

**PENCH MAHARASHTRA
FEBRUARY 2016**

Team: Anoop Awasthi - *Assistant Director*
Mandar Pingle – *Conservation Officer*
Bandu Uikey, Dilip Lanjewar – *Field Assistants*

Highlights

- ⇒ *One shramdhaan programme to construct waterhole at Khapa and two waterhole cleaning programmes at Ghatpendari and Kolutmara*
- ⇒ *Four nature trails held for students of village schools at Pipariya, Sillari, Ghatpendari*
- ⇒ *Organized nature camp for 11 students from Ghoti and Sawara*
- ⇒ *Bandu and Dilip joined Forest Department staff on anti-poaching patrols twice each*
- ⇒ *Organized village meetings at Kadbikheda, Ghoti, Ghatkukda, Kirangisarra and Ghatpendari to discuss village development through Village Eco Development Committee (VEDC)*
- ⇒ *Bandu helped Forest Department staff to construct impression pads in Ghatpendari round*
- ⇒ *28 LPG connections distributed through VEDC and Bandu explained benefits of LPG to the beneficiaries at Ghatpendari*
- ⇒ *Bandu demonstrated use of solar powered fencing in Salai village*
- ⇒ *Organized environment education programmes in 17 schools which were attended by 374 students*
- ⇒ *World Wetland Day celebrated at Sawara with 20 students*
- ⇒ *Organized 6 medical camps at which 128 patients were treated*
- ⇒ *Assisted 5 unemployed youths in getting jobs locally*

Conservation work

S.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	February 26	Khapa	Waterhole Construction	8
2.	February 11-12	Wagholi	2-day residential nature camp	11
3.	February 19	Sillari	Nature trail	14
4.	February 28	Pipariya	Nature trail	17
5.	February 4	Ghoti	VEDC meeting	12
6.	February 24	Kadbikheda	VEDC meeting	24
7.	February	Wagholi	VEDC Patrolling	7

	25			
8.	February 26	Khapa	VEDC Patrolling	5
9.	February 2	Sawara	World Wetland Day celebration	20
10.	February 19	Tumditek, Kolitmara range	2 waterholes cleaned	7
11.	February 7	Ghatpendari	VEDC Patrolling	3
12.	February 21	Kolitmara, Surrera	STPF staff Patrolling	6
13.	February 6	Ghatpendari	Nature trail	15
14.	February 25	Ghatpendari	Nature trip at Sillari and Ambakhori	15

On February 19, Bandu led a team of 7 village youths and Forest Department staff in a shramdhaan programme to clean two waterholes in Tumditek area in Kolitmara range. The water holes were clogged with decomposing organic litter and foliage causing hindrance for wild life while drinking water and posed a severe threat to the health of the wild animals.



Bandu and villagers cleaning waterhole near Ghatpendari village

On February 26, Dilip with the help of 8 youths of Khapa village dug a waterhole in the dry bed of Khapa nallah located 500 meters away from the village. The waterhole, constructed using basic tools, will provide water for birds and wild animals during summer season.



Dilip and villagers create waterhole near Khapa village

Dilip Lanjewar celebrated World Wetland Day on February 2 along with 20 students of Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School, Sawara. Dilip explained the relation of wetland habitat and wildlife and the importance of their conservation to the students. He explained that it is important to prevent pollution of the wetlands and gave tips for the same since wetlands provide habitat for many birds and is a major source of water for wild animals. Dilip taught students about various types of wetland habitats and major threats to these wetlands. After learning about the importance of wetlands, students promised to protect and conserve wetlands.

On February 11 and 12, a two day Nature Orientation Camp was organized at Wagholi village, East Range of Pench Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra). 34 students along with 4 teachers from Ghoti and Sawara in Pench (Maharashtra) and Tuyepani, Kundai, Dewri, Aamajhari, Teliya and Turia from Pench (Madhya Pradesh) participated in the camp. During the camp students learnt about various issues pertaining to nature conservation like global warming, climate change, sustainable development and water conservation. Students also learnt about different birds, animals and plants found in Pench Tiger Reserve through jungle safari and nature trails. During the jungle safari, students sighted animals like gaur, sambhar deer, spotted deer, wild boars and numerous birds like peacocks, grey Indian hornbills, white throated kingfishers, hooded orioles, parakeets etc. During the camp, the students visited Tiger Tale Nature Interpretation Centre at Amaltas Complex in Sillari and watched a film on wildlife conservation. Mr. Atul Deokar, Range Forest Officer and Ms Anita Wahane, Sarpanch, Pipariya distributed certificates to the students and asked them to contribute to wildlife conservation in future.



Students and SF staff during Nature Camp at Wagholi (left) and Dilip with students on a nature trail (right)



Bandu and villagers help forest staff to prepare impression pads (left) Bandu examines scrape marks made by spotted deer during a patrol (right)



Bandu briefs students about an anti-plastic programme

Dilip joined VEDC members and Forest Department staff on patrols on February 25 and 26 at Wagholi and Khapa villages. The team patrolled the borders of the villages for signs of illegal activities. Bandu joined similar patrols on February 7 and 21 in Ghatpendari and Surrera beats of Kolutmara forest range. No illegal activity was detected on these patrols.



Dilip and villagers of Wagholi on patrol



Dilip and villagers of Khapa (left) and Bandu along with STPF staff (right) on patrol

In February, Bandu and Dilip organised nature trails for students of Sillari, Pipariya, Mehkepar and Kolutmara. On the trails, Bandu and Dilip spoke to the students about birds, trees and forests. The impact of degradation of natural resources was explained to the students.



Bandu with students of Ghatpendari pose after Jungle safari at Tiger Tale Nature Interpretation in Sillari(left) Bandu teaching students about flora of PTR on nature trail during Nature Camp at Wagholi (right)



Bandu giving information about Totladoh Dam during Jungle Safari (left) and on a nature trail (right)



Bandu along with STPF staff teaching students about flora and fauna of PTR at Ambakhori

We organised several meetings in February of villagers, VEDC members and unemployed youths to discuss conservation and employment issues in the area. Dilip along with Anoop and Mandar organized a meeting to form VEDC at Kadbikheda.



Bandu and forest staff distributing LPG connection to villagers of Ghatpendari



Bandu and Kamlesh during a demonstration of solar-powered fencing (left) Bandu and villagers of Ghatpendari repair solar-powered water pump (right)



Bandu and villagers repair solar-powered street light in Ghatpendari (left) Anoop and Mandar during a meeting with villagers of Kadbikheda to form VECD (right)

Environment Education



Dilip (Left) and Bandu (Right) speak to students on nature conservation



Bandu speaks to students about issues like food chain and global warming



Dilip with students during classroom lecture (Left) and nature game (right)

S.no.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Feb17	ZPPS	Usaripar	6
2.	Feb 15	ZPPS	Kirangisarra	16
3.	Feb 18	Zilla Parishad Primary School (ZPPS)	Khapa	17
4.	Feb 18	ZPPS	Sillari	14
5.	Feb 17	ZPPS	Kadbikheda	43
6.	Feb 24	ZPPS	Khudsapar	11
7.	Feb 6	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School (ZPUPS)	Pipariya	27
8.	Feb 20	ZPPS	Wagholi	23
9.	Feb 4	ZPUPS	Ghoti	70
10.	Feb 26	ZPPS	Fulzari	7
11.	Feb 16	ZPUPS	Sawara	40
12.	Feb 9	ZPPS	Suwardhara	16
13.	Feb18	ZPPS	Shiladevi	12
14.	Feb 22	ZPPS	Narhar	14

15.	Feb 8	ZPPS	Chargaon	25
16.	Feb 17	ZPPS	Ambazari	20
17.	Feb 5	ZPPS	Salai	10
18.	Feb 1	ZPPS	Ghatpendari	15
	Total			386

Employment Cell

S. no.	Date	Village	Name	Qual.	Age	Salary	Agency
1.	February 15	Ghoti	Kabirdas Gopichand Gajbhiye	7 th Pass	38	7890/- with Accommodation	Temporary forest fire watcher with Forest Department
2.	Feb 1	Ghatpendari	Ruksham Bihari Uikey	12 th Pass	27	7890/- with Accommodation	Temporary forest fire watcher with Forest Department
3.	Feb 1	Ghatpendari	Natthu Suraj Uikey	7 th Pass	38	7890/- with Accommodation	Temporary forest fire watcher with Forest Department
4.	Feb 1	Ghatpendari	Deshraj Sheshrao Uikey	10 th Pass	22	7890/- with Accommodation	Temporary forest fire watcher with Forest Department
5.	Feb 1	Ghatpendari	Rakesh Ramkrishna Mullarwar	12 th Pass	25	7890/- with Accommodation	Temporary forest fire watcher with Forest Department

Education Van Programme

There was no film show programme in February due to school examinations.

S.no.	Date	Place	Movie	Participants

Mobile Health Unit (MHU)

There were 6 medical camps in February in which 128 patients were treated.

S.no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1.	Feb 13	Dhawlapur	24
2.		Shiladevi	18
3.	Feb 14	Makardhokda	23
4.		Suwardhara	17
5.	Feb 15	Ambazari	27
6.		<i>Saleghat</i>	19
Total			128



Dr G Bhasme (left) treats patients and Bandu (right) helps patients during our camp