



Satpuda Foundation
Monthly Report – October 2019
Pench-Bor Corridor

Prepared by
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Highlights

- ***Wildlife Week celebrated by 286 students of Pench-Bor corridor***
- ***Organized workshop for Forest Department staff on tackling man-animal conflict***
- ***Organized training and set up 2 mushroom cultivation units in Umari - 20 villagers participated***
- ***Organised meetings of women's self help groups (SHGs) on alternative livelihood options***
- ***Organised meeting of village youths in Telgaon on alternative livelihood options - attended by 27 youths***
- ***Meeting of farmers on man-animal conflict prevention organized - attended by 110 farmers***

Date	Activity	Place	Participants
5 Oct	Wildlife Week 2019 - Essay and drawing competition	Telgaon	89
6 Oct	Wildlife Week 2019 - Essay and drawing competition	Lohgad	77
7 Oct	Wildlife Week 2019 - Essay and drawing competition	Umari	120
11 Oct	Livelihood related meeting for women self help groups	Telgaon	42
17 Oct	Set up one oyster mushroom cultivation unit in Umari	Umari	2
18 Oct	Meeting of village youths on livelihood	Telgaon	27
18 Oct	Meeting with women self help group on making paper bags	Telgaon	12
18 Oct	Audio-visual presentation in Narendra High school	Telgaon	90
18 Oct	Meeting of farmers on man-animal conflict	Telgaon	110
24 Oct	Workshop for Forest Department staff on man-animal conflict mitigation	Kalmeshwar Range Forest Office	
28 Oct	Training and set up one oyster mushroom cultivation unit in Umari	Umari	18

30 Oct	Assisted Forest Department staff in patrolling and meeting villagers on man-animal conflict prevention	Gondikhapa, Malegaon	100
31 Oct	Meeting with villages on tiger sighting and prevention of conflict	Malegaon, Chandikapur	250

Activity

Satpuda Foundation celebrated Wildlife Week 2019 along with students of Telgaon, Lohgad and Umari villages. Drawing, painting and essay competitions were arranged for the students of Narendra High school in Telgaon on 5 October, Narendra High School in Lohgad on 6 October and Sarvoday High School in Umari on 7 October. A total of 286 students took part in these competitions. The students of class 8 and class 9 wrote essays on topics such as – ‘If I became a forest officer’, ‘Wildlife: Our friend or foe’. Students of class 5-7 participated in drawing and essay competitions and made illustrations to showcase floral and faunal biodiversity.



Students of Telgaon (left) and Lohgad (right) participate in essay and drawing competitions



Mandar giving information on Wildlife Week in Sarvoday High School, Umari

On 11 October, Satpuda Foundation organized a meeting on alternative livelihood options for members of women’s SHGs from Telgaon and Lohgad villages. 42 women belonging to 19 SHGs attended the meeting. During the meeting, the women were provided information on

setting up of food processing micro-enterprises. Extension officer for Maharashtra Rural Self-Employment Scheme (MSRLM) for Kalmeshwar Panchayat Samiti provided information on trainings that can be given to the women. He also gave information on government subsidies and insurance schemes for SHGs.



Women attend meeting on alternative livelihood options in Telgaon

On 28 October, Satpuda Foundation organized a training programme on oyster mushroom cultivation in Umari village. 13 women of Durga Mahila Bachat Gat and 5 farmers from Telgaon attended the programme. Mandar Pingle provided training on oyster mushroom cultivation and assisted the members of Durga Mahila Bachat Gat in setting up a unit with a production capacity of 50kg. Mandar also provided training on processing, packaging and marketing of fresh and dry oyster mushrooms.

Earlier, on 17 October, Mandar had assisted Dnyaneshwar Sarve, a youth from Umari village, in setting up an oyster mushroom cultivation unit in a shed in his farm.



Mandar giving information on oyster mushroom cultivation (left); women prepare room for mushroom cultivation (right)



Members of Durga Mahila Bachat Gat fill bags with substrate and mushroom spawn



Mandar trains Dnyaneshwar Sarve in preparing substrate for mushroom (left)

Dnyaneshwar Sarve's mushroom cultivation unit (right)

On 18 October, a meeting was arranged for unemployed youths from Telgaon village. During the meeting, Mandar provided information on existing job openings at Amazon Pvt. Ltd in Butibori, Nagpur. Mandar also provided information on job openings for security guards in Pune and Nashik region. The youths were also informed about various skill development training programs being conducted by Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) and Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (MCED) in Nagpur. Information on these job openings were also provided to youths from Lohgad, Umari, Bidgaon and Temburdoh later in October.



Mandar giving information on various jobs to youths from Telgaon

On 18 October, an audio-visual presentation was arranged for students of Narendra High school in Telgaon. During the session, students were given information on birds found near their village. Mandar explained the ecological importance of the birds and the need to protect birds. The students also participated in a quiz competition on birds. Later Forest Guard Mr. Raut interacted with the students and explained to them the role of the Forest Department in wildlife protection and urged them to assist Forest Department staff in conservation initiatives.



Mandar teaching about various birds to students of Narendra High School, Telgaon

On 18th October, Satpuda Foundation organized a meeting for farmers from Telgaon to provide information regarding compensation schemes for crop depredation by wild animals. Farmers reported that crop depredation due to wild boars and blue bulls is a matter of concern for farmers in the region. Mandar provided information on the compensation scheme being implemented by Maharashtra State Forest Department. Information on the documents required and the format for compensation claim application was explained to the farmers in detail during the meeting. Mandar also informed the villagers that they should strictly avoid resorting to illegal activities like electrocution, poisoning etc. to curb crop depredation. Contact details of the concerned Forest Department staff were also provided to the villagers.

On 24 October, a workshop on prevention and mitigation of man-animal conflict in Pench-Bor tiger corridor was organized for the staff of Kalmeshwar Territorial Forest range by Maharashtra State Forest Department and Satpuda Foundation. The workshop was organized keeping in mind the increasing man-animal conflict cases due to tigers and leopards in the region. During the training, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Mr. Prajyot Palave and Range Forest Officer (RFO) Mrs. Archana Naukarkar briefed the staff on conflict cases in the range. Mandar gave training to the staff on creating awareness and outreach amongst villagers on man-animal conflict. Issues pertaining to crop-damage and cattle kill compensation and speedy compensation to prevent revenge killings of wildlife were discussed. The staff was also given instruction to organise regular patrols to detect signs of electrocution, poisoning, open wells etc. within their jurisdiction.



Workshop on man-animal conflict mitigation at RFO Kalmeshwar office

On 30th October, Mandar received information from Mrs. Nirmala Srirame, Anganwadi sevika of the village that a tiger had been sighted in a farm near Gondikhapa village. Mandar, along with Forest Department's Round Officer Mr. Sarode, Forest Guard Mr. Rewatkar and 2 laborers employed by the Forest Department visited Gondikhapa to confirm the location of the tiger. The team patrolled nearby forest area to check for any signs such as pugmarks or scat of the tiger. However, no signs were found. Earlier on October 28, a cattle kill made by tiger was reported in Malegaon village near Gondikhapa. Villagers from Malegaon had also informed about sighting of the tiger in their farms on October 29. Later on October 31, a meeting with villagers of Malegaon and Chandikapur villages was organized in order to prevent any conflict. During the meeting, Mandar along with Mr. Rewatkar advised the villagers of the necessary steps to safeguard themselves and their cattle. Information on cattle kill compensation was also provided to the villagers. Primary Response Teams (PRTs) comprising of 5 volunteers each from these two villages have also been formed to assist Forest Department staff in case a conflict situation arises.



Team patrolling forest area near Gondikhapa and Malegaon to search for signs of tiger presence (left); Mandar explaining steps to villagers of Malegaon to prevent man-animal conflict situation