

**PENCH MAHARASHTRA  
MARCH 2016**

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

**Highlights**

- ⇒ *One waterhole prepared at Kirangisarra*
- ⇒ *Four waterholes cleaned in Tuyepar and Kirangisarra beats, Ghatpendari and Surera*
- ⇒ *Two anti-plastic programmes and two conservation rallies at Kolutmara*
- ⇒ *One programme to construct compost tank at Kolutmara school*
- ⇒ *Celebrated World Wildlife Day, World Forestry Day, World Water Day, World Meteorological Day at Ghoti, Sawara, Kolutmara, Ghatpendari, Salai, Surera and Kadbikheda*
- ⇒ *Bandu and Dilip joined Forest Department staff on anti-poaching patrols thrice each*
- ⇒ *Organized village meetings at Fulzari, Salai, Kolutmara, Ghatpendari Ghoti and Usaripar to discuss village development through Village Eco Development Committee (VEDC)*
- ⇒ *Organized environment education programmes in 8 schools -- 279 students attended these programmes.*
- ⇒ *Organized 6 medical camps at which 135 patients were treated*
- ⇒ *Assisted two unemployed youth in getting jobs locally*
- ⇒ *Bandu assisted in construction chain link fencing of 14 open wells in Ghatpendari village*
- ⇒ *Bandu helped to repair inoperative hand-pump in Ghatpendari*

**Conservation work**

<b>S.no.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Village / Place</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>
1.	Mar 3	Ghatpendari	Drawing and essay competition on World Wild life Day	15
2.	Mar 26	Bothiya, Wagholi	Fire fighting	6
3.	Mar 6	Ghatpendari	Forest patrolling	4
4.	Mar 24	Ghoti, Pipariya forest boundary	Forest patrolling	4
5.	Mar 21	Ghoti school	World Forestry Day Celebration and Awareness Rally	82
6.	Mar 21	Ghoti village	World Forestry Day celebration and distribution of solar lamps	55
7.	Mar 21	Kolutmara	World Forestry Day	38

			celebrations, awareness rally and classroom lecture, anti-plastic campaign	
8.	Mar 10	Kadbikheda	Meeting with villagers to discuss formation of VEDC	30
9.	Mar 23,24	Ghatpendari(West PTR range)	Night Patrolling for Holi	11
10.	Mar 22	Salai Village	Distribution of solar lamps	35
11.	Mar 5	Ghatkukda	VEDC meeting	15
12.	Mar 17	Ghatpendari	VEDC meeting	56
13.	Mar 29	Ghoti	VEDC meeting	20
14.	Mar 31	Ghatpendari	VEDC meeting	20
15.	Mar 29	Khapa	Patrolling in jungle with VEDC members	5
16.	Mar 31	Wagholi	--do--	6
17.	Mar 1	Kirangisarra	VEDC Solar Grid Meeting along with Mr. Brendon Mendonca	15
18.	Mar 6	Sitanahani in Ghatpendari	Waterhole cleaning	6
19.	Mar 2	Tuyepar beat	Waterhole cleaning at forest hut	6
20.	Mar 15	Kirangisarra beat	Waterhole cleaning at forest hut	4
21.	Mar 2	Kirangisarra	Waterhole construction	20
22.	Mar 22	Surrera	World Water Day celebrated through shramdhaan to clean waterhole and litmus paper test demo	14
23.	Mar 22	Salai School	World Water Day celebration and awareness rally	43
24.	Mar 23	Kadbikheda	World Meteorological Day	41
25.	Mar 3	Ghoti, Sawara	World Wildlife Day celebration	90,83
26.	Mar 3	Kolitmara school	World Wildlife Day celebration- awareness rally and lecture at Nature Interpretation Center, anti-plastic campaign, compost pit construction	50,42,7

On March 2, Mandar and Dilip led 20 villagers from Kirangisarra in a programme to construct a waterhole next to a hand pump as spill over water from the hand pump was being wasted. During the programme, a small canal was created to let the excess water flow and collect in the waterhole. The waterhole, which is located near a forest hut, will be used by domestic livestock during the day and by wildlife at night. Many wild animals

like leopards, wild dogs (dhole), jackals, spotted deer and sambhar deer have been spotted on numerous occasions near the hand pump by forest guards and villagers. The waterhole was constructed at a distance of 25 feet from the hand pump. This will prevent the wildlife from coming near the hand pump in future.



*Kirangisarra - Team builds waterhole*

On March 2, Mandar and Dilip led 6 staff of the Forest Department in a programme to clean a waterhole in Tuyepar beat. Cleaning of waterholes helps provide clean water for wildlife in the area. Regular cleaning of the waterhole also prevents potential poisoning of the waterhole by poachers and helps prevent poaching of wildlife. Another shramdhaan programme to clean a waterhole was organized in Kirangisarra beat on March 15 with the help of Forest Department staff. Similarly, Bandu Uikey organized shramdhaans to clean waterholes in Sitanahani (Ghatpendari) and in West Range of Pench Tiger Reserve on March 6.



*Kirangisarra - Waterhole being cleaned*

On March 26, Dilip Lanjewar assisted Forest Department staff in fighting a fire in the forest in the buffer area near Bothiya and Wagholi villages. Forest fires are common during the hot and dry summer season in this part of the country. The Forest Department is investigating the cause of the fire.

On March 23 and 24, Bandu Uikey assisted Forest Department staff in day and night patrolling in West Range of Pench Tiger Reserve on the occasion of Holi festival. During the festival of Holi, there is great demand for fresh meat and hence there are high chances

of poaching. Every year, the Forest Department organizes day and night patrolling for 2-3 days to curb poaching during Holi festival.

Similarly, Dilip Lanjewar joined Forest Department staff in East Range of Pench Tiger Reserve for patrolling during Holi. No illegal activities were reported.

On March 31, Dilip Lanjewar organized and led 6 villagers of Wagholi on a forest patrol under the Village Eco-Development Committee (VEDC) forest patrolling programme. Dilip and the villagers patrolled the buffer area of the Tiger Reserve. No illegal activity came to fore during the patrol. Similar such VEDC forest patrols were organised by Dilip in Khapa village on March 29 and by Bandu Uikey near Ghatpendari on March 6. No illegal activity was noticed during these patrols as well.



*Khapa – VEDC patrol in progress*

On March 3, Bandu Uikey organized a programme to construct a compost pit in Kolutmara village of West Range of Pench Tiger Reserve. He encouraged 7 villagers to volunteer in the shramdhaan program. The villagers will be able to dump food leftovers and other bio-degradable waste in the compost pit which will provide organic compost useful for farming in near future. This will reduce the dependency of the farmers on chemical fertilizers. It will also reduce the odour of the decomposing waste and help keep the premises clean.



*Kolutmara - Compost pit being prepared*

On March 3, Mandar and Dilip celebrated World Wildlife Day along with 90 students of Zilla Parishad School, Ghoti and 83 students of Zilla Parishad School, Sawara. World Wildlife Day is celebrated to create awareness about the need to protect and conserve wildlife and provide a suitable habitat for their survival. World Wildlife Day also makes people aware about the threat from poaching to the wildlife in today's world.

Mandar and Dilip, along with the teachers, explained these issues to the students. Later they organized an elocution competition during which students spoke on issues like 'Rich biodiversity of Pench Tiger Reserve', 'My favourite wild animal', 'Young students and their responsibility to conserve wildlife'. The competition was meant to get students to express their thoughts about wildlife conservation issues and to improve their public speaking skills.

On the same day, Bandu Uikey organized an awareness rally followed by a classroom lecture and shramdhaan to clean plastic waste in Zilla Parishad School, Kolutmara. Students participated in the programmes with great zeal and enthusiasm.



*World Wild Life Day celebration at Sawara (left) and Kolutmara (right)*



*World Wild Life Day celebration at Ghatpendari (left) and Kolutmara (right)*



*RFO Mr. Dude with staff an World Wild Life Day celebration at Kolitmara*

On March 21, Mandar and Dilip celebrated World Forestry Day with students of ZP School, Ghoti. The students participated in an awareness rally and raised slogans to make villagers aware about the need to protect forests.

Later, Mandar and Dilip informed students about different types of forests across the globe. They also taught students about the tropical forests of Central India and the rich bio-diversity harbored by them. Mandar urged the students to take up scientific approach to understand the flora and fauna and help to protect them in future.

On the same day, Mandar and Dilip demonstrated the use of solar lamps and distributed the lamps to villagers of Ghoti village. 44 villagers benefited from the solar lamps and thanked SF and VEDC president for organizing the program.

Another such programme to distribute solar lamps was organized by Mandar and Dilip in Salai village on March 22, where 35 solar lamps were distributed to the villagers. On March 21, Bandu Uikey also celebrated World Forestry Day in Kolitmara village by organizing an awareness rally, a classroom lecture and an anti-plastic programme.



*World Forestry Day celebration at Kolitmara (left) and Ghoti (right)*



*Solar lamp distribution through VEDC on occasion of World Forestry Day at Ghoti*



*Nature trail and anti-plastic campaign on World Forestry Day at Kolutmara*



*Dilip celebrating World Forestry Day with students of ZP school, Ghoti*

On March 22, Bandu Uikey organized a shramdhaan in Surrera to clean a water hole in the buffer area in West Range to celebrate World Water Day. Forest Department staff and Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) staff joined Bandu in cleaning the water hole.

Bandu also demonstrated the use of litmus paper to check for poison in the waterhole. He explained that regular cleaning of the waterhole helps to prevent poaching of wild animals and provides clean water for the animals as well.

On the same day, Mandar and Dilip celebrated World Water Day in Zilla Parishad School, Salai village of East Range of Pench Tiger Reserve. They emphasized the need for water conservation during a classroom lecture which was preceded by an awareness rally. During the rally, students raised slogans like ‘Humne to yeh thana hai, Jal ko bachana hai!’ and ‘Jal hi jeevan hai!’.



*Mandar demonstrates use of Solar Lamps before distribution in Salai village(left);Bandu Uikey along with STPF staff during a demonstration to use litmus paper to test water quality of a waterhole in Surrera (right)*



*Mandar and Dilip along with students of ZPPS, Salai during a rally to celebrate World Water Day*

On March 23, Dilip Lanjewar celebrated World Meteorological Day along with the students of Zilla Parishad School in Kadbikheda village. Dilip informed students about the changing climate and its impact on the environment and human life. He also informed students that air pollution is on the rise and is affecting the climate and in turn changing the weather pattern across the globe. He urged students to try to reduce air pollution by adopting eco-friendly lifestyle.





*Dilip Lanjewar celebrating World Meteorological Day 2016 with students of Zilla Parishad School in Kadbikheda*

During the month of March, Bandu Uikey assisted Forest Department staff and VEDC, Ghatpendari village to fence 14 open wells. The open wells were posing a threat to the wildlife. In the past there have been many instances of wild animals like tigers, leopards, wild dogs, spotted deer, sambhar deer etc falling and dying in such open wells. In order to prevent such accidents in future and to protect wildlife, the open wells were identified and fenced.



*Bandu Uikey stands next to a well in Ghatpendari village which was fenced to prevent wild animals from falling into it*

### ***Environmental Education Programmes***

During March our team organized 8 environment education programmes in schools which covered 279 students.

<b>S.no.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
1	Mar 14	Zilla Parishad Primary School (ZPPS)	Pipariya	25
2	Mar 14	ZPPS	Sillari	13
3	Mar 16	ZPPS	Wagholi	23
4	Mar 16	ZPPS	Khapa	26
5	Mar 18	ZPUPS	Ghoti	75
6	Mar 18	ZPPS	Fulzari	7

7	Mar 19	ZPPS	Sawara	70
8	Mar 23	ZPPS	Kadbikheda	40
		<b>Total</b>		<b>279</b>



*Dilip speaks about the bio-diversity of Pench during a classroom education program in Sawara school (left); Mr. Ishwar Dhawle explains about MS Power Point during IT education programme at Sawara village (right)*

### **Employment Cell**

During March our team assisted 2 unemployed youth in getting job locally. We helped forest department in identifying the right candidates as daily wage laborers to work in the forest on fire protection.

S. no.	Date	Village	Name	Qual.	Age	Skill	Salary
1.	Mar 1	Ghatpendari	Ganesh S Lokhande	8 <sup>th</sup> standard	30	Daily wage labor for Forest Dept	8200/-
2.	Mar 1	Ghatpendari	Shrichand P Uikey	10 <sup>th</sup> standard	29	Daily wage labor for Forest Dept	8200/-

### **Mobile Health Unit (MHU)**

6 medical camps held in March in which 135 patients were treated.

S.no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1	Mar 11	Shiladevi	28
2		Dhawlapur	22
3	Mar 12	Makardhokda	18
4		Suwardhara	39
5	Mar 13	Saleghat	15

6		Ambazari	13
<b>Total</b>			<b>135</b>



*Dr. Bhasme examines patients during our free medical camp in Suwardhara*

Mr. Ashok Kumre, aged 29 years, resident of Ambazari is a daily wage laborer with forest department. He was suffering from chronic pain in his legs for more than two weeks. He was unable to perform any physical tasks due to the pain. Dr Bhasme diagnosed his problem and gave proper medication to him. Bandu Uikey paid visits to Mr. Ashok and checked whether he was taking the medication or not. After few days, Mr. Ashok informed that the pain had subsided and he was able to work as usual. He thanked Satpuda Foundation for treating him free of charge. He has promised to help us in our conservation activities henceforth.

Mrs. Saiyabai Nikam, aged 42 years, resident of Shiladevi was suffering from high fever and viral infection. She is a daily wage worker and was troubled by the ailment. She was unable to visit a hospital as she said it was difficult for her to pay the bills. When Satpuda Foundation set up its routine medical camp in Shiladevi on March 11, Mrs. Saiyabai paid a visit to the camp. Dr Bhasme, who was accompanying the Medical Health Unit, diagnosed her and provided her with appropriate medication. On regular follow up by Bandu Uikey, she informed that her health had improved thanks to the treatment. She promised that she will assist Satpuda Foundation in our activities in future.