

**PENCH MAHARASHTRA  
DECEMBER 2016**

**Team:** Mandar Pingle – **Conservation Officer**  
Bandu Uikey, Dilip Lanjewar – **Community Officers**

**Highlights**

- ⇒ *Bandu Uikey arranged a shramdhaan programme to clean organic waste from two water bodies near Ghatpendhari village*
- ⇒ *Dilip Lanjewar organized one anti-plastic drive with villagers of Khapa*
- ⇒ *Bandu Uikey accompanied Forest Department staff seven times on forest patrols while Dilip led VEDC members twice on forest patrols*
- ⇒ *16 classroom nature education sessions held for 415 students of villages of buffer area*
- ⇒ *Dilip Lanjewar took a total of 34 students on 2 nature trails while Bandu took 22 students on one nature trail*
- ⇒ *318 students attended 7 film shows on nature and wildlife conservation arranged in Schools of buffer area, night time show arranged in Khudsapar village*
- ⇒ *Two youths from Ghatpendhari village sent for training in hospitality*

**Conservation work**

Date	Village	Activity	Participants
Dec 24	Khapa	Anti-plastic rally	07
Dec 10	Sillari	Nature trail	12
Dec 19	Kadbikheda	Nature trail	22
Dec 28	Ghatpendhari	Nature trail	22
Dec 31	Totladoh dam	STPF patrolling	20
Dec 12	Bandra Nallah, Ghatpendhari	STPF patrolling	08
Dec 16	Wagholi	VEDC patrolling	06
Dec 18	Khapa	VEDC patrolling	05
Dec 01	Amti, Pindkapar	VEDC patrolling	09
Dec 05	Ghatpendari- Thuyepani beat boundary	VEDC patrolling	04
Dec 07	Bhillapar	VEDC patrolling	07
Dec 11	Datizira beat, Ghatpendari	VEDC patrolling	03
Dec 13	Pindkapar beat, Ghatpendhari	VEDC patrolling	10
Dec 28	Ghatpendhari	Waterhole cleaning	24

During the first week of December 2016, a tigress from Pench Tiger Reserve forest was spotted near Bhillapar and Pindkappar villages near the boundary between Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The tigress had made some cattle kills during the first week of December. Bandu Uikey joined Forest Department staff from both Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in joint foot patrols near these villages.

Bandu, along with the Forest Department staff, held discussions with villagers and advised on necessary precautions to prevent any further conflict with the tigress. Bandu advised the villagers to securely tie the cattle in enclosures and keep vigil when the cattle grazed. He also asked villagers not to venture out alone after sunset. Bandu further assisted the villagers in applying for compensation for the loss of cattle.



*Cattle killed by tigress near Bhillapar village (left); tigress pugmarks near cattle kill (right)*



*Bandu assisting Forest Department staff with investigation of cattle kill (left); Bandu assisting affected villager in filing claim for compensation (right)*



*Day and night foot patrols near the village to check for tigress movement*

Bandu Uikey joined local staff of the Forest Department in anti-poaching patrols on December 11, 12, 13 and 31. Members of the village eco-development committee (VEDC) of Ghatpendari and Kolutimara took part in the patrols in the jungle near their respective villages. Similarly Dilip Lanjewar led 6 members of Wagholi VEDC and 5 members of Khapa VEDC on anti-poaching patrols on December 16 and 18 respectively.



*VEDC members participate in a patrol near Khapa village (left); Bandu Uikey with Forest Department staff on an anti-poaching patrol near Ghatpendhari (right)*

On December 28, Bandu Uikey motivated 30 students of Zilla Parishad Primary School of Ghatpendari to clean two small water bodies near Bandra Nallah near Ghatpendari village. The stagnant water had led to accumulation of a lot of biodegradable waste like leaves and grass which had started to rot. This had left the water unsuitable for drinking by wildlife. Bandu informed the students that the water bodies need to be cleaned as they were used by many wild animals like sambar deer, chital deer, langurs etc and numerous birds as well. The students assisted Bandu in cleaning the water bodies.





*School kids cleaning water body near their village during a nature trail (left); kids pose after cleaning the water body (right)*

On December 24, Dilip led a team of 7 villagers from Khapa in a programme to clean plastic litter near the village. The road near Khapa is used by tourists for wildlife safari in Pench Tiger Reserve.

Dilip informed the villagers that the village is a part of 'no plastic zone' and also informed them about pollution caused by plastic waste. He told the villagers that many animals tend to eat the plastic waste like wrappers leading to death by choking. He encouraged the villagers to clean the plastic litter and dispose of it in a proper manner.

The members of the Village Eco-development Committee from Khapa have decided to conduct regular anti-plastic drives. The tourist guides were also asked to discourage tourists from throwing plastic litter by the road side.



*Road near Khapa village before (left) and after (right) our anti-plastic drive*



On December 19, Dilip Lanjewar took 22 students of Zilla Parishad Middle School of Kadbikheda village on a nature trail to teach them about nature and wildlife conservation. During the nature trail, Dilip helped students spot and identify various birds like rufous tree pie, racquet-tailed drongo, scarlet mini vet and shikra. He also taught the students about various tree and plant species common to the area and their importance. Dilip organized a similar nature trail for 12 students of Zilla Parishad School in Sillari while Bandu organized nature trail for 22 students of Zilla Parishad School of Ghatpendari village on December 28.



*Dilip and students on a nature trail (left); Bandu teaching students about trees on a nature trail (right)*

On December 2, Dilip Lanjewar addressed a gathering of 70 students of Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School of Ghoti village on the occasion of National Pollution Control Day. Dilip informed the students about various forms of pollution like air, water, soil and noise pollution. He informed the students about causes of these types of pollutions and their ill effects on the environment and human life. Dilip urged the students to make a conscious effort to reduce pollution and contribute to environmental protection. He also asked the teachers to regularly teach students to adopt eco-friendly life-style to help reduce pollution.



*Dilip talks to students on National Pollution Control Day in Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School, Ghoti*

### ***Education***

S.no	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Dec 01	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Khapa	25
2.	Dec 01	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Sillari	09
3.	Dec 02	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School	Ghoti	70
4.	Dec 07	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Kirangisarra	12
5.	Dec 08	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Pipariya	17
6.	Dec 16	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Wagholi	23
7.	Dec 17	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School	Zinzeriya	45
8.	Dec 19	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Kadbikheda	40
9.	Dec 20	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Khudsapar	11
10	Dec 21	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School	Sawara	52
11	Dec 06	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Kolitmara	17
12	Dec 08	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Ghatpendhari	23
13	Dec 10	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Wanera	24
14	Dec 10	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Narhar	16



15	Dec 22	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Ambazari	22
16	Dec 23	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Salai	09
<b>Total</b>				<b>415</b>



*Dilip teaching students of Zilla Parishad School, Kadbikheda (left); Bandu interacting with students of Zilla Parishad School, Ambazari (right)*

### ***Employment Cell***

During the month of December 2016, we assisted two youths from Ghatpendari village in attending a training programme in hospitality at Amaltas Complex in Sillari. The programme was jointly organised by PACE Foundation, Mumbai and the Forest Department. Details of the youths are provided in the table below:

S.no	Date	Village	Name	Qual.	Age	Job/Training
1	Nov 1	Ghatpendhari	Chabilal Uikey	12 <sup>th</sup>	20	Hospitality training at Amaltas Complex, Sillari
2	Nov 1	Ghatpendhari	Ashok Gopal Uikey	10 <sup>th</sup>	23	Hospitality training at Amaltas Complex, Sillari

On December 11, a meeting was arranged with the tribal Saila Dance troupe from Sawara village to discuss about improving the performance and promotion of the group to earn a better income from the performances. The group was advised to make use of more traditional props during the performances. They were also encouraged to tell the audience more about the Gond Adivasi culture and their close relationship to nature during the performances. The Saila Dance troupe has 17 members currently and earns Rs 6000/- per performance. The troupe was set up by our team and is mentored by us.

On December 13 and 15, a meeting was organized with members of women’s self-help groups (SHG) from Salai and Ghoti village to inform them about self-employment schemes. We are assisting the SHG members in setting up souvenir shops near Sillari along with the Village Eco-development Committees of the respective villages. The members were encouraged to make and sell products like pickles and jam along with other products like t-shirts, caps etc.

On December 4, Bandu organized a meeting with Jai Durga women’s self-help group of Ghatpendhari village. Bandu discussed ways to maintain the accounts of money saved by the group and informed the women about micro-finance schemes available to start small scale businesses.



*Bandu interacting with Jai Durga women self-help group members*

### **Education van programme**

S.No.	Date	Place	Movie	Participants
1.	Dec 26	Kirangi Sarra	Saras, Satpuda Tiger Reserve	17
2.	Dec 26	Khapa	Indrawati Tiger Reserve	29
3.	Dec 27	Wagholi	Malli	25
4.	Dec 27	Sawara	Queen of trees	90
5.	Dec 28	Pipariya	Kanha Laxmi	17
6.	Dec 28	Ghoti	Malli	95
7.	Dec 28	Kadbikheda	Land of tigers	45
<b>Total</b>				<b>318</b>

One film show was also arranged for the villagers of Khudsapar village at night. Short films based on wildlife and sustainable village development were shown. More than 60 villagers were present during the film shows.





*Students of Zilla Parishad School, Kirangi Sarra (left) and villagers of Khudsapar (right) watch wildlife films*