



SATPUDA FOUNDATION
PENCH-BOR CORRIDOR IUCN PROJECT – January 2019

Mandar Pingle – *Conservation Officer*

Nilesh Telang – *Field Assistant*

Highlights:

- *Conducted 2 day residential nature education camp in Pench Tiger Reserve – 28 students and 5 teachers participated*
- *Organized meeting in Tembhurdoh to form new self help group*
- *Organized follow-up meeting of self help group preparing paper bags and cloth bags*
- *Provided information regarding skill development trainings organized by Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Nagpur*

Activities:

On 18 & 19 January, Satpuda Foundation conducted a two-day residential nature camp for 28 students and 5 teachers from Umari, Lohgad and Telgaon villages of Pench-Bor corridor at Pench Tiger Reserve, Sillari. This nature camp was conducted as part of the IUCN and Maharashtra State Forest department aided project, 'Integrated Habitat Conservation and Eco-Development in Vidarbha Tiger Landscape'.

Students of classes 7th to 9th who had shown the most active participation during the Wildlife Week celebrations were selected for the camp. During the camp, these students were taken on a bird-watching nature trail. They learnt about the lesser flora and fauna. Students spotted many birds like Indian grey hornbill, painted storks, black ibis, Indian roller, hoopoe and drongo along with many spiders and insects. They were taught to identify pugmarks and hoof-marks of various wild animals during the trail.

In the evening, after the nature trail, students were shown documentary films and presentations based on various wildlife conservation issues like illicit tree felling, poaching, electrocution, and road kills etc.

Students were then taken for a jungle safari on the next day inside Pench Tiger Reserve. During the safari, students saw many wild animals like gaur, sambar deer, spotted deer and langurs. Students were excited to see animals like dhole and jackals during the safari. They visited spots like Bakhari lake, Phephri kund, Juna boat camp, Ambakhori, "Bamboo Van" etc and learnt about various habitat types. They also spotted many birds during the safari. They also learnt about the value of Pench Tiger Reserve and Pench River for both wildlife as well as human existence.



Mandar welcomes students for the nature camp (left); Students water a sapling to inaugurate nature camp (right)



Mandar speaks about tigers in the Nature Interpretation Centre at Sillari (left); Students learn to spot and identify birds on nature trail (right)



Students visit Ambakhori waterfall during jungle safari (left); Mandar conducts nature games (right)



Students pose for group photo at the conclusion of the nature camp

On 16 January, Nilesh organized a meeting for 9 women of Temburdoh village. These women are not part of any self help group (SHG) and had requested Satpuda Foundation to provide information about SHGs. During the meeting, Nilesh explained the importance of SHGs in improving improve both social and economic conditions. He also provided information on various micro-enterprise business ideas to the women along with government schemes that provide financial assistance to women's SHGs. During the meeting Mr. Roshan Lakadkar, Extension Officer for Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission at Panchayat Samiti Saoner, was also present to guide the women.



Women from Temburdoh village get information about benefits of forming a self help group

On 24 January, Nilesh organized a meeting for members of Jai Seva Mahila Bachat Gat of Bidgaon village. During the meeting Nilesh taught the members to maintain the account books. He helped clear their doubts regarding book keeping. He then provided information regarding insurance schemes run by government and Post Office and explained how investing in these schemes can benefit them and their families in future.



Nilesh providing assistance in book-keeping to members of Jai Seva Mahila Bachat Gat in Bidgaon

During the month, Nilesh provided information on various skill development trainings being provided by Rural Skill Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Nagpur. RSETI, a Maharashtra State government undertaking, provides free skill development trainings like tailoring, beauty parlor course, photography and videography courses etc which will help unemployed youths in gain self-employment. Nilesh put up banners provided by RSETI, Nagpur near gram Panchayat, bus stops and other public places. He also provided information to village youths, members of self help groups and farmers.