

KANHA
January 2019

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *2 shramdhaans for community assistance – area cleaned around hand pump and well; one soak pit dug*
- ⇒ *One person trained in preparing vermi-compost*
- ⇒ *4 compost pits prepared in 4 villages*
- ⇒ *4 awareness programmes on vermi-compost, compost and gas connections*
- ⇒ *1 workshop for women’s SHG to discuss livelihood and conservation issues*
- ⇒ *Organized nature camp*
- ⇒ *Organized teachers’ training workshop for school teachers*
- ⇒ *2 anti-plastic programmes*
- ⇒ *Environment education programme conducted in 10 schools - attended by 281 students*
- ⇒ *3 unemployed youths placed in resorts*

Conservation work

Date	Village	Activity	No. of participants
Jan 6	Batwar	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to well	7
Jan 11	Manegaon	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump and dig a soak pit	7
Jan 27	Batwar	Santobai Maravi trained in preparing vermi-compost	5
Jan 8	Manegaon	Prepared compost pit at Gyani Singh Markam’s residence	1
Jan 11	Samaiya	Prepared compost pit at Bharat Lal Uddey’s residence	1
Jan 15	Chapri	Prepared compost pit at Magli Bai Markam’s residence	1
Jan 23	Patpara	Prepared compost pit at Sehmat Bai Maravi’s residence	1
Jan 4	Chapri	Awareness programme on conservation, vermi-compost, compost and gas connections	36
Jan 7	Kutwahi	-----do-----	14

Jan 9	Patpara	-----do-----	13
Jan 25	Batwar	-----do-----	11
Jan 22	Mocha	Workshop for women's SHG on livelihood and conservation issues	26
Jan 18 to 19	Chapri	Organized nature camp for school students	30
Jan 19	Chapri	Organized teachers' training workshop for school teachers	14
Jan 8	Manegaon	Anti-plastic programme	12
Jan 14	Chapri	-----do-----	10

On January 6, Amit and Sampath led a team of 8 people in a programme to clear wild growth around a well at Batwar. 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 2 women from the village, removed the wild growth and cleaned the area. A similar programme was organised on January 11 to clear the area next to a hand pump at Manegaon. Following the cleaning, a soak pit was dug to recharge the water table around the pump.



Batwar- Site around well before (left) and after (right) our programme

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 September, we helped 4 villagers dig compost pits – Gyani Singh Markam of Manegaon on January 8, Bharat Lal Uddey of Samaiya on January 11, Magli Bai Markam of Chapri on January 15 and Sehmat Bai Maravi of Patpara on January 23.



Samaiya - Compost pit prepared with our assistance at Bharat Lal Uddey's house

On January 27, our team provided training on how to prepare vermi-compost to Santo Bai Maravi of Batwar village. During the programme, she was taught to prepare maintain and use vermi-compost.



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

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



Chapri - Sampathlal conducts awareness programme in village

Shri Dev Singh Saiyam, MLA of Mandla, and Shri Narayan Singh Patta, MLA of Bichiya (Mandla), and Shri Rai Singh Kurveti, President of Janpad Panchayat, Bichiya, attended a meeting with Gypsy (jeep) and guides' association at Khatiya gate. The meeting was convened to discuss problems faced by the association and also

to address issues such as training of unemployed youths and improving the economic conditions of villagers near by the gate.



Khatiya - MLAs attend meeting with gypsy and guides' association at Khatiya gate (left) and with villagers at Mocha (right)

On January 22, our team organised a workshop for women's self-help groups SHGs from 7 villages. The themes addressed at the workshop included conservation and livelihood issues.



Mocha - Amit speaks to SHG members at workshop

On January 8, our team organised an anti-plastic programme at Manegaon. 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 Chapri on January 14.



Chapri - Village children with plastic litter collected during our anti-plastic programme

Education

During the month our team organized environment education programmes in 10 schools in the villages in our area of operations.

S.no	Date	School	Village	Number of participants
1	Jan 1	Government Primary School (GPS)	Sautiya	23
2	Jan 2	GPS	Kutwahi	36
3	Jan 5	Government Middle School (GMS)	Dhamangaon	38
4	Jan7	Education guarantee scheme school (EGS)	Bhagpur	18
5	Jan 9	GPS	Chapri	24
6	Jan 12	GPS	Manegaon	31
7	Jan 21	GMS	Batwar	29
8	Jan 23	GMS	Patpara	39
9	Jan 25	GPS	Batwar	22
10	Jan 28	EGS	Samaiya	21
			<i>Total</i>	<i>281</i>



Dhamangaon - Students listen to Amit's lecture on conservation

Our team organised a two-day residential nature camp for school students of buffer zone villages on January 18 and 19. The camp was attended by 25 students and 5 teachers. The objective of the camp was to raise awareness among students about wildlife conservation and protection of nature. The students were engaged in a variety of activities to arouse their curiosity on wildlife and to develop a liking for nature. The students participated in a nature trail and went on a bird-watching trip. They were also taken to a waterfall at Gidhli Ghoghra to appreciate the natural beauty of the region. Nature games were used to teach the students important concepts related to wildlife conservation.



Chapri- Amit Awasthi briefs village students on nature trail (left) and Certificates distributed to students in nature camp (right)

On January 19, our team organised a teachers' training workshop during the nature camp at Chapri. The objective of the workshop was to discuss issues such as climate change, water scarcity and biodiversity loss and what role teachers could play in educating the next generation to face these issues. The workshop focussed on interactive techniques which could be used to make students aware of these issues. Another issue which was addressed was the low level of confidence among students of the buffer region and what could be done to improve the situation.



Chapri – Teachers' training workshop

Employment Cell

We helped 3 youths get jobs during the month of January

S. No.	Date	Village	Name	Monthly Salary in rupees	Education	Age	Job
1.	Jan 6	Chapri	Dilip Markam	4,500/- + meals	8 th standard	22	Waiter at Starline Resort, Mocha
2	Jan 13	Kutwahi	Pramod Aarmo	3,600/- + meals	9 th standard	23	Waiter at Tiger Hood Resort, Kutwahi
3	Jan 20	Patpara	Sachin Dhurwey	3,800/- + meals	10 th standard	21	Waiter at Jungle King Resort, Khatiya



Pramod Aarmo (of Kutwahi) who got a job as a waiter at Tiger Hood Resort, Kutwahi, with our help