

VULTURES



After The Crash How Can We Rebuild South Asia's Vulture Population?

Asian vultures have undergone a catastrophic decline in recent decades, with populations crashing by as much as 99%. In India and Nepal, four of nine vulture species are Critically Endangered, largely as a result of poisoning by a drug commonly used to treat livestock, diclofenac.

Since 2006, diclofenac has been banned in these countries for veterinary use, but it is still being purchased on the black market, and vultures are still struggling to rebound in the wake of their population crash. The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) – an initiative co-created by BirdLife in 1985 – has funded projects in both Nepal, in 2010 and 2013, and India, in 2016, to improve the outlook for these overlooked species. In March this year, a CLP Learning Exchange brought a project team member from both countries together to share their knowledge.

Khima Nand Balodi, who led a project to assess the population status and threats facing vultures in Uttarakhand, India in 2016, visited Bhupal Nepali, who has worked to strengthen Vulture Safe Zones in Nawalparasi and to enhance community-based conservation in western Nepal. Here, he shares his Learning Exchange experiences. <http://focusingonwildlife.com/news/after-the-crash-how-can-we-rebuild-south-asias-vulture-population/>

Vultures have many threats! Diclofenac (EU. policy favours its use), wind-farms (most bird charities won't even recognise there's a problem), the enforced incineration of dead livestock (EU. ruling, proposed and voted for by the UK.) and occasionally deliberate poisoning. All of these threats should be taken seriously and met with the utmost opposition wherever they occur, and it's gonna take a bit more than a few 'Vulture Safe Zones,' the whole system needs to be completely overhauled.

***** Voltarol - Active ingredient diclofenac - Highly toxic to Vultures.**

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=vultures+dying+from+diclofenac+poisoning&FORM=HDRSC2>

<http://raptorpolitics.org.uk/2015/03/12/another-mass-poisoning-of-vultures-in-asia-at-least-20-himalayan-griffon-vultures-dead-in-india/>

<http://www.4vultures.org/our-work/anti-poisoning/international-workshop-african-vultures-poisoning/>

<https://focusingonwildlife.com/news/new-study-india-may-have-even-fewer-vultures-than-we-thought/>