	66
4	Shree Dhanush Janta Secondary School, Dhanushadham	7,8,9,10,11	89
5	Marigold Secondary School, Krishnapur	6,7,8,9	89
6	Shree Rastriya Secondary School, Birendrabazar	8,9	70
7	Shree Secondary School, Bharatpur	10,11,12	62
8	Shree Mahendra Secondary School, Puspapur	5,6,7,8	58
9	New Horizon English Boarding School, Benadawar	6,7,8,9	219
10	Shree Janta Secondary School, Naktajhij	9	55
11	Shree Mahendra Secondary School, Dhalkebar	12	51
12	Wisdom Tree International School	4,5	31
13	Godavari English Secondary School, Janakpur	10	33
14	Shree Saraswoti Namuna Secondary School, Janakpur	6,7,8	69
15	Shree Secondary School, Mithileshwor	8,9,10	118
16	Shree Ja. Ra. Secondary School, Purandaha	6,7,9,10	117
17	Shree Janta Secondary School, Kajra Ramaul	9,10	58
18	Shree Parvati Anarwati Tetarwati Basic School, Tarapatti	7,8	49
19	Shree Secondary School, Sirsiya	9,10	78
20	Shree Ganga Prasad Secondary School, Thera	8,9	67

21	Shree Mithila Bihari Secondary School, Kachuri	9	56
22	Monastic English Secondary School, Janakpur	8,9,10	92
23	Dhanusha Public English Boarding School, Mithileshwor	1,2	34
24	English Point Acadey, Janakpur	4,5	183
25	Satyam International Academy, Janakpur	4,5	108
26	Shree Ram Secondary English School, Janakpur	5	47
27	New Vision Residential Secondary School, Janakpur	6,8,9,10	101
Total Students		2146	

We hope our conservation messages resonated with the students and teachers, helping to reduce owl hunting and trade in the area and inspire young minds to be involved in the biodiversity conservation.



Volunteers conducting conservation camps about owls



Students from different schools engaged in an information-sharing session about owls

2. SCHOOL COMPETITION

Owl themed school competitions in poetry, art, and essay writing were organized in municipal level. The art competition was targeted to primary level students, while the poetry contest and essay competition was for students from grade 9 and 10.

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

Table 2: Winners of respective competition from local schools

Competition	Winner/ School Name	First Runner	Second Runner
Art	Radhika Kumari Mandal, <i>Shree Secondary School</i>	Ashish Jha <i>Shree Ganga Prasad Secondary School</i>	Aman Kumar <i>Shree Secondary School</i>
Essay	Jyoti Kumari Shah <i>Parvati Anarbati Tetarwati Basic School</i>	Yubraj Kumar Mandal, <i>Shree Secondary School</i>	Abhishek Kumar Shah
Poem	Niki Jha <i>Shree Ganga Prasad Secondary School</i>	Anjali Chaudhary, <i>Shree Secondary School</i>	Puja Kri Mandal <i>Shree Ganga Prasad Secondary School</i>



Students from different schools receiving awards after winning school competition 23

24

3. BIRD WATCHING

Bird watching (the Miyawaki Plantation site and Dhanusadham protected forest) is always a highlight of the Nepal Owl Festival. As in previous years, we organized a 2-to-3-hour birding event on both festival days. This year, Mr. Som GC, Expert Birder, led the session which attracted 50 participants, including students and locals. Renowned ornithologists Mrs. Carol Inskipp and Dr. Hem Sagar Baral also joined the session which was inspiring to young students and researchers.

On the first day, 86 bird species were recorded at the Miyawaki Plantation site, followed by 75 species at the Dhanushadham Protected Forest on the second day. Altogether, 114 bird species were recorded over both days.



Happy birding with students and researchers

Briefing session before starting bird watching



Renowned ornithologists and emerging birders in a single frame

4. THE OWL MUSEUM

One of the major attractions of Nepal Owl Festival is the Owl Museum which is setup temporarily in the festival site. The museum displays the owl related conservation materials and owl printed usable materials in a decorative way.

This year the museum was thoughtfully designed and decorated by our dedicated volunteers, featured exhibits spread across four creatively arranged rooms. Each room offered a unique glimpse into the world of owls, capturing the curiosity of local visitors throughout the festival. From intricately crafted displays to engaging visual presentations, the museum aimed to educate and inspire all who attended.

Visitors, including families, students, and community members, explored the museum with keen interest. Many were particularly drawn to specific exhibits, pausing to admire the detailed displays and learn more about these fascinating birds. Our enthusiastic volunteers played a crucial role in enhancing the experience by offering insights into owl species, their ecological importance, and ongoing conservation efforts. Through engaging conversations, they helped bridge the gap between curiosity and awareness, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Children, in particular, found these elements fascinating. The blend of technology, education, and hands-on experiences brought an extra layer of excitement to the festival, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere. The museum not only entertained visitors but also reinforced important messages about owl conservation, making it a memorable and impactful part of the event.

The museum specimens of the owls and its prey captured the hearts of visitors. Local villagers were surprised and thought them as real living owl species which they worshipped as the carrier of Goddess Laxmi (Goddess of Prosperity). We have displayed the museum specimens of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Brown Wood Owl (*Strix leptogrammica*) and their favorite prey species House Rat (*Rattus rattus*). Displaying those specimens helped visitors to experience the beauty of this magnificent creature and understanding their conservation importance.



Owl curios displayed in the Owl Museum



Visitors capturing the information on the Owl Museum



Owl imprinted cups and other material for display



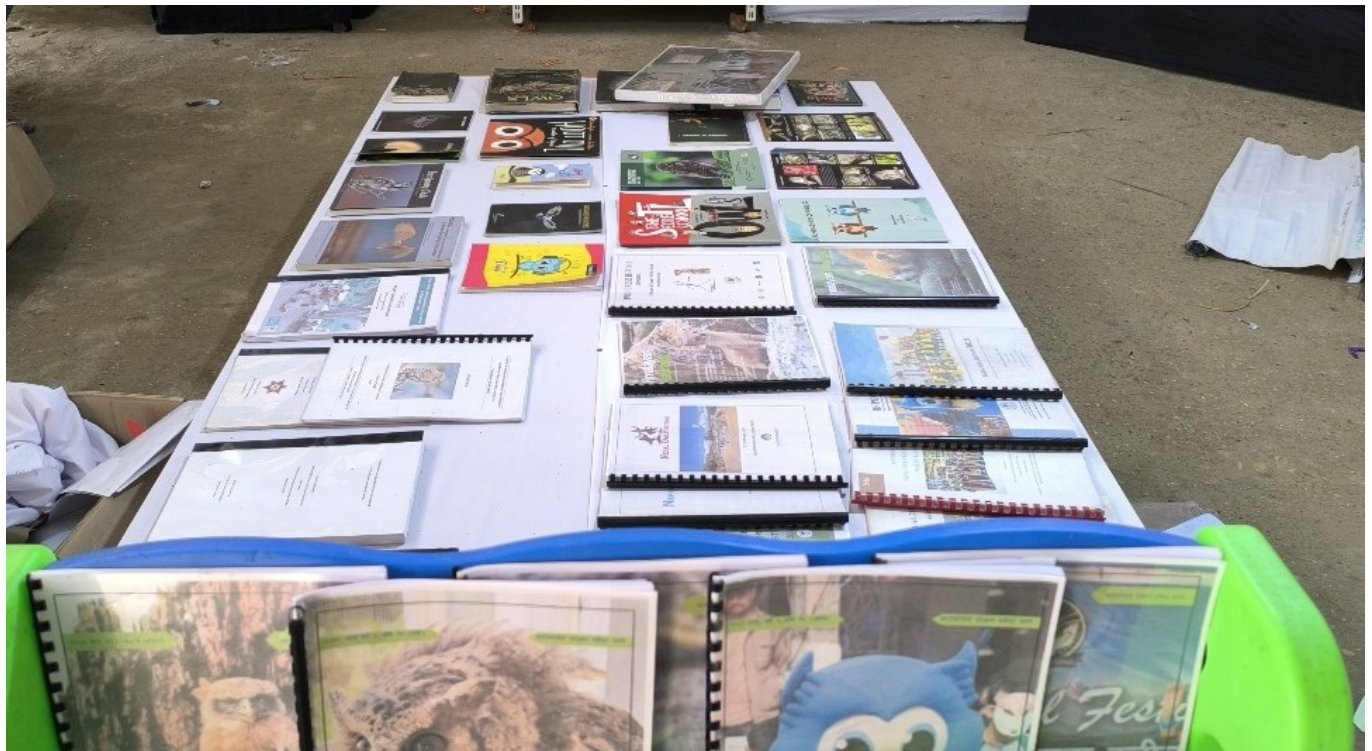
Glimpses of previous owl festivals displayed at Owl Museum



Goddess Laxmi sitting on owl



Owl made through vegetable and leaves



Publications and reports on owls are on display at the Owl Museum.



Owl imprinted wall clock



Owl curios at display



Research equipment is on display at the Owl Museum



Glimpses of owl festival celebrated in different countries (USA, Italy, India, Nepal)



Display of museum specimens of owl species and their prey items



5. OWL ROBOTICS DISPLAY

To enhance the visitor experience at our Owl Museum, we introduced owl robots accompanied by audio and visuals of different owl species. The owl call device features the hoots of eight different owl species namely Barn Owl, Eastern Grass Owl, Mountain Scops Owl, Little Owl, Brown Wood Owl, Spotted Owlet, Collared Owlet, and Indian Eagle Owl which allowed people to hear the hoots of their chosen owl species, adding an immersive audio experience. Additionally, documentaries showcasing the diverse owls of Nepal played continuously, drawing groups of onlookers who were eager to learn more. The robotic owls captivated visitors of all ages with its lifelike movements, with children especially delighted, frequently returning to the display to experience it again.



Robotic displays and volunteers briefing about the displayed owls

6. CULTURAL PROGRAM

Culture has always been soul of Nepal Owl Festival which makes the program engaging and memorable for audience. This year too, we have included traditional dances and local culture, local songs representing the tradition of Dhanusha district.

Visitors were seen enjoying the local and traditional dances like Jatajatin, Sama Chakewa, Jhijhiya, Siddhartha Sishu Sadan School's Cultural dance, IOF Pokhara dance and drama, Ram Sita song, local school dance, Tamang Selo, forest and wildlife related local song, Maharai, Jhari Jhari, local school drama (Puspalpur).

Welcome Song from FON Nepal

Despite being busy setting up the museum during the day, our dedicated volunteers gathered each evening to practice the festival's welcome song. Written by Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah and composed by Rajman Maharjan, the song beautifully blended Maithili and Nepali languages, celebrating the region's rich cultural heritage.

When the song played during the second day of the festival, it captivated the audience, drawing smiles and sparking joyful moments. Many attendees engaged with the performance, and some even joined in by dancing, adding a lively and festive spirit to the event. The harmonious blend of music and culture helped create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone.



*Visitors enjoying welcome song from
FON Nepal*



*Team from FON welcoming guests by a beautiful
song*



Local females displaying their traditional dances





IOF students with owl mascot after performing their dance



Conservation drama by students of IOF

7. LOCAL GAMES

Apart from the local cultural presentation we strive to include various local games which are slowly missing out due to the increasing use of technologies. This year we organized following local famous games:

1. Kabbadi

Kabbadi is a traditional contact team sport in Nepal where two teams with seven players each compete to tag and evade opponents. A single player called 'raider' enters opposing team's court and tag as many defenders as possible without being tackled or captured. The raiders must hold their breath while chanting "kabaddi" during the tagging.

2. Kusti

Kusti is a traditional form of wrestling in Nepal and South Asia, where two wrestlers compete in a mud or sand arena using strength, technique, and grappling skills to pin the opponent to the ground. The one who succeed to pin the opponent wins the game.

3. Golagoli/ Guchha

It is a traditional Nepali game played by children's where players use their fingers to flick small glass marbles, aiming to hit and collect their opponents' marbles by following specific rules on a dirt or sandy surface.

4. Titi

Titi is a favorite game of village kids in Mithila! They draw 6-8 boxes on the ground and push a small flat type stone from one box to another using just one foot. A game of balance and skill, deeply rooted in the traditions of Mithila's villages!

5. Giti Giti

Gitti Giti is a fun group game played in Mithila's villages! A group of 12-13 kids uses a small round object, usually made from rubber or old slippers, and hit it with sticks while passing it around. If someone gets touched by it, they become the next chaser, a game full of laughter, running, and excitement

6. Taal Puli

It is a local game played by children's in Nepal where old rubber tyre is rolled over the surface and balanced through a wooden stick. Those who succeed to cover longer distance without dropping the tyre win the game.

The above games were performed in the festival which presented a vivid traditionalism among the local communities.



Local children enjoying Golagoli/Guchha



Taal Puli: a local game of Janakpur area



Another way of playing Golagoli/Guchha



Locals enjoying festival by playing chungi



Locals displaying a traditional game called Gili Danda



A failed attempt to tag opposing team in Kabaddi



Audiences gathering around and enjoying Kusti

8. ORGANIZATIONAL STALLS

The Nepal Owl Festival provided a vibrant platform for various international, national, and local organizations to showcase and promote their work and products. The festival featured dedicated spaces for these organizations to sell, distribute, and promote their products and initiatives, creating a unique opportunity for engagement with the public.

A diverse range of national organizations set up stalls, including:

- Nature Conservation and Study Centre (NCSC, Kathmandu)
- Chandra Gurung Conservation Foundation (CGCF, Kathmandu)
- Nepal Ornithological Union (NOU, Kathmandu)
- Wild Care, Lalitpur
- Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN, Kathmandu)
- Raise Hands Nepal, Chitwan
- Bat Friends, Pokhara
- International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA, Pokhara)
- Bird Conservation Nepal, Pokhara Branch
- Nepal Conservation and Research Center (NCRC)
- Society for Wildlife Research and Conservation (SOWREC, Pokhara)
- The Jane Goodall Institute Nepal, Kathmandu
- Greenhood Nepal, Kathmandu
- We Work for Conservation (WWFC, Dang)
- Pokhara Bird Society (PBS)
- Bird Conservation Nepal, Hetauda Branch
- Koshi Bird Society
- Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF, Kathmandu)
- Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT), Dhanusha
- Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal

Additionally, several local stalls added a vibrant touch to the festival, offering items exclusive to the local culture and products. These included:

- Shree Madhyamik Bidhyalaya, Mithileshwor, Gauwahi
- Dipa Art Gallery
- Mithalani Ghar

- Craniofacial Centre, Medical Camp
- Food stalls featuring Mithila cuisine
- Pan (Local)
- Fast-food

Visitors thronged around the stalls, purchasing souvenirs and learning about the diverse conservation efforts led by each organization.

FON also set up a vibrant stall, displaying and selling a range of owl-themed merchandise and festival-related items, including masks, cups, keyrings, t-shirts, and posters. The proceeds from the sales will contribute to organizing the next Nepal Owl Festival, supporting ongoing conservation and awareness initiatives.



Different organizations displaying their products and arts for sale in NOF 2025



Female visitors enjoying Chatpat and Panipuri from stalls



Foods stall featuring Mithila Cuisine



Organizational stalls showcasing their products



Greenhood Nepal promoting pangolin conservation through posters



Stall displaying arts by school children



Guests visiting stall of FON Nepal



BCN Hetauda displaying their arts in stall

9. POSTER PRESENTATION

The Nepal Owl Festival brought together researchers and conservationists from various nations and organizations, offering a platform to present and share their work through engaging poster presentations. These presentations highlighted a broad spectrum of research and conservation initiatives across Nepal and beyond. Posters displayed in the festival are given below.

Table 3: List of posters presented at Nepal Owl Festival 2025

S.N	Name	Topic
1	Ms. Shila Gurung	Habitat Monitoring of Rescued Chinese Pangolin in Dhading district of Central Nepal
2	Ms. Binita Timilsina	Seasonal Abundance and People's Perception on Vultures in Pokhara, Kaski
3	Mr. Ashish Thapa	Investigating Population Status and Nesting of Himalayan Griffon and Bearded Vulture in Langtang National Park
4	Mr. Deepak Basnet	Caught on Camera: A Mammalian Diversity Survey in Jajarkot District
5	Ms. Prakriti Pathak	Urban Filters: Early Signs of Avian Homogenization in an emergency Nepalese City
6	Mr. Ramesh Kathariya	Monitoring of Smooth-coated Otter (<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>) in the Western Branch of Lower Karnali River, Nepal
7	Ms. Neeta Pokharel	Local Cultural Beliefs and Practices of Indigenous Communities for Wildlife Conservation in Amaltari, Baghkhori
8	Ms. Jyoti Sharma	Conservation of Critically-endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting (<i>Emberiza aureola</i>)
9	Ms. Rashmi Dhital	Community Perceptions and Drivers of Turtle Exploitation
10	Mr. Nari Soundarrajan	From Rehabilitation to Education: The Role of Raptors as Conservation Ambassador in Appalachia
11	Mr. Aman Sunar	Butterfly Photo Exhibition
12	Ms. Anu Acharya	Status of Human-Elephant Conflict in Bahundangi, Jhapa, Eastern, Nepal
13	Ms. Nikita Phuyal	Nesting Sites and Factors Influencing the Habitat Selection of Mugger crocodile in Beeshazar Lake Complex, Nepal
14	Mr. Krishna Mani Baral	Vulture photo exhibition



Researchers and photographers presenting their work during NOF 2025

10. OWL DART BOARD

Excitement filled the air as children gathered around the owl dart board, one of the festival's highlights. Two dart boards were 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 while hitting the owl also didn't make them looser as the collected fine will be used to support next owl festival. The owl dart board was also an effective way to spread conservation message providing fun and entertainment to the children and adults too.



Happy faces trying to save owl from hunters



Beautiful nail art by our volunteer

11. FACE PAINTING AND NAIL ART

One of the liveliest and most crowded spots at the Nepal Owl Festival was the Face Painting and Nail Art station. This vibrant corner quickly became a major attraction, drawing school children, local villagers, visitors, and even distinguished guests all eagerly waiting their turn to showcase their personalized designs.

Our talented artists Ram Prasad Itani, Hunny Manandhar, Dipa Gurung, Bipin Adhikari and Sikshya Gyawali worked tirelessly to meet the demand. Despite the bustling crowd and the challenge of managing such enthusiasm, the team skillfully completed face painting and nail art for an impressive 600 people in 2 days.

Their creativity and dedication not only added color and joy to the festival but also left lasting memories for all who participated.



Various owls seen at NOF 2025



Biggest flex of Nepal Owl Festival

12. OWL CONSERVATION GRANT

Every year on Nepal Owl Festival, we provide student and graduates with a grant amount who are willing to work on research and conservation of Owls. This year we have provided grant to two students.

First, Owl Conservation Grant recipient was Mr. Nikeet Pradhan, a permanent resident of Kathmandu Metropolitan city-10, Kathmandu, completed Bachelor's degree in Forestry from Agriculture and Forestry University, Hetauda Campus. The grant is awarded for his project entitled "*Monitoring of Artificial Owl Nests in Central Nepal*". We are positive that the outcome from this project broadens the understanding on owls of Nepal.

Second, Mr. Mohan Bucha Magar, permanent resident of Kanchan-4, Rupandehi, pursuing Master's degree in Institute of Forestry, Pokhara Campus. The grant is awarded for his project titled "*Ecological Role of Old Trees in Nepal*". We are positive that the outcome from this project broadens the understanding on owls of Nepal.



Mr. Nikeet Pradhan receiving certificate of grant from Mr. Dev Narayan Mandal

13. OWL PHOTO BOOTH

Photos and videos serve as cherished memories of any event. To enhance engagement and bring the festival to life, we set up photo booths with owls and a stunning natural backdrop. These booths attracted not just children but people of all ages, eager to capture special moments. The festival grounds buzzed with excitement as attendees lined up for their turn to take photos. Many were also seen enthusiastically creating TikTok videos and reels around the booths, adding to the lively atmosphere.



Lively photo booths by guests and volunteers

14. OWL DOCUMENTARY ROOM

The goal of Nepal Owl Festival is to spread conservation messages to every individual attending the event. And what could be the effective way rather than imprinting the owls in the mind of visitors? So, we imply visual presentation about the ecology of owls.

There is a separate documentary room, which showcased 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.



Owl related documentary and festival highlights shown in owl museum

15. 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 Mr. 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, Founder of Mithila Wildlife Trust, Mr. Dev Narayan Mandal 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: Mr. Raju Acharya (Above) and Mr. Dev Narayan Mandal (Below) 53

16. NATURE CONSERVATION AWARD

FON takes gratitude towards awarding and celebrating nature conservationist in every Nepal Owl Festival. This award is a small recognition of their passion and dedication towards nature conservation which shall further motivates them in their journey and make them recognizable in the field of conservation.

This year, Mr. Bhumi Raman Nepal (Conservationist), Dr. Hari Prasad Shamra (Associate Professor), Mr. Abhaya Raj Joshi (Journalist) and Mr. Hemanta Dhakal (Independent Researcher) were awarded for Nature Conservation Award who received NPR 25000 cash and certificate of appreciation.

नेपाल लाटोकोसेरो तथा हुचील उत्सव २०८१
हार्दिक बधाई !
प्रकृति संरक्षण पुरस्कार २०८१

			
डा. हरि प्रसाद शर्मा त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय, काठमाण्डौ	अभय राज जोशी काठमाण्डौ	भुमिरमण नेपाल धादिङ	हेमन्त ढकाल कास्की

स्थानिय संरक्षण पुरस्कार २०८१

		
डा. एसके सिंह जनकपुरधाम	रन्जन भण्डारी माली जलेश्वर	विजयकुमार शाह ढल्केबार

संस्थागत सम्मान २०८१


जीवारी रेस्टोरेशन समिति ईलाम

Conservationists felicitated at NOF 2025

Mr. Bhumi Raman Nepal

Forest Conservation Activist, Dhading

Bhumi Raman Nepal, a resident of Nilkantha Municipality, Ward No. 2, Basaha, Dhading, is a well-known activist in forest conservation and restoration. He began his campaign in 1979-1980 (B.S. 2036/2037) by forming local groups to protect forests and the environment. He has played a key role in establishing and handing over around 200 community forests in the country.

To raise awareness about the importance of forests and natural resources, he has organized hundreds of conservation campaign. His unique efforts include publishing Bhitte Patrika, writing conservation slogans on walls, and spreading messages by blowing Bigul. He strongly believes that local communities should have ownership and responsibility for forest conservation and its management.

His forest resources conservation activism has made him a target of timber smugglers and land mafias. Because of this, he had to go into hiding at times and even pretend to be mentally sick to protect himself. To educate early age children about the importance of forests and the environment he has conducted conservation classes in the several schools.

He played a significant role in organizing Nepal's first Owl Festival in Dhading. Additionally, under the Green School Program, he conducted awareness camps in Salyantar to teach about the importance of birds and trees. His relentless efforts have inspired new conservation initiatives in Nepal and created safe habitats for wildlife.

Bhumi Raman Nepal even sold his own house to support his conservation mission. His famous saying, "Let it be Harro or Barro, but let it not be naked; Let it be a sparrow or a vulture, but let it keep flying." is widely recognized.

Born on June 28, 1955, he lives in the joint family. He is deeply concerned that, interest in forest and environmental conservation is declining among the younger generation. However, he remains committed to continuing his work in protecting and promoting forests. Having received more than two dozen awards and certificates, his life stands as a source of inspiration for forest and environmental conservation in Nepal.

Dr. Hari Prasad Sharma

Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

Dr. Hari Prasad Sharma, originally from Beni Municipality, Ward No. 6, Myagdi, is currently an Associate Professor at the Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu. For the past two decades, he has been actively involved in teaching zoology and research on wildlife in Nepal. He earned his PhD in Biodiversity from Taiwan and completed his Master's degrees from Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and from Norway as well.

So far, he has guided over 40 postgraduate and PhD students in their dissertation work. He has published 77 scientific papers on wildlife (including birds) and their habitats. Additionally, he has conducted around 400 conservation awareness camps and classes, and given 20 media interviews on wildlife conservation.

In 2007, he started to do research in the distribution, population, and conservation challenges of the Red Panda in the lesser-known high mountains of western and far- western Nepal. Along with mammals, he has also worked on the vultures, storks, and cranes. Dr. Sharma has received about 18 national and international research grants and awards. He frequently travels across Nepal with his students for the wildlife research and supervise them in the field.

As the General Secretary of the Nepal Zoological Society, he also serves as a subject committee member at Tribhuvan University and Pokhara University. Under his leadership, research on vertebrate wildlife in Madhesh Province has contributed significantly to the development of wildlife conservation policies and laws in the region.

Dr. Sharma considers local communities living near forests, who coexist with wildlife, as his true role models. He believes that traditional knowledge and conservation practices should not be ignored. He enjoys traveling to remote areas, exploring new places, and interacting with local people.

Born on January 5, 1975, Dr. Sharma lives with his wife and son. His future goal is to continue wildlife research in Nepal and educate the younger generation. His main objective is to train skilled wildlife researchers and ensure the long-term research and conservation works. He firmly believes that only research based, result oriented conservation programs can ensure the long-term sustainability and management of wildlife and emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts from all stakeholders.

Mr. Abhaya Raj Joshi
Journalist, Kathmandu

Abhaya Raj Joshi is a well-known name in the field of environmental journalism and actively working in this field for the past seven years. Joshi is a permanent resident of Tarkeshwar Municipality, Ward No. 10, Kathmandu, and currently lives in Battisputali, Kathmandu. He holds a Master's degree in Law and a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism. His journalism career was begun in 2008.

At present, he is the Nepal correspondent for Mongabay, an international environmental news organization. Previously, he has contributed to The Third Pole, Annapurna Express, The Kathmandu Post, Onlinekhabar, ECS Media, New Business Age, The Himalayan Times, and Nepalnews.com.

So far, Joshi has published over 220 environmental articles, news reports, features, field reports, and interviews. His investigative reports focus on wildlife conservation, poaching and illegal trade, human-wildlife conflict, climate change impacts, and the effects of linear infrastructure on the environment and wildlife movement in Nepal.

Apart from journalism, he has trained over 50 environmental journalists and conservation researchers. His writings are known for their ground reality, investigative and impactful those serving as a guide for conservationists, communities, and policymakers.

Fluent in Nepali, English, Spanish, German, Hindi, and Urdu, Joshi has received several prestigious international fellowships, including, Norad Scholarship (2012), Madanjit Singh Fellowship (2013), Clean Energy Wire Fellowship (2017 & 2019), Earth Journalism Network Fellowship, Climate Change Asia-Pacific Story Grant (2018) and Journalism Fund Fellowship (2020).

He considers the renowned conservationists Sir David Attenborough as his source of inspiration. Joshi has a deep interest in investigative writing, learning new languages, and reading nature and conservation related books.

Born on October 21, 1987, Abhaya Raj Joshi is the youngest son in his family, with two elder sisters. Currently, he lives with his wife and mother. His future goal is to strengthen conservation journalism in Nepal and ensure that conservation related news should be presented fairly, truthfully, and factually to keep all stakeholders well informed.

Mr. Hemanta Dhakal

Researcher & Conservationist, Kaski

Hemanta Dhakal, originally from Pokhara Metropolitan City, Ward No. 6 and currently lives in Ward No. 14, Kaski. For the past 15 years, he has been actively involved in the research and conservation of birds and other wildlife in Nepal. He is pursuing a PhD at Oviedo University, Spain, focusing on the breeding biology and movement ecology of the Critically Endangered Slender-billed Vulture.

Dhakal serves as the Secretary of Pokhara Bird Society and also teaches Zoology at Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. In 2009, he received the first Jatayu (vulture) Scholarship from Bird Conservation Nepal for his Master Degree thesis work. Since then, he has continuously worked on the research and conservation of vulture and other bird. He has conducted over 50 conservation camps, reaching around 20,000 people with awareness programs. He played a key leadership role in organizing Pokhara Bird Fair and Nepal's first and second Bird Fair. Dhakal believes that raising public awareness is the top priority for protecting wildlife and their habitats.

So far, Dhakal has rescued 16 injured and sick wild animals, including vultures and owls. He also guides undergraduate and postgraduate students in their research. He has published 18 scientific papers on vultures, other birds, and wildlife. He also published six conservation related articles in news media. He also advocates for the construction of wildlife friendly infrastructure.

Dhakal considers Raju Acharya, a well-known owl conservationist, as his role model and draws constant inspiration from his dedication. He has a keen interest in bird watching, dancing, writing poetry and songs, and traveling. He believes that community-based conservation programs are essential for the long term and impactful conservation.

Born on November 30, 1984, Dhakal lives with his father, mother, wife, one son, and one daughter. His future plan is to continue working on the conservation of rare vultures, owls, and other birds and wildlife. He has received various national and international research grants. Currently, he is the focal person for IUCN Species Survival Commission Nepal. Dhakal emphasizes that sustainable wildlife conservation requires integrated and strong coordination between communities, stakeholders, conservation organizations, and development projects.



Nature conservation Award winners receiving award (Left to right: Abhaya Raj Joshi, Hemanta Dhakal, Bhumi Raman Nepal and Hari Prasad Sharma

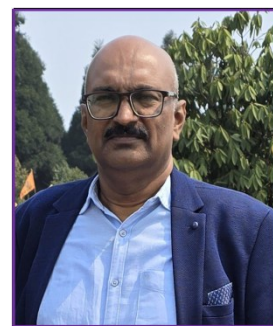
17. LOCAL CONSERVATION AWARD

Apart from nature conservation award we also provide local conservation award which is a gesture of appreciation for the local people who have contributed for the biodiversity conservation. This year, Dr. SK Singh, Mr. Ranjan Bhandari Mali and Mr. Bijaya Kumar Shah has been awarded with Local Conservation Award for their dedication toward wildlife conservation who received a certificate of appreciation.

Dr. S.K. Singh

Janakpurdham, Dhanusha

Dr. S.K. Singh is a renowned physician based in Janakpurdham, the capital of Madhesh Province, Nepal. He has a deep passion for bird watching and photography. Equipped with a camera, binoculars, and various books on the birds of Nepal, he has traveled to numerous important birding destinations in Nepal and India, capturing valuable photographs of diverse bird species. His exceptional photography has not only inspired birdwatchers in Nepal but also played a significant role in attracting the younger generation in the Janakpurdham area towards bird conservation.



Mr. Vijay Kumar Sah

Mithila Municipality, Dhanusha

Mr. Vijay Kumar Sah is the Dhanusha district correspondent for Gorkhapatra Sansthan. He also contributes articles to *Gorkhapatra*, *The Rising Nepal*, and the *Shirish News* online portal. Centering his journalism around the Dhanusha district, Mr. Sah has consistently prioritized publishing news related to forests, the environment, and wildlife. These topics have held a prominent place throughout his journalism journey. His investigative approach and commitment to continuous follow-up have made his reports a source of inspiration for the younger generation in the region, particularly in the fields of forest, environment, and wildlife conservation.



Mr. Ranjan Bhandari Mali

Jaleshwar Municipality, Mahottari

Ranjan Bhandari Mali is the Mahottari district correspondent for *Naya Patrika*. He also publishes and edits the daily newspaper *Mahottari Sanchar*. His writings have consistently encouraged community-based conservation activities. Journalist Bhandari has been actively involved in investigative journalism to promote human-wildlife coexistence and reduce conflicts, regularly publishing stories on these topics. His unbiased and fact-based journalism has made a significant contribution to environmental conservation and wildlife protection.



Local Conservation Award winners receiving felicitation

18. ORGANIZATIONAL FELICITATION 2025

In every Nepal Owl Festival we felicitate an organization contributing for the conservation of nature. We admire their precious work through this felicitation and this year we have felicitated Jaubari Restoration Committee (Ilam), a dedicated organization for wildlife in Eastern Nepal.

*Jaubari Restoration Committee,
Ilam*

The Jaubari Restoration Committee, located in Jaubari, Ward No. 5, Sandakpur Rural Municipality, Ilam District, is a local women's group dedicated to restoring and protecting the natural habitat of wildlife. The committee's main goal is to conserve the endangered Red Panda and its habitat. Although it was officially established on June 28, 2022, it has been actively involved in conservation and restoration of forest habitat since 2015.

Since 2015, the committee has planted approximately 209,047 native trees in the Jaubari Restoration Area and has also installed a 10-kilometer-long protective fence to safeguard the planted saplings. Additionally, the committee has built 13 water ponds for the wildlife and ground recharge. They have provided regular employment to four local residents. The committee independently manages plant nurseries, transplantation, caring of seedlings and protecting plants from livestock.

Due to these restoration efforts, Red Pandas have returned to the area, and this credit goes to the Jaubari Restoration Committee. As a result of these conservation efforts, Pema Pradhan, a representative of the committee, received the Dr. Andreas Memorial Mountain Prize 2024 from ICIMOD. Apart from Red Panda their efforts is creating a suitable habitat for many wild mammals and birds.

The Jaubari Restoration Committee also works on women's leadership development and empowerment while teaching the community to tackle the impacts of climate change. Leading the mission to turn barren land into green forests, the committee also organizes various conservation awareness programs.

Using local resources wisely, the committee is actively restoring Red Panda habitats with the vision of making the Jaubari Restoration Area a dedicated Red Panda Conservation Zone.

The committee hopes to connect fragmented wildlife habitats, making it easier for Red Pandas and other wildlife to move freely across borders.



Representative from Jaubari Restoration Committee receiving felicitation for their work

19. LONG TERM VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

We are proud to have dedicated volunteers and participants who never want to miss the Nepal Owl Festival. To appreciate their efforts and participation we honor them with '**Best Audience Award**'. This award is given for the volunteers who have regularly participated or volunteered in Nepal Owl Festival for four consecutive years and eight consecutive years.

Prof. Karan Bahadur Shah, Mr. Chiranjeevi Khanal, and Ms. Hunny Manandhar were honored with the "**Best Audience Award**" in recognition of their dedicated engagement and voluntary support for the Nepal Owl Festival over the past eight years.

Similarly, Mr. Krishna Bhusal and Mr. Anish Timsina were felicitated for their valuable contributions and support in making the Nepal Owl Festival a success for the last four years.



Guests receiving best audience award for attending consecutive four NOFs



Guests and Volunteers receiving best audience award for attending consecutive eight NOFs

20. MEDIA COVERAGE

Nepal Owl Festival 2025 received extensive coverage from both local and national media. Numerous individuals and media outlets highlighted the event through news reports and video broadcasts.

Online News (National/ Local)

<https://shorturl.at/fM7Es>

<https://tinyurl.com/nr7wj2vy>

<https://shorturl.at/LRBIz>

<https://tinyurl.com/5n953dhd>

<https://shorturl.at/9QgyT>

<https://tinyurl.com/yzc4vm4j>

<https://shorturl.at/nVd4e>

<https://tinyurl.com/y8v2ak8z>

<https://shorturl.at/dt2E8>

<https://tinyurl.com/3cvxw3j9>

<https://tinyurl.com/38kfb2x5>

<https://tinyurl.com/3bu3w9yt>

<https://tinyurl.com/5a2enfhe>

<https://tinyurl.com/87rduuc2>

<https://tinyurl.com/nhbc52dh>

<https://tinyurl.com/5n7j3zbi>

<https://tinyurl.com/2m3yn9ca>

<https://tinyurl.com/v9n7bzrr>

<https://tinyurl.com/vc5mzktj>

<https://tinyurl.com/d49rvpmp>

<https://tinyurl.com/4cndr2uv>

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8uzztv>

<https://tinyurl.com/vc7tn2nc>

<https://tinyurl.com/8znjv7tf>

<https://tinyurl.com/2y2jx3uc>

<https://tinyurl.com/57ut8p2y>

<https://tinyurl.com/25rvsz7d>

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8vjfzp>

<https://tinyurl.com/5djhcebmb>

<https://tinyurl.com/3p823946>

<https://tinyurl.com/293hrdn3>

<https://tinyurl.com/2ad8d8e3>

<https://tinyurl.com/ymn7car2>

<https://tinyurl.com/42k7vdkp>

<https://tinyurl.com/55t5mpae>

<https://tinyurl.com/3bcxsmxi>

<https://tinyurl.com/5bsb7vzp>

<https://tinyurl.com/4426fjme>

<https://tinyurl.com/phpsftpt>

<https://tinyurl.com/3fmdvdz2>

<https://tinyurl.com/4s5peyfc>

<https://tinyurl.com/5n9xu2f7>

Youtube and Tiktok Coverage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya40PRxFx9w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY66x3w5pd4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuRqeexPRuA>

https://www.tiktok.com/@ekantipur_official/video/7467816818741202183?

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/FrCxpz-yvkg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XswWGaJdhm0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvxgnrzAZY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnX1ZoY7pYY>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/9WqsDQNP1MA>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Zy6nEzrqJCo>

<https://www.youtube.com/@mithilawildlifetrust426>

News

Kantipur TV, Avenues TV, AP1 TV

Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/naturerelatednews>

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

Huge thanks to Mr. Rohit Giri, Mr. Nikeet Pradhan, Mr. Raju Acharya and Mithila Wildlife Trust for the photographs. And some images were created using Canva.

21. OWL FESTIVAL IN EASTERN NEPAL

Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadi Municipality-12 has been celebrating its own Owl Festival for the past six years. This year, they marked the occasion with a speech competition, an art competition, and a talk program. Jalpa has declared the Rock Eagle Owl as their ward bird and has banned the use of catapults in their locality. FON Nepal has provided a small amount of money to support awards/prizes for the program.



(Kids receiving their certificates and prizes: Photo by Dil Rai)

Other Photos: In and around Nepal Owl Festival!



In the loving memory of late wildlife photographer Mr. Chungba Sherpa



Local volunteers are distributing badges to the guests using plant leaves



Culture, food, and livelihood around the festival site.



People of all ages and various ethnic groups are enjoying the Owl Festival



This year, we assessed the impact of the **Nepal Owl Festival 2025** on visitors, revealing its **strong positive influence** on society. The festival significantly boosted **conservation awareness**, fostered **proactive behaviors**, and shifted public attitudes toward owl conservation.

Key Highlights:

- ✓ **Greater Conservation Awareness** – 75% of attendees showed improved conservation beliefs.
- ✓ **Action Against Owl Hunting** – Visitors were more likely to oppose illegal owl trade.
- ✓ **Decline in Superstitions** – Negative perceptions dropped from **28% to 9%**.
- ✓ **Education's Role** – Higher education levels correlated with a stronger commitment to conservation.
- ✓ **Economic Benefits** – The festival supported local businesses through increased spending.

This study underscores the power of **cultural and educational festivals** in driving lasting **community-led conservation efforts**.



Chief guest and renowned ornithologist Ms. Carol Inskipp is receiving a 'token of love' from both organizers, Friends of Nature and Mithila Wildlife Trust. This is her second time attending the Owl Festival in Nepal



Dr. Hem Sagar Baral, a veteran ornithologist of Nepal, is delivering a talk on owl conservation issues at the Nepal Owl Festival 2025

SEE YOU AT
NEXT NEPAL OWL FESTIVAL...
BE OWLSOME !

