

**KANHA  
MARCH 2016**

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

**Highlights**

- ⇒ *Two shramdhaans for community assistance – area next to hand pump at Batwar cleaned and soak pit dug; 1 water tank dug at Lamti Budbudi nallah on world water day in Chapri*
- ⇒ *3 compost pits prepared in 3 villages*
- ⇒ *Painting of conservation slogans on walls in 4 villages*
- ⇒ *2 programmes on how to celebrate Holi in eco-friendly manner*
- ⇒ *2 anti-plastic programmes*
- ⇒ *World wildlife Day celebrated with conservation rally at Patpara and nature trail at Kutwahi*
- ⇒ *Environment education programme conducted in 12 schools – attended by 339 students*
- ⇒ *7 film shows on nature and wildlife – attended by 314 students*
- ⇒ *2 unemployed youths get jobs with our help*

**Conservation work**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>
March 13	Batwar	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump and dig a soak pit	9
March 22	Chapri	1 new water tank constructed at Lamti near Budbudi nallah	13
March 11	Chapri	Dug compost pit at Patiram Dhurwey's residence	1
March 16	Manegaon	Dug compost pit at Sukhman Dhurwey's residence	1
March 28	Batwar	Dug compost pit at Aamo Bai Maravi 's residence	1
March 8	Kutwahi	Wall painting of conservation slogans	
March 9	Sautiya	-----do-----	
March 15	Patpara	-----do-----	
March 20	Chapri	-----do-----	
Mar 22	Manegaon	Programme on eco-friendly Holi	
Mar 22	Chapri	-----do-----	
March 8	Dhamangaon	Anti-plastic programme	11

March 12	Manegaon	-----do-----	12
March 2	Patpara	Conservation Rally	40
March 2	Kutwahi	Nature trail programme	16

On March 13, Sampath led a team of 9 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 hand pump was affected. Our team, which comprised 5 youths and 4 women from the village, removed the wild growth and cleaned the area and make a soak pit.



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



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

In water conservation work, we organised a programme to construct a water tank on March 22. The site of the water-tank was Lamti near Budbudi nallah, a stream adjoining the jungle around 0.5 km from Chapri village. Thirteen villagers, including unemployed youths and village elders comprised the team which built the tank. Wildlife and domestic livestock will both benefit from this water body. Tigers, sloth bears and sambhar deer are spotted regularly in the area.



*Water-tank site at Budbudi nallah before (left) and after our programme (right)*



*Volunteers build water tank using locally available materials*

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 March, we helped 3 villagers dig compost pits – Patiram Dhurwey of Chapri on March 11, Sukhman Dhurwey of Manegaon on March 16, and Aamo Bai Maravi of Batwar on March 28.



*Manegaon- Compost pit built with our assistance at Sukhman Dhurwey's house*

During the month, we arranged for conservation slogans to be painted on walls of houses in prominent places in 4 villages to promote awareness about conservation.



*Patpara - Conservation slogan painted in wall*

Holi is a major Hindu festival and is normally celebrated by people splashing water and colours on each other. Normally, a lot of water is wasted and chemicals in the colours contaminate the soil and water bodies. Further, bonfires are lit and branches and trees are cut for firewood. In our programmes, we explained the harm that is caused to the environment by such activities and encouraged people to celebrate the festival in a more eco-friendly manner. Instead of using firewood, villagers are advised to burn rubbish and waste materials or cow dung. We organised 2 programmes on March 22 at Manegaon and Chapri.

On March 8, our team organised an anti-plastic programme at Dhamangaon. 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. A similar anti-plastic programme was organised at Manegaon on March 12.



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

On March 2, World Wildlife Day, our team organised a function at Government Middle School, Patpara, to promote awareness about wildlife conservation. As part of our programme, we organised a rally in which around 40 students walked through the village, chanting slogans for wildlife and nature conservation. Forest Guard (Mocha) Bhaghirath Singh Kakodiya and teachers of the Middle School and Primary School participated along with the students. A similar programme was organised at Kutwahi where Amit and Sampath led children on nature trails. On the trails, they helped

children identify various species of plants and animals and explained the importance of preserving our environment



*Patpara - World wildlife Day programme at Middle School*

### ***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	March 1	Government Middle School (GMS)	Batwar	24
2	March 3	Government Primary School (GPS)	Sautiya	19
3	March 5	GPS	Kutwahi	32
4	March 6	GPS	Chapri	29
5	March 11	GPS	Batwar	23
6	March 14	GPS	Manegaon	31
7	March 16	GMS	Dhamangaon	34
8	March 26	GMS	Patpara	40
9	March 28	Education Guarantee Scheme school (EGS)	Bhagpur	14
10	March 29	EGS	Samaiya	16
11	March 30	EGS	Chapri	14
12	March 31	GMS	Mocha	63
			<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>



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

### **Education van programme**

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

Sr.	Date	Village	Film name	Participants
1	March 17	Kutwahi	Land Of Tiger B.B.C.part-2	48
2		Sautiya	----do----	32
3	March 18	Bhagpur	----do----	53
4		Samaiya	----do----	38
5		Batwar	----do----	60
6	March 19	Manegaon	----do---	39
7		Patpara	----do---	44
			<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>



*Kutwahi- 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.



*Kutwahi – Vegetable patch set up in Mungiya Bai’s backyard with our help*

### ***Employment Cell***

We helped 2 youths get jobs during the month of March

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Monthly Salary in rupees</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Job</b>
1.	March 2	Patpara	Sukhlal Uikey	3,000/- + meals	8 <sup>th</sup> standard	23	Waiter at Kanha Resort Mocha
2	March 13	Chapri	Bantudas	3,500/- + meals	5 <sup>th</sup> standard	25	Guard at Green Valley Resort Mocha



*Bantu Das of Chapri who got a job at Green Valley Resort Mocha, with our help*