



**PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA
MAY 2018**

Team: Abhijit Dutta – *Assistant Director (Conservation)*
Bandu Uikey – *Conservation Officer*
Dilip Lanjewar, Balkrishna Bagmare – *Community Officers*

Highlights

- ⇒ *Three community foot patrols*
- ⇒ *One waterhole cleaned and de-silted*
- ⇒ *One hand-pump cleaned*
- ⇒ *One tank prepared for cultivation of Azolla fodder supplement for livestock*
- ⇒ *Four meetings on formation of Village Eco-Development Committees; Govt. Resolution was read out and explained at these meetings*
- ⇒ *One meeting on resettlement/relocation at Kirangisarra*
- ⇒ *One meeting on livestock management and alternative cattle feed*
- ⇒ *Six awareness meetings on forest fires*
- ⇒ *Three programmes to display on information on Government schemes*
- ⇒ *One meeting with safari jeep owners, drivers and guides at Khudsapar*
- ⇒ *Six programmes to celebrate important days in “eco-calendar”*
- ⇒ *Mobilised women for three programs on RFO’s request*
- ⇒ *Lantana craft displayed at Nagalwadi safari gate canteen for sale*
- ⇒ *Five youths sent for hospitality training*
- ⇒ *Special women’s free medical camp covering seven villages*
- ⇒ *Four research projects being carried out by interns from various national institutes*

Conservation Action and Awareness

Sr.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	May 8	Bhivsen Beat	Community patrol	5
2.	May 16	Khapa	--do--	5
3.	May 24	Ambazari Beat	--do--	5
4.	May 28	Ambazari Beat	Cleaned and de-silted waterhole	5
5.	May 15	Ghoti	Cleaned area around hand pump	8
6.	May 4	Siladevi	Demonstration on Azolla fodder supplement	5
7.	May 15	Nagalwadi	Lantana craft displayed for sale at Souvenir Shop (Canteen)	10
8.	May 4	Siladevi	Livestock management and Azolla	10

			cattle feed awareness program	
9.	May 6	Maharkund	VEDC Formation & GR Reading	50
10.	May 13	Siladevi	VEDC Formation & GR Reading	50
11.	May 15	Pendhari	VEDC Formation & GR Reading	50
12.	May 17	Kadbikheda	VEDC Formation & GR Reading	19
13.	May 19	Kirangisarra	Resettlement meeting	19
14.	May 27	Mohgaon & Tekadi	VEDC Formation Field Survey	20
15.	May 4	Khudsapar	Meeting with jeep owners and guides regarding new policy for jeep purchase	10
16.	May 10	Ghoti	Awareness programme on forest fires	12
17.	May 13	Siladevi	--do--	20
18.	May 16	Khapa	--do--	14
19.	May 18	Siladevi	--do--	25
20.	May 19	Kirangisarra	--do--	20
21.	May 29	Deolapar	--do--	44
22.	May 16	Khapa	Information on Govt. schemes	15
23.	May 19	Suwardhara	Information on Govt. schemes	10
24.	May 29	Deolapar	Information on Govt. schemes and employment opportunities	50
25.	May 14	Siladevi	Migratory Bird Day celebration	14
26.	May 14	Sawara	Migratory Bird Day celebration; installation of water pots for birds	7
27.	May 18	Usripar	Endangered Species Day celebration	20
28.	May 20	Pipariya	International Bee Day celebration	25
29.	May 21	Pipariya	Cultural Diversity Day celebration	24
30.	May 22	Pipariya	Biological Diversity Day celebration	20
31.	May 22	Suwardhara	Biological Diversity Day celebration	25
32.	May 7	Sawara, Usripar, Kadbikheda	Forest awareness camp for women	30
33.	May 8	Sawara, Usripar, Kadbikheda	Forest awareness camp for women	28
34.	May 9	Tuyepar, Dahoda (Kolitmara)	Forest awareness camp for women	32
Total Participants				571

On May 28, a water hole was cleaned and de-silted in compartment no. 622 in Ambazari beat with forest fire watchers. The waterholes are critical to wildlife especially in the summer months. Regular cleaning is required to ensure that the water is safe for wildlife. Three community patrolling programs were organized in Bhivsen, Khapa and Ambazari. Such patrolling, with community participation, helps in checking illegal activities in forest areas adjoining villages.



Ambazari - Waterhole cleaning programme with Balkrishna and forest fire-watchers (left); Bhivsen - Community patrol with Balkrishna and Forest Guard (right)

On May 15, Dilip motivated villagers to volunteer for a programme to clean the area around a hand pump in Ghoti. Such cleanliness drives ensure that the cattle or villagers don't suffer from any illness due to water stagnation. It also helps prevent contraction and possible spreading of any disease from livestock to the wildlife.

On May 4, an Azolla tank was set up in Siladevi village. Azolla is a fern symbiotic with blue-green algae that is beneficial, nutritious and easy to digest for livestock. The Azolla feed increases the milk productivity of cattle and improves the quality of meat. It will contribute in reducing dependence on forest fodder and hence reduce the grazing pressure on forests.



Ghoti – Area around hand pump being cleaned through shramdhaan (left); Siladevi - Tank being prepared for Azolla livestock feed through shramdhaan (right)

On May 6, Bandu was invited by the Range Forest Officer (RFO), Nagalwadi Range to promote awareness among the villagers of Maharkund about the process of forming a village eco-development committee (VEDC) and the benefits arising from VEDC.

Bandu read out the Government Resolution (GR) and explained how VEDC formation in villages has helped in village development and in reduction of man-animal conflict through funds utilized from Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Jan-Van Yojna. The villagers expressed interest in forming a VEDC.

Similar awareness programs were held at Pendhari, Siladevi and Kadbikheda.

A survey for VEDC formation was done in Mohgaon and Tekadi.



Meetings on VEDC formation and reading of GR with RFO Nagalwadi & Bandu at Maharkund (left) and Pendhari (right)

Six awareness meetings on forest fires were held to raise awareness about the negative impacts of forest fires on forests and villages nearby. Villagers were encouraged to mobilize and participate in fire-fighting.

A meeting on resettlement of villages was conducted by Dilip at Kirangisarra on May 19. Dilip explained the resettlement process and compensation package to the villagers. He encouraged the villagers to unite for this and explained how resettlement will help them avail better infrastructure, schooling and medical facilities, among other benefits.

A community meeting was held on May 4 at Khudsapar regarding the new Gypsy jeep purchase policy which will give a 400,000 rupee loan from the Tiger Conservation Foundation to potential buyers. Dilip encouraged more people to avail this offer and reap benefits from wildlife tourism at Khudsapar Gate where tourists are permitted to enter only through Gypsy jeeps owned by local people which are approved and registered by the Forest Department.

On May 19, Balkrishna organized a program at Suwardhara to display information on various Government schemes offered by Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Departments. He informed villagers about benefits of these schemes and how to avail them by filling up forms and submitting required documents. He displayed brochures, information booklets and registration forms related to the schemes.

On May 7, 8 and 9, at the request of the RFO, Dilip mobilized women from five villages to participate in the Forest Department's programmes to promote awareness about nature.



*Suwardhara- Balkrishna informing villagers about various Govt. schemes (left);
Kadbikheda - Dilip mobilized women to participate in Forest Dept.'s program (right)*

Several programmes were organised in May to celebrate important days in the “eco-calendar”. The programmes were organised to spread awareness about conservation among villagers. Dilip and Balkrishna organized programs on Migratory Bird Day and Endangered Species Day among other important days.



Shiladevi - Conservation rally on the eve of Biological Diversity Day with Balkrishna (left); Usripar - Dilip interacting with villagers on Endangered Species Day (right)



*Pipariya - Cultural Diversity Day celebration (left);
Sawara - Installation of water pots for birds on World Migratory bird day (right)*

Environment Education

There were no programmes in May as schools were shut for the annual summer vacation.

Bandu assisted Nature Conservation Society, Amravati in conducting nature camps for village children in Melghat.



Bandu with children at Melghat Nature Camp

Employment Cell

During the month of May, five youth were sent to a month-long training programme in hospitality at Sillari. They will be provided with placements by the training institute on successful completion of this training.

Market linkage was provided for the lantana craft artisans of Pench by displaying their products for sale at the Canteen/ Souvenir shop at the Nagalwadi safari gate of Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.



Nagalwadi- Lantana craft prepared by local artisans displayed at safari gate canteen for sale (right)

Youths sent for one month hospitality training program at PACE Sillari:

Sr. No.	Name	Village	Age	Qual.
1.	Vilas Santosh Chakle	Ghoti	20	10 th
2.	Roshan Bhimrao Maraskole	Khudsapar	20	9 th
3.	Vinod Vasanta Warkhade	Khudsapar	19	12 th
4.	Miss Nidhi Kailash Warthi	Khudsapar	20	12 th
5.	Miss Anita Naiklal Tekam	Khudsapar	19	12 th

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

During May, a special camp for women was conducted in East Pench. Dr. Jayashree Choudhury accompanied the MHS.

S.no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1.	May 26	Sawara	98
2.		Usripar	
3.		Kadbikheda	
4.	May 27	Khudsapar	42
5.	May 27	Pipariya	87
6.		Sillari	
7.		Wagholi	
Total Patients			227



Pipariya- Dr. Choudhury treating women patients with ASHA worker and Round Officer in the background (left); Khudsapar - Dr. Choudhury and nurse treating woman (right)

Research

Satpuda Foundation is conducting a study - 'Assessing benefits of wildlife tourism for communities and conservation in Tiger Reserves of Vidarbha', the final report of which will be produced in June. Interns working with us are conducting structured/ unstructured interviews, group discussions and questionnaire surveys with tourist guides, drivers, Gypsy jeep owners, people from hospitality sector and villagers. They are also analyzing socio-economic surveys and

data from Forest Department records to assess how tourism is impacting the local economy and helping in conservation.

Satpuda Foundation has been asked by Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra to do a project - 'Comparison of ecotourism pattern in Pench M P and Pench Maharashtra by surveying three wildlife safari entry gates - Sillari, Khudsapar and Turiya'.

Summer Internship research projects:

SN	Project	Region
1.	Assessing benefits of wildlife tourism for communities and conservation in Tiger Reserves of Vidarbha	Vidarbha
2.	Comparison of ecotourism pattern in Pench MP & Pench MS by surveying three wildlife safari entry gates- Sillari, Khudsapar & Turiya	Pench Maharashtra and M P
3.	Material development for rural Education & Awareness program	Pench Maharashtra and M P
4.	Assessment & Analysis of Employment Cell Program	Pench Maharashtra and M P



Bordharan - Interns & Mandar with guides at Bordharan gate of Bor Tiger Reserve, which falls under Pench Project Administration (left); Intern with guides at Sillari (right)