

KANHA
April 2019

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *Completed 7 micro-plans for buffer zone villages*
- ⇒ *1 waterhole prepared at Budbudi nallah in Chapri*
- ⇒ *Awareness campaign for tiger conservation on Navratri festival*
- ⇒ *Awareness rally on tiger conservation with women self-help groups in Batwar*
- ⇒ *Assisted 16 villagers in applying for LPG connections under Ujjwala Yojana*
- ⇒ *Assisted 5 Baiga tribal farmers in getting solar-powered irrigation pumps*
- ⇒ *4 awareness programmes on forest fires*
- ⇒ *Helped make arrangements for drinking water in Bhagpur*
- ⇒ *Seed collection done by villagers for use in proposed monsoon plantation programme*
- ⇒ *Installed water pots for birds in 3 villages*
- ⇒ *Environment education programme conducted in 6 schools - attended by 128 students*
- ⇒ *7 film shows on nature and wildlife – attended by 281 students*
- ⇒ *3 unemployed youths placed in resorts*
- ⇒ *Meeting on livelihood options held with women's SHGs*

Conservation work

Date	Village	Activity	No. of participants
April 5	Khatiya Range	Completed 7 micro-plans	
April 14	Chapri	Waterhole prepared at Budbudi nallah	8
April 11	Bhagpur	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump and to clean a soak pit	8
April 21	Chapri	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump and to clean a soak pit	6
April 6,7,8	buffer zone villages	Fixed banners with conservation slogans	
April 10	Batwar	Awareness rally on tiger conservation with women's SHG	52
April	Samaiya-Bhagpur,	Helped 16 villagers apply for LPG connection under	

	Batwar,Sautiya, Manegaon, Patpara,Dhama ngaon	Ujjwala yojna	
April	Dhamangaon,	Assisted 5 Baiga farmers in getting solar-powered irrigation pumps	
April 12	Batwar	Ramfal Pusham trained in preparing vermi-compost	5
April 3	Sautiya	Dug compost pit at Anjana Bai Markam's residence	1
April 4	Manegaon	Dug compost pit at Somvati Bai Maravi's residence	1
April 13	Manegaon	Dug compost pit at Kamla Bai Dhurwey's residence	1
April 19	Samaiya	Dug compost pit at Devki Bai Tekam's residence	1
April 27	Samaiya	Dug compost pit at Premvati Bai Saiyam's residence	1
April 14	Batwar	Awareness programme on forest fires	18
April 18	Bhagpur	-----Do-----	19
April 19	Samaiya	-----Do-----	23
April 27	Dhamangaon	-----Do-----	14
April 20,22,23	Batwar, Manegaon, Patpara	Seeds collection for planned monsoon plantation programme	
April 3,4,11	Sautiya, Chapri,Kutwahi	Installed water pots for birds	

Satpuda Foundation assisted Range Forest Officer, Khatiya and the Green Brigade Foundation, Balaghat in preparing 5-year micro-plans for 7 buffer zone villages in the range. We conducted meetings with villagers to enquire about their needs and to know about local issues related to conservation. We are suggesting solutions in these plans as per the needs of the villagers. We had prepared similar micro-plans for Kutwahi and Khishi and are working on 3 remaining villages.



Khatiya Range - Completed micro-plans

During the month, our team organised a programmes to prepare a waterhole inside the jungle at Budbudi nallah in Chapri on April 14. Eight villagers from Chapri volunteered for the shramdhaan program. We prepare these waterholes at specific locations in consultation with the Forest Range Office, Khatiya. These waterholes will help provide clean water for wildlife and reduce their need to venture near human habitations for water during summer. It will thus help reduce man-animal conflict.



Chapri – Team prepares water hole at Budbudi Nallah (left); Waterhole completed (right)

On April 11, Sampath led a team of 8 people in a programme to clear weed growth and plastic waste around a hand pump and in a soak pit at Bhagpur. Wild growth had proliferated around the hand pump and access to the hand pump was affected. Our team, which comprised of 8 youths from the village, removed the wild growth and cleaned the area and prepared the soak pit. A similar programme was organised at Chapri on April 21.



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

In April, Satpuda Foundation along, with Kanha Eco-village Resort, spread the message of tiger conservation on the occasion of Navratri festival. Our team along with volunteers from villages posted banners with conservation message in local dialect near Khatiya gate and along the main street leading to the gate. 40 locations were selected so that these banners are clearly visible to both local community as well as tourists.



Khatiya - Awareness poster at shop near Khatiya gate (left) and main road (right)

During April, our team organised conservation rallies in which members of women's self-help groups (SHGs) participated. At Batwar, on April 10, 52 women representing 10 SHGS later took part in a rally. The rally moved through different areas of the village, with the women raising slogans to make the community aware about the importance of tiger conservation.



Batwar - Members of women's SHGs start conservation rally organised by our team

Satpuda Foundation had helped 12 families from Dhamangaon to apply for solar-powered pumps under a Government-sponsored scheme. This scheme is aimed at providing irrigation facilities specifically to tribal farmers. Out of these 12 applications, 5 were approved in April. Earlier in March, 4 farmers were provided this facility. The remaining 3 farmers will be provided solar pumps next month. By using solar power, farmers are adopting green and clean energy. Further, in remote locations like Dhamangaon, electricity supply is unreliable, affecting irrigation systems.

Details of the beneficiaries are given in the table below:

List of villagers receiving solar-powered water pump

	Village	Name of villagers
1	Dhamangaon	Ramdeen Baiga
2	Dhamangaon	Kaliyo Bai Baiga
3	Dhamangaon	Lacchi Baiga
4	Dhamangaon	Mahadev Baiga
5	Dhamangaon	Titri Bai Baiga



Dhamangaon- Sampath assists villagers in setting up solar-powered pumps

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 5 villagers dig compost pits – Anjana Bai Markam of Sautiya on April 3, Somvati Bai Maravi of Manegaon on April 4, Kamla Bai Dhurwey of Manegaon on April 13, Devki Bai Tekam of Samaiya on April 19, and Premvati Bai Saiyam of Samaiya on April 27.



Samaiya- Compost pit built with our assistance at Premvati Bai Saiyam 's house

On April 12, our team provided training in preparing vermi-compost to Ramfal Pusham of Batwar village.



Batwar- Ramfal Pusham being trained in preparing vermi-compost

During the month, Amit 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.



Samaiya – Amit Awasthi conducts awareness programme on forest fires

Due to intense heat during summer season and unavailability of electricity in Bhagpur, villagers faced scarcity of drinking water. Despite repeated requests to authorities by the villagers, no action was taken. Amit Awasthi informed the local member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and president of Tribal Project, Mr Narayan Singh Pattaji about the issue. Mr Pattaji took cognizance of the matter and requested District Collector, Mandla and Janpad Panchayat to take suitable measures. Water tankers were deployed in the village. Within the next couple of months, electricity will be restored in the village and new hand pumps will be provided.



Bhagpur – Villagers get drinking water after our intervention

In April, we encouraged villagers to collect seeds of local tree species. These seeds will be used to prepare saplings for our plantation drive during the monsoon season. Villagers collected seeds of *lendiya*, *saja*, *sallan* etc. found in and around their villages. We will now prepare saplings from these seeds and distribute them to the villagers during monsoon season.



Patpara - Seeds collected by villagers

With the summer heat at its peak, our team has been motivating villagers to put up containers with water so that birds and small animals can quench their thirst. Around 46 containers were put up in 3 villages in April.



Manegaon - Village child fills water pot for birds

Education

During the month, our team organized environment education programmes in 6 schools in the villages in our area of operations.

S.no	Date	School	Village	Number of participants
1	April 1	Government Primary School (GPS)	Chapri	22
2	April 3	GPS	Sautiya	12
3	April 4	GPS	Manegaon	28
4	April 6	GPS	Batwar	17
5	April 8	Government Middle School (GMS)	Patpara	23
6	April 9	GMS	Dhamangaon	26
			Total	128



Kutwahi - Sampath Dhurve conducts environment education programme in village school

Education van programme

There were 7 film shows on nature and wildlife conservation in April.

Sr	Date	Village	Film name	Participants
1	April 15	Manegaon	Kanha Laxmi	34
2		Patpara	----do----	46
3	April 16	Dhamangaon	----do----	46
4		Bhagpur	----do----	42
5		Samaiya	----do----	51
6	April 17	Kutwahi	----do---	34
7		Sautiya	----do---	28
			Total	281



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

Livelihood programmes

Employment Cell

We helped 3 youths get jobs during the month of April

S. No.	Date	Village	Name	Monthly Salary in rupees	Education	Age	Job
1.	April 9	Mocha	Anil Dubey	5,000/- + meals	12 th standard	35	Assistant Manager at Kanha Eco-village Resort, Chapri
2	April 12	Chapri	Vivek Thakur	3,500/- + meals	10 th standard	18	Waiter at Kanha Resort, Mocha
3	April 18	Chapri	Ajay Uikey	3,500/- + meals	12 th standard	19	Waiter at Kanha Resort, Mocha



Vivek Thakur of Chapri got a job at Kanha Resort, Mocha (left); Anil Dubey of Mocha got a job at Kanha Eco-village Resort, Chapri with our help (right)

SF organized a joint meeting of women's SHGs working in the buffer area, in which their activities were reviewed. These include vegetable production, microme art, tribal food products, sewing, mushroom production etc.

Along with the above, Amit discussed conservation-related activities in villages such as animal husbandry and cooking gas connections. During this meeting, Amit requested assistance from the members for activities such as check dam construction, sanitation campaigns, and training programs for youths.



Batwar -Amit speaks to SHG members at workshop