

**KANHA**  
**FEBRUARY 2016**

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

**Highlights**

- ⇒ *1 shramdhaan programme on water conservation – check dam built at Dala nallah, Samaiya*
- ⇒ *1 shramdhaan for community assistance – area next to well cleaned at Kutwahi*
- ⇒ *3 awareness programmes on vermi-compost*
- ⇒ *3 compost pits prepared*
- ⇒ *2 anti-plastic programmes*
- ⇒ *7 film shows on nature and wildlife – attended by 451 students*
- ⇒ *Environment education programme conducted in 12 schools – attended by 337 students*
- ⇒ *2 unemployed youths get jobs through our Employment Cell*
- ⇒ *1 workshop on village development with women’s SHGs and villagers*

**Conservation work**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>No. Of participants</b>
Feb 21	Samaiya	Check dam constructed at Dala nallah	13
Feb 13	Kutwahi	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to well & make a soak pit	9
Feb 3	Batwar	Awareness programme on vermi-compost	11
Feb 6	Samaiya	-----do-----	9
Feb 7	Patpara	-----do-----	12
Feb 4	Samaiya	Prepared compost pit at Katku Tekam’s residence	1
Feb 17	Kutwahi	Prepared compost pit at Gallo Bai Uikey’s residence	1
Feb 27	Patpara	Prepared compost pit at Padam Singh Markam’s residence	1
Feb 5	Batwar	Anti-plastic programme	12
Feb 12	Patpara	-----do-----	11

In water conservation work, we organised a programme to construct a check dam on February 21. The site of the dam was Dala nallah, a stream adjoining the jungle around 0.5 km from Samaiya village. Thirteen villagers, including members of Durga women’s self-help group (SHG), unemployed youths and village elders comprised the

team which built the dam. Wildlife and domestic livestock will both benefit from this water body. Nilgai and sambhar are spotted regularly in the area.



*Check dam site at Dala nallah before our programme (left) and after (right)*



*Volunteers build dam using locally available materials*

On February 13, Amit and Sampath led a team of 8 people in a programme to clear wild growth around a well at Kutwahi. Due to heavy rains, wild growth had proliferated around the well and access to the well was affected. Our team, which comprised 5 youths and 4 women from the village, removed the wild growth and cleaned the area and also dug a soak pit.



*Kutwahi- Well site before (left) and after our programme (right)*



*Volunteers clear area around hand pump and dig soak pit*

We also held 3 programmes during February to promote awareness about vermi-compost. Details are given in the above table. Deputy Ranger (Khatiya Range) S C Thakre and Forest Guard (Batwar) Shayamlal Dhurwey participated in some of the programmes.

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 February, we helped 3 villagers dig compost pits – Katku Tekam of Samaiya on February 4, Gallo Bai Uikey of Kutwahi on February 17 and Padam Singh Markam of Patpara on February 27.

On February 5, our team organised an anti-plastic programme at Batwar. Amit and Sampath spoke to the villagers 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. A similar anti-plastic programme was organised at Patpara on February 12.



*Patpara- Children collect plastic litter from village during our anti-plastic drive*

### ***Education***

During the month, our team organized environment education programmes in 12 schools in the villages in our area of operations.

S.no	Date	School	Village	Number of participants
1	Feb 1	Government Primary School (GPS)	Manegaon	34
2	Feb 4	Government Middle School (GMS)	Dhamangaon	31
3	Feb 5	GMS	Patpara	29
4	Feb 11	GMS	Mocha	68
5	Feb 12		Kutwahi	38
6	Feb 17	Education guarantee scheme school (EGS)	Bhagpur	13
7	Feb 18	GMS	Batwar	26
8	Feb 19	GPS	Sautiya	17
9	Feb 20	EGS	Samaiya	20
10	Feb 23	GPS	Chapri	22
11	Feb 26	GPS	Batwar	24
12	Feb 29	EGS	Chapri	15
			<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>



*Sautiya - Sampathlal Dhurve conducts environment education programme in village school*

### **Education van programme**

There were 7 film shows on nature and wildlife conservation in February

Sr. no.	Date	Village	Film name	Participants
1	Feb 8	Manegaon	Land Of Tiger B.B.C.part-1	45
2		Patpara	----do----	56
3	Feb 9	Batwar	----do----	58
4		Bhagpur	----do----	66

5		Kutwahi	----do----	74
6	Feb 10	Sautiya	----do---	32
7		Mocha	----do---	120
			<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>



*Mocha - School 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.



*Samaiya - Sukhvati Tekam tends to her vegetable patch set up with our help*

### **Employment Cell**

We helped 2 youths get jobs during the month of February

S. No.	Date	Village	Name	Monthly Salary in rupees	Education	Age	Job
1.	Feb 7	Chapri	Shivnandan Uikey	8,000/- + meals	5 <sup>th</sup> standard	30	Cook at Kohoka

							Camp Resort, Kohoka Pench M.P.
2	Feb 28	Manegaon	Manju Markam	3,500/- + meals	9 <sup>th</sup> standard	23	Waiter at Kanha Resort, Mocha



*Manju Markam of Manegaon who got a job at Kanha Resort Mocha, with our help*

### **SHG capacity building programme**

During February, we organised a workshop for a total of 7 self-help groups (SHGs) to address local village development issues. The workshop was organised jointly with Ajiwika Mission – a project by the Madhya Pradesh state government to help empower women. Deputy Ranger (Khatiya Range) S C Thakre and Forest Guard (Mocha) Bhagirath Singh Kakodiya participated in the programme.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Training Centre</b>	<b>SHG name &amp; Village</b>	<b>Participants</b>
1	Feb 24	Manegaon	Pungar Women's SHG,	10
2			Maa Kherawali Women's SHG	10
3			Vananchal Women's SHG	10
4			Jagdamba Women's SHG	10
5			Chandramukhi Women's SHG	10
6			Parwati Women's SHG	10
7			Gangaji Women's SHG	10
8			Villagers	40
			<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



*Manegaon – Amit Awasthi (left) and official from Ajiwika (right) address members of women's SHGs at workshop on village development*