



**Project in Pench-Bor Corridor
February 2018**

Team: Mandar Pingle –**Conservation Officer**
Nilesh Telang – **Field Assistant**

Highlights

- *Lantana furniture and crafts training programmes completed in Umri and Bidgaon villages - 12 villagers trained*
- *Demonstration on solar-powered fencing in Telgaon to reduce crop depredation by wildlife*
- *Prepared one compost pit through shramdhaan in Umri village*
- *Assisted a villager from Bidgaon to file for compensation claim for cattle kill*
- *5 film shows attended by 436 people*

Activity details:

On February 27, we organised a demonstration on solar-powered fencing for the farmers of village Telgaon in Kalmeshwar taluka who face damage to their crops from wildlife like wild boars and nilgai. The village of Telgaon is part of 'wildlife corridor' connecting Pench Tiger Reserve in Nagpur district and Bor Tiger Reserve in Wardha district.

In the year 2017, a number of tiger deaths from electrocution were reported. Our Conservation Officer Mandar Pingle, field assistant Nilesh Telang along with Mr Kunal Verma, owner Magsoft Technologies, Nagpur, demonstrated use of 'Rakshak Solar Fencing' and gave detailed explanation of the working of the solar-powered fencing to farmers.

The financial benefits of this fencing, which is cheaper than wire fencing or chain link fencing was explained to the farmers. In the wire fencing, there is a chance of wildlife getting entangled in the fence, causing injury or death. The farmers were convinced that this risk was not present in the solar fencing.

During the meeting, the villagers were also provided information regarding various agriculture-related livelihood options. Information was provided on training programmes in organic farming, beekeeping, mushroom farming and dairy management. 48 villagers were present during the meeting along with sarpanch, up-sarpanch and gram Panchayat members.



Telgaon - Farmers learn use of solar fencing as means of prevention of crop damage from wildlife

Satpuda Foundation successfully organised a lantana craft training programme to train 4 ladies from Umri (Bh.) village of Saoner taluka. The week-long programme started on 13th February and concluded on 20th February. The candidates were taught to effectively eradicate lantana weed and stop its dispersal. The candidates were trained to prepare various utility items like laptop stand, hairpins, key chains, pen stands and lamp shades from lantana.

The programme aims to provide a means of alternate livelihood to these trainees. Mr Jaisingh Phadali, a resident of Matkuli village of Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh was the master trainer for the programme. During the concluding ceremony, a tool kit was provided to each trainee.

A similar training programme was arranged for 8 youths from Bidgaon (Jatamkhora) of Saoner taluka between 21st February and 27th February. Mr Jaisingh Phadali, master trainer, taught the youths techniques to prepare items like laptop stand, hairpins, corner table, *sringardani* and letter box.

List of trainees:

Sr. no	Name	Age	Village
1	Harshika Bhujade	25	Umri(Bh.)
2	Sharda Bhujade	21	Umri(Bh.)
3	Sangeeta Ghugal	44	Umri(Bh.)
4	Shivani Belekar	20	Umri(Bh.)
5	Bhimrao Amrut Kumbhre	18	Bidgaon(J)
6	Marut Bhaorao Kumbhre	29	Bidgaon(J)
7	Prakash Tulsiram Uikey	25	Bidgaon(J)
8	Sachin K Maraskolhe	25	Bidgaon(J)
9	Kamlakar C Sarode	27	Bidgaon(J)
10	Sanjay C Uikey	31	Bidgaon(J)
11	Jeevan Babulal Narate	20	Bidgaon(J)
12	Pawan M Sonwane	18	Bidgaon(J)



Trainees from Umri learn to prepare various utility items from lantana (left); lantana items prepared by trainees from Umri (Bh) village (right)



Trainees receiving kits upon completion of training programme in Umri (Bh) village



Trainees from Bidgaon learn to prepare a corner table during the programme

On 23rd February, trainees of lantana craft programme from Umri village volunteered to prepare a compost pit in the farm of Mr Shankar Sarve. The waste chippings collected during the lantana woodworking were dumped in the pit. Lantana *camara* has been scientifically proven useful as compost for agriculture. The 4 trainees dug a pit of 2ft x 2ft x 2ft dimensions and filled it with lantana wood chippings, cow dung and soil. The compost can be utilised after 50 days. Mandar explained to the trainees that instead of burning the lantana waste, it can be utilised to prepare compost for agricultural use.



Trainees of lantana furniture workshop prepare compost pit using lantana wood waste

On 23rd February, Secretary, Sarpanch, members of gram Panchayat and members of different women's Self Help Groups from Umri village paid visit to Satpuda Foundation's office in Umri village. During the visit, the villagers were shown various utility items prepared by the trainees using lantana. Mandar also provided information on various micro and small enterprise ideas to the villagers which can help them improve their economic condition. Gram Panchayat secretary, sarpanch and members of gram Panchayat appreciated Satpuda Foundation's initiative in their village.



Mandar interacts with villagers during their visit to Satpuda Foundation's office in Umri village

On 27 February, Amrut Kumbhre, a farmer from Bidgaon, found his 6-month old cattle killed by a leopard near his village. Mandar Pingle and Nilesch Telang assisted Mr Kumbhre in filing for compensation. Mandar and Nilesch also talked with the villagers to take due care to avoid conflict with wildlife and to avoid resorting to any illegal action which will harm the leopard.



Villagers from Bidgaon stand next to the cattle killed by leopard near the village

Education van programme

During the month, our team organised 6 film shows to promote awareness about wildlife and nature conservation.

Sr. No	Date	Place	Movie	Participants	Teacher present
1.	22 Feb	ZPUPS,	BBC Land of Tiger	46	Mr SudhirKelzare; Mr Khode
2.	22 Feb	Narendra H.S, Telgaon	BBC Land of Tiger	135	Mr Chichkhede; Mr Rathod
3.	23 Feb	High School, Umri	BBC Land of Tiger	140	Mr Chaudhary
4.	23 Feb	ZPPS, Temburdoh	Sanctuary Films- Melghat Tiger Reserve	40	Mrs Asha Kuthe; Mrs ShaliniGajbhiye
5.	23 Feb	Bidgaon village	Sanctuary films- Melghat Tiger reserve	75	-
6.				436	



Students of Narendra High School, Telgaon watch film on wildlife of rainforests of India (left); film show in ZPUPS Lohgad (right)



Mandar interacts with students of High School, Umri during film show (left); students and teachers watch wildlife documentary in Temburdoh (right)

