

**KANHA**  
**May 2019**

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

**Highlights**

- ⇒ *2 waterholes prepared*
- ⇒ *Two programmes to clean area next to hand pumps and dig soak pits*
- ⇒ *Arranged village meeting on local issues, attended by Narayan Singh Patta MLA of Bichiya Block*
- ⇒ *Helped 19 villagers apply for LPG connection under Ujjwala scheme*
- ⇒ *Assisted 5 Baiga tribe farmers in getting solar-powered irrigation pumps*
- ⇒ *2 persons trained in preparing vermi-compost*
- ⇒ *4 compost pits prepared*
- ⇒ *6 awareness programmes on forest fires*
- ⇒ *2 nature trail*
- ⇒ *Seed collection drive*
- ⇒ *Installed water pots for birds in 6 villages*
- ⇒ *3 unemployed youths placed in jobs at local resorts*
- ⇒ *Meeting on livelihood options held with women's SHG*

**Conservation work**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>
May 12	Sautiya	Waterhole prepared at Pittejhodi in Budbudi Nallah	8
May 13	Batwar	Waterhole prepared at Kundajhodi	6
May 19	Manegaon,	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump and prepare a soak pit	8
May 22	Patpara	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump and prepare a soak pit	7
May 27	Sautiya, Chapri, Batwar	Arranged village meeting on local issues	26,23,18
May 6	Patpara	Construction of "Rangmanch" commenced as per the micro-plan in Patpara	
May	Samaiya-Bhagpur, Chapri, Batwar, Sautiya, Manegaon,	Helped 19 villagers apply for LPG connection under Ujjwala scheme	

	Patpara, Dhamangaon		
May 6,7,8	Dhamangaon,	Assisted 5 Baiga farmers in getting solar-powered irrigation pumps	
May 12	Kutwahi	Soni Bai Markam trained in preparing vermi-compost	5
May 26	Sautiya	Mamta Bai Uikey trained in preparing vermi-compost	5
May 1	Dhamangaon	Dug compost pit at Samrati Bai Maravi's residence	3
May 12	Manegaon	Dug compost pit at Satish Sarote's residence	2
May 24	Patpara	Dug compost pit at Gaytri Bai Maravi's residence	2
May 29	Manegaon	Dug compost pit at Chandan Markam's residence	2
May 8	Bhagpur	Awareness programme on forest fires	14
May 10	Samaiya	-----do-----	10
May 16	Batwar	-----do-----	17
May 18	Manegaon	-----do-----	13
May 22	Sautiya	-----do-----	10
May 18	Patpara	-----do-----	12
May 4	Kutwahi	Nature trail programme	10
May 9	Patpara	-----do-----	12
May 9,13,20,23,30	Patpara ,Batwar, Bhagpur, Manegaon, Chapri	Seeds collection for plantation programme planned for monsoon	
May 18,20,23,29	Manegaon, Bhagpur, Batwar, Sautiya, Chapri, Kutwahi	Installed water pots and prepared home for birds	

During the month, our team organised programmes to prepare 2 waterholes inside the jungle. We have prepared these waterholes at specific locations in consultation with the Forest Range Office, Khatiya. These waterholes will help provide clean water for wildlife and prevent them from venturing close to human habitation in search of water during summer season. It will thus help mitigate man-animal conflict in this region.

On May 8, eight villagers from Sautiya volunteered to prepare a waterhole at Pittejhodi.

A similar programme to prepare a waterhole was organised at Kundajhodi on May 13.



*Sautiya – Preparing water hole at Pittejhodi*

On May 19, Sampath led a team of 8 people in a programme to dig a soak pit and to clear weed growth and plastic waste around a hand pump at Manegaon. 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 a soak pit.

A similar programme was organised at Patpara on May 22.



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

On 27 May, we organised a village meeting to resolve various issues of the villagers. On our invitation, Shri Narayan Singh Patta, MLA of Bichiya (Mandla) attended the meeting with villagers from Batwar, Chapri and Sautiya. During the meeting, the villagers raised issues like employment for youths, skill development and training for farmers, empowerment of village eco-development committees and promoting of employment through tourism. Shri Narayan Singh Patta has agreed to work on these issues immediately.



*MLA interacting with villagers in Batwar*

Satpuda Foundation had assisted Range Forest Officer, Khatiya in preparing 5-year village micro-plan for 7 buffer zone villages in the range. As per the micro-plan prepared for Patpara, the construction work for 'rangmanch' (community stage) has commenced. The work will be complete by the end of this month.



*Patpara - Construction of "Rangmanch" commenced as per the micro-plan*

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

Details of the beneficiaries of the solar-powered pump scheme are given in the table below:

Sr. No.	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

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.





*Dhamangaon - Installation of subsidized solar-powered pumps underway*

On May 11 and 26, our team provided training to Soni Bai Markam of Kutwahi and Mamta Bai Uikey of Sautiya on how to prepare vermi-compost.



*Kutwahi – Soni Bai Markam being trained in preparing vermi-compost*

During May, we helped 4 villagers dig compost pits - Samrati Bai Maravi of Dhamangaon on May 1, Satish Sarote of Manegaon on May 12, Gayatri Bai Maravi of Patpara on May 24 and Chandan Markam of Manegaon on May 29.



*Dhamangaon - Compost pit dug with our assistance at Samrati Bai Maravi's house*

During the month, Amit organised 6 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 May. 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.



*Patpara – Amit Awasthi conducts awareness programme on forest fires*

In May, we encouraged villagers to collect seeds of local species of trees. These seeds will be used to prepare saplings for our proposed plantation drive during the monsoon season. Villagers collected seeds of *lendiya*, *saja*, *sallan*, *mahua*, *kahua* and *amaltas* found locally. We will now prepare saplings from these seeds and distribute them to the villagers during the monsoon season.



*Bhagpur (left) and Chapri (right) - 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 98 containers were put up in 5 villages in May.



*Samaiya - Village children fill water pot*

Amit and Sampath led children of Kutwahi and Patpara on nature trails on May 4 and May 9 respectively. On the trails, they helped children identify various species of plants and animals and explained the importance of preserving our environment.



*Patpara - Sampath speaks to village children about conservation during nature trail*

### **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 3 years, we have assisted around 50 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.



*Chapri – Sarita Bai tends to her vegetable patch set up with our help*

### **Employment Cell**

We helped 3 youths get jobs during the month of May.

<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.	May 11	Chapri	Sunil Uikey	8,500/- + meals	10 <sup>th</sup> standard	25	Worker at Neelam Coffee House, Bamhani
2	May 16	Batwar	Pehlad Singh	4,500/- + meals	10 <sup>th</sup> standard	23	Waiter at Kanha Resort, Mocha



			Valke				
3	May 21	Samaiya	Kanhaiya Lal Udhey	3,500/- + meals	9 <sup>th</sup> standard	22	Waiter at Van Vihar Resort, Khatiya



*Sunil Uikey of Chapri at Neelam Coffee House, Bamhani (left)*



*Pehlad Singh Valke of Batwar at Kanha Resort, Mocha (right)*

SF organized a joint meeting of the women's self-help groups (SHGs) working in the buffer area to discuss group-run activities such as vegetable farming, microme art, tribal food products, sewing work, mushroom production etc.

Amit also spoke on subjects related to conservation and requested assistance from the women for check dam construction, sanitation campaigns, training programs for youth and placements.



*Patpara - Amit speaks to SHG members at workshop*