

KANHA
April 2016

Team: Amit Awasthi – *Conservation Officer*
Sampathlal Dhurve – *Field assistant*

Highlights

- ⇒ *Two shramdhaans for community assistance – area next to hand pump at Chapri and Patpara cleaned*
- ⇒ *3 compost pits prepared in 3 villages*
- ⇒ *Painting of conservation slogans on walls in 3 villages*
- ⇒ *4 awareness programmes on forest fires*
- ⇒ *3 anti-plastic programmes*
- ⇒ *2 nature trails for village children to promote awareness about nature and conservation*
- ⇒ *Environment education programme conducted in 7 schools – attended by 165 students*
- ⇒ *8 film shows on nature and wildlife – attended by 347 students*
- ⇒ *2 unemployed youths get jobs with our help*

Conservation work

Date	Village	Activity	No. of participants
April 15	Chapri	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump and clean soak pit	8
April 17	Patpara	-----do-----	7
April 4	Patpara	Dug compost pit at Dheer Singh's residence	1
April 10	Manegaon	Dug compost pit at Chhater Singh's residence	1
April 21	Bhagpur	Dug compost pit at Indrasingh Maravi 's residence	1
April 20	Batwar	Painting of conservation slogans on walls	
April 28	Kutwahi	-----do-----	
April 30	Bhagpur	-----do-----	
April 6	Manegaon	Awareness programme on forest fires	14
April 9	Batwar	-----do-----	23
April 18	Patpara	-----do-----	13
April 26	Chapri	-----do-----	12

April 5	Kutwahi	Anti-plastic programme	12
April 19	Sautiya	-----do-----	9
April 26	Chapri	-----do-----	8
April 25	Dhamangaon	Nature trail programme	11
April 29	Batwar	-----do-----	10

On April 15, Sampath led a team of 8 people in a programme to clear wild growth around a hand pump at Batwar. Wild growth had proliferated around the hand pump and access to the pump was affected. Our team, which comprised 8 youths from the village, removed the wild growth and cleaned the soak pit. A similar programme was organised on April 17 to clear the area next to a hand pump at Patpara.



Chapri- Hand pump site before (left) and after our programme (right)



Volunteers clear area around hand pump and soak pit

Our team encourages organic farming as part of our strategy to reduce the impact of chemical fertilisers on fields adjoining prime wildlife areas. Part of our work includes assistance to villagers in setting up vermi-compost tanks and compost pits. During

April, we helped 3 villagers dig compost pits – Dheer Singh of Patpara on April 4, Chhater Singh of Manegaon on April 10, and Indram Maravi of Bhagpur on April 21.



Bhagpur- Compost pit built with our assistance at Indram Maravi's house

During the month, we arranged for conservation slogans to be painted on walls of houses in prominent places in 3 villages to promote awareness about conservation.



Kutwahi - Conservation slogan painted in wall

During the month, Amit also organised 4 awareness programmes on forest fires. Fires are a recurring hazard during summers. Sometimes, villagers start fires as they believe that tendu leaves sprout better after such fires. Collection of tendu leaves takes place during April. In our awareness programmes, we explained the dangers that such fires cause to the forest and to wildlife and how they could harm villages if they blazed out of control.



Patpara - Sampathlal conducts awareness programme on forest fires

On April 5, our team organised an anti-plastic programme at Kutwahi. Sampath spoke to the villagers of the village about the harmful impact of plastic/polythene on the environment and motivated them to remove such litter from the village. The team of villagers and students went around the village, collecting plastic and polythene litter/waste, which were then buried in a pit on the outskirts of the village. Two similar anti-plastic programmes were organised at Sautiya on April 19 and at Chapri on April 26.



Kutwahi- Children collect plastic litter from village during our anti-plastic drive

Education

During the month, our team organized environment education programmes in 7 schools in the villages in our area of operations.

S.no	Date	School	Village	Number of participants
1	April 4	Government Middle School (GMS)	Dhamangaon	36
2	April 5	Government Primary School (GPS)	Manegaon	29
3	April 6	GMS	Batwar	23
4	April 8	GPS	Chapri	22
5	April 9	Education guarantee scheme school (EGS)	Samaiya	17
6	April 11	GPS	Batwar	22
7	April 16	EGS	Bhagpur	16
			Total	165



Patpara - Sampathlal Dhurve conducts environment education programme in village school

Amit and Sampath led children of Dhamangaon and Batwar on nature trails on April 25 and April 29 respectively. On the trails, they helped children identify various species of plants and animals and explained the importance of preserving our environment.



Batwar - Sampath speaks to village children about conservation during nature trail

Education van programme

There were 8 film shows on nature and wildlife conservation in March

Sr. no.	Date	Village	Film name	Participants
1	April 12	Chapri	Land Of Tiger B.B.C.part-1	28
2		Kutwahi	----do----	46
3		Sautiya	----do----	35
4	April 13	Dhamangaon	----do----	56
5		Bhagpur	----do----	48
6		Batwar	----do----	53
7	April 14	Manegaon	----do---	37
8		Patpara	----do---	44
			Total	347



Batwar - School children and villagers watch film on nature and wildlife conservation

Livelihood programmes

As part of our programme to reduce pressure on forests, we have been encouraging villagers to take up alternative livelihood options. In Kanha, we have been encouraging villagers to take up vegetable farming as there are several resorts around Mocha and there is a steady flow of tourists who require fresh vegetables. Over the past 2 years, we have assisted around 30 villagers in taking up vegetable farming and they are earning around 500-1,000 rupees a week in additional income. The vegetable patches are typically of small size and located in the backyards of the residences. Some villagers have now got enough confidence to expand and are planning to use part of their farm land for this activity.



Kanha – Mungiya Bai of Kutwahi (left) and Sarita Bai of Chapri (right) tend to vegetable patches set up with our help

Employment Cell

We helped 2 youths get jobs during the month of April

S. No.	Date	Village	Name	Monthly Salary in rupees	Education	Age	Job
1.	April 11	Chapri	Ganesh Dhurwey	4,000/- + meals	M.A.	28	Worker at Royal Sylvan Resort, Chapri

2	April 20	Manegaon	Suresh Sarote	3,500/- + meals	8 th standard	26	Waiter at Celebration Resort, Mocha
---	-------------	----------	------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------	----	--



*Ganesh Dhurwey of Chapri who got a job at Royal Sylvan Resort, Chapri,
with our help*