

KANHA
SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *2 shramdhaans for community assistance – area next to hand pump cleaned at Kutwahi and area next to well cleaned at Dhamangaon*
- ⇒ *Socio-economic surveys of 9 villages done*
- ⇒ *5 compost pits prepared in 5 villages*
- ⇒ *2 anti-plastic programmes*
- ⇒ *Environment education programme conducted in 9 schools - attended by 241 students*
- ⇒ *7 nature and wildlife film shows -- attended by 379 students*
- ⇒ *2 unemployed youths get jobs through our Employment Cell*
- ⇒ *3 awareness programmes on vegetable farming*
- ⇒ *Selection of 22 youths for training in hospitality and housekeeping*

Conservation work

Date	Village	Activity	No. Of participants
September 17	Kutwahi	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to hand pump	9
September 20	Dhamangaon	Shramdhaan programme to clear area next to well	8
September 20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29	9 village	Village socio-economic survey	
September 3	Patpara	Awareness programme on vegetable farming	13
September 5	Batwar	-----do-----	16
September 7	Kutwahi	-----do-----	10
September 2	Manegaon	Prepared compost pit at Sohan Markam's residence	1
September 6	Sautiya	Prepared compost pit at Santosh Dhurwey's residence	1
September 10	Kutwahi	Prepared compost pit at Chhavi Uikey's residence	1

September 15	Batwar	Prepared compost pit at Aghan Singh Uddey's residence	1
September 16	Chapri	Prepared compost pit at Rama Singh's residence	1
September 8	Kutwahi	Anti-plastic programme	10
September 10	Patpara	Anti-plastic programme	10

On September 17, Amit and Sampath led a team of 8 people in a programme to clear wild growth around a hand pump at Kutwahi. Due to heavy rains, wild growth had proliferated around the well and access to the well was affected. Our team, which comprised 8 youths from the village, removed the wild growth and cleaned the area. A similar programme was organised on September 20 to clear the area next to a well at Dhamangaon.



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



Kutwahi- - Site around hand pump before (left) and after our programme (right)

Our team completed socio-economic surveys of 9 villages.



Sautiya - Socio-economic survey being conducted

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 compost pits. During September, we helped 5 villagers dig compost pits – Sohan Markam of Manegaon on September 2, Santosh Dhurwey of Sautiya on September 6, Chhavi Uikey of Kutwahi on September 10, Aghan Singh of Batwar on September 15 and Rama Singh of Chapri on September 16.



Chapri - Compost pit built with our assistance at Rama Singh's house

On September 8, our team organised an anti-plastic programme at Kutwahi. 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 September 10.



Kutwahi - Village children with plastic litter collected in our anti-plastic programme

Education

During the month, our team organized environment education programmes in 9 schools in the villages in our area of operations.

S. no	Date	School	Village	Number of participants
1	September 2	Government Middle School (GMS)	Dhamangaon	38
2	September 5	Education Guarantee Scheme School(EGS)	Samaiya	18
3	September 6	GMS	Batwar	24
4	September 7	Government Primary School (GPS)	Manegaon	29
5	September 8	EGS	Bhagpur	16
6	September 9	GPS	Batwar	28
7	September 14	GPS	Sautiya	22
8	September 16	GPS	Chapri	29
9	September 19	GMS	Patpara	37
			Total	241



Manegaon- Students listen to Sampath's lecture on conservation

Education van programme

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

S. No.	Date	Village	Film name	Participants
1	September 11	Manegaon	Malli part-1	42
2		Patpara	----do----	47
3	September 12	Samaiya	---do---	38
4		Dhamangaon	---do---	58
5		Bhagpur	---do---	54
6	September 13	Batwar	---do---	46
7		Mocha	---do---	94
			Total	379



Mocha - Students watch film on nature and wildlife conservation

Employment Cell

We helped 2 youths get jobs during the month of September

S. No.	Date	Village	Name	Monthly salary in rupees	Education	Age	Job
1.	September 4	Sautiya	Santosh Dhurwey	3,800 + meals	8th	21	Worker at Koushalya Resort, Mocha
2	September 18	Kutwahi	Lalit Batti	4,500 + meals	10 th	23	Guard at Koushalya Resort, Mocha



Lalit Batti who got a job as guard with our help at Koushalya Resort

Livelihood programmes

As part of our programme to help villagers find alternative livelihood options which will reduce their dependence on forests, we have been encouraging villagers, in our area of operations around Kanha, to take up vegetable farming. Due to the presence of several resorts around Mocha and a steady flow of tourists, there is good demand for fresh vegetables. Over the past 3 years, we have assisted around 15 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. To encourage more villagers to take up this activity, we conducted 3 awareness programmes in September at Patpara, Batwar and Kutwahi.



Patpara – Amit Awasthi conducts awareness programme on vegetable farming and vermi-compost

Training programmes

A programme to train village youths in hospitality and housekeeping ended in September. The training was imparted by Jagatguru Shankaracharya Institute, a private agency based at Raipur in Chhattisgarh which provides vocational training to youths. We had selected 9 youths from villages in our area of operations for the programme.



Khatiya – Candidates pose after completion of training in housekeeping and hospitality