

**KANHA
FEBRUARY 2019**

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *3 shramdhaans for community assistance to clear areas next to 2 hand pumps and 1 well*
- ⇒ *1 person trained in preparing vermi-compost*
- ⇒ *4 compost pits prepared in 4 villages*
- ⇒ *14 villagers apply for LPG connection under Ujjwala Yojna with our help*
- ⇒ *4 awareness programmes on forest fires, vermi-compost, compost and use of cooking gas*
- ⇒ *2 kitchen gardens prepared*
- ⇒ *1 workshop with women's SHG on livelihood issues and need for conservation*
- ⇒ *2 anti-plastic programmes*
- ⇒ *Environment education programme conducted in 11 schools – attended by 365 students*
- ⇒ *7 nature and wildlife film shows -- attended by 292 students*
- ⇒ *3 unemployed youths placed in local jobs through our Employment Cell*

Conservation work

| Date | Village | Activity | No. Of participants |
|-------------|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Feb 17 | Chapri | Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump | 8 |
| Feb 18 | Batwar | Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to well | 7 |
| Feb 21 | Kutwahi | Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump | 6 |
| Feb 17 | Batwar | Khujilobai Maravi trained in preparing vermi-compost | 5 |
| Feb 3 | Batwar | Constructed compost pit at Sevkali Bai's residence | 1 |
| Feb 16 | Manegaon | Constructed compost pit at Hirondi bai Markam's residence | 1 |
| Feb 18 | Batwar | Constructed compost pit at Dhup Singh Mashram's residence | 1 |
| Feb 21 | Kutwahi | Constructed compost pit at Meera bai Invati's residence | 1 |
| Feb 4 | Manegaon | Awareness programme on forest fire, vermi-compost, compost and use of cooking gas | 19 |
| Feb 8 | Batwar | -----do----- | 13 |

| | | | |
|--------|----------|--|----|
| Feb 15 | Patpara | -----do----- | 16 |
| Feb 27 | Kutwahi | -----do----- | 28 |
| Feb 5 | Chapri | Prepared kitchen garden at Mathrabai Thakur bai 's residence | 3 |
| Feb 25 | Manegaon | Prepared kitchen garden at Sumer Singh Markam 's residence | 4 |
| Feb 2 | Patpara | Anti-plastic programme | 10 |
| Feb 10 | Manegaon | -----do----- | 10 |

On February 17, Amit and Sampath led a team of 8 people in a programme to clear wild growth around a hand pump at Chapri. Growth of bushes and shrubs had proliferated around the well and access to the hand pump was affected. Our team, which comprised 2 youths and 4 women from the village, removed the wild growth and cleaned the area. Two similar programmes were organised at Batwar on February 17 and Kutwahi on February 21.



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



Volunteers clear area around hand pump and dig a fresh 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. On February 17, our team provided training on how to prepare vermi-compost to Khujilobai Maravi of Batwar village.



Batwar - Vermi-compost tank set up with our assistance at Khujilobai Maravi's house

During February, we helped 4 villagers dig compost pits – Sevkali Bai of Batwar on February 3, Hironidi bai Markam of Manegaon on February 16 and Dhup Singh Mashram of Batwar on February 18 and Meera bai Invati of Kutwahi on February 21.



Manegaon - Compost pit built with our assistance at Hironidibai Markam's house

During the month, we assisted 14 villagers in submitting applications for LPG connection under Ujjwala scheme. We helped them fill up the forms and submit the required the documents at the LPG distribution agency. They will get the LPG connections soon. Use of LPG will reduce demand for firewood and reduce the chances of human-wildlife conflict arising from instances of villagers venturing into forests for firewood.

We held 4 programmes during February to promote awareness about conservation in villages. Details are given in the above table.



Kutwahi– Amit Awasthi conducts awareness programme on LPG connection under Ujjwala scheme

On February 2, our team organised an anti-plastic programme at Patpara. 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 Manegaon on February 10.



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

Education

During the month, our team organized environment education programmes in 11 schools in the villages in our area of operations.

| S. no | Date | School | Village | Number of participants |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Feb 1 | Government Middle School (GMS) | Dhamangaon | 37 |
| 2 | Feb 4 | Government Primary School (GPS) | Chapri | 31 |
| 3 | Feb 6 | GPS | Sautiya | 22 |

| | | | | |
|----|--------|---|--------------|------------|
| 4 | Feb 7 | GPS | Kutwahi | 36 |
| 5 | Feb 9 | Education guarantee scheme school (EGS) | Samaiya | 21 |
| 6 | Feb 15 | GMS | Batwar | 23 |
| 7 | Feb 18 | EGS | Bhagpur | 18 |
| 8 | Feb 19 | GMS | Batwar | 25 |
| 9 | Feb 20 | GMS | Manegaon | 29 |
| 10 | Feb 25 | GPS | Mocha | 90 |
| 11 | Feb 27 | GPS | Patpara | 33 |
| | | | Total | 365 |



Samaiya- Sampathlal Dhurve conducts environment education programme in village school

Education van programme

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

| S. No. | Date | Village | Film name | Participants |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | February 11 | Chapri | Land of Tigers part-1 | 45 |
| 2 | | Kutwahi | ---do--- | 52 |
| 3 | February 12 | Dhamangaon | ---do--- | 54 |
| 4 | | Samaiya | ---do--- | 36 |
| 5 | | Batwar | ---do--- | 39 |
| 6 | February 13 | Manegaon | ---do--- | 34 |
| 7 | | Patpara | ---do--- | 32 |
| | | | Total | 292 |



Batwar - Students watch film on nature and wildlife conservation

Employment Cell

We helped 3 youths get jobs during the month of February

| S. No. | Date | Village | Name | Monthly Salary in rupees | Education | Age | Job |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Feb 8 | Batwar | Pahal Singh Masram | 4,000/- + meals | 8 th standard | 25 | Worker at Kingfisher Resort, Mocha |
| 2 | Feb 16 | Manegaon | Sohanlal Markam | 3,800/- + meals | 8 th standard | 24 | Worker at Kanhatola Resort, Kutwahi |
| 3 | Feb 17 | Batwar | Suraj Uladi | 4,200/- + meals | 9 th standard | 25 | Worker at Taal Resort, Khatiya |



Sohanlal Markam of Manegaon who got a job at Kanhatola Resort, Kutwahi, with our help

We organised a meeting of presidents and Secretaries of various women's self-help groups (SHGs) operating in villages in the buffer zone. At the meeting various issues were discussed, including livelihood, skill-development programmes for members and conservation.

Members from SHGs of Batwar, Chapri, Manegaon, Patpara, Sautiya, Kutwahi and Mocha were present.



Mocha - Amit speaks to SHG members at workshop

Livelihood programmes

2 kitchen gardens were prepared by Mrs. Mathra Bai Thakur of Chapri and Sumer Singh Markam of Manegaon under the guidance of Amit and Sampath. They were taught techniques to grow vegetables with less water and without chemical fertilizers. Our team also provided vegetable seeds to Mathra bai and Sumer Singh. The vegetable gardens will help to improve their family incomes and reduce their dependence on forests for livelihood.



Chapri – Mathrabai Thakur tends to her kitchen garden set up with our help