

**PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA
MAY 2019**

Team: Kaustubh Marpalliwar – *Conservation Officer*
Dilip Lanjewar, Balkrishna Bagmare – *Community Officers*

Highlights

- ⇒ *Three community foot patrols*
- ⇒ *One shramdhaan to clean and de-silt waterhole at Dhawlapur Kuti*
- ⇒ *Waterhole prepared for birds at Ambazari*
- ⇒ *Two Nature Trails at Ghoti and Sawara*
- ⇒ *One Fire-Fighting Activity at Salai, Hiwara road*
- ⇒ *One programme to dig pits for plantation at Sawara*
- ⇒ *PRT (Primary Response Team) formation in six villages at Usripar, Sawara, Khapa, Kadbikheda, Ghoti and Tuyepar*
- ⇒ *One Shramdhaan for Seed Collection for monsoon plantation at Shiladevi*
- ⇒ *Bio-diversity Day celebration at Pench Community Center*
- ⇒ *15 meetings on farmer awareness and awareness on conservation issues*
- ⇒ *One youth sent for Hospitality Training and two sent for Agro Business Start-up Training*
- ⇒ *Third Party Evaluation of CSS – DBT fund at Bor Tiger Reserve*
- ⇒ *Attended Post Mortem & investigation of dead leopard at Ranidoh River, South Fulzari Beat, Pipariya Range*
- ⇒ *Attended one meeting on SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) of Forest Department*

Conservation Action and Awareness

Sr.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	May 2	Ghoti	Water Pots installed	7
2.	May 6	Khapa	Community Patrolling	5
3.	May 19	Saleghat	Community Patrolling	4
4.	May 20	Dhawlapur	Community Patrolling	5
5.	May 18	Dhawlapur kuti	Waterhole cleaning & de-silting	6
6.	May 21	Shiladevi	Seed Collection	4
7.	May 22	Ambazari	Water Pot construction	3
8.	May 2	Ghoti	Nature Trail	7
9.	May 11	Sawara	Nature Trail	12
10.	May 2	Salai	Fire Fighting	8
11.	May 5	Sawara	Digging of pits for plantation	5
12.	May 15	Usripar	PRT Formation	10
13.	May 18	Sawara	--do--	12
14.	May 20	Khapa	--do--	17

15.	May 20	Kadbikheda	--do--	10
16.	May 22	Ghoti	--do--	10
17.	May 22	Tuyepar	--do--	11
18.	May 13	Saleghat	Farmer Awareness Survey	11
19.	May 14	Sawangi	--do--	8
20.	May 15	Dhawlapur	--do--	15
21.	May 16	Wanera	--do--	9
22.	May 17	Kolitmara	--do--	7
Total Participants				186

On May 18, a waterhole was cleaned and de-silted at Dhawlapur Forest camp, Saleghat Range with forest fire watchers. The waterholes are a huge relief to wildlife especially in the summer months when water supply from natural sources is scarce. Regular cleaning is required to ensure that the water is safe for wildlife.

Three community patrolling programs were organized in Dhawlapur, Saleghat and Khapa. Such patrolling helps in checking illegal activities around villages through community participation.



Ambazari- Waterhole cleaning programme with Balkrishna and forest fire-watchers (left); Khapa- Community patrolling with Dilip and Forest Department labourers (right)

On May 21, Balkrishna held a seed collection activity in Shiladevi village. Villagers were motivated to collect seeds of native plant species which could be used in plantation drives during the monsoon.

We will arrange for supply of saplings of native plant species from the nearby nurseries. We organised a programme to dig 30 pits for plantation in Sawara village.

With the onset of summer, water has become scarce and birds are struggling to get water to drink. We put up water pots in Ambazari village. Dilip made an artificial waterhole for birds with the help of a large tyre in Ghoti. We encourage villagers to provide water for birds by placing old bottles, pots and cans in suitable locations for birds.



(Left) Shiladevi- Balkrishna conducting seed collection activity; (right) Water hole construction in Ghoti.

The Range Forest Officer, Pauni asked us to help form Primary Response Teams (PRTs) in villages in our area of operations. On May 15th, 18th, 20th & 22th, PRTs were formed in six villages -- Usripur, Sawara, Kadbikheda, Ghoti, Khapa and Tuyepar. PRT members will be trained by the Forest Department in June. PRTs are first responders to human-wildlife conflict situations. They also assist Forest Department in intelligence gathering.

On May 2, a fire was noticed in the forest near Salai– Hiwara road, Pauni range. Dilip informed the Forest Department and rushed to the spot to assist in fighting the fire along with forest guards and forest labourers.

An awareness meeting on forest fires was held on the same day at Sawara to sensitise villagers about the harmful effects of such fires and the need for villagers to assist in fighting the fires.

Environment Education

On May 22, International day of Biological Diversity was celebrated at our field centre at Pench.

During the celebration programme, seed collection, identification of seeds and plantation methods were discussed with school kids from Ghoti, Wagholi, Salai and Pipariya. An educational program on bio-diversity was conducted and various educational movies were shown to the kids.

Employment Cell

During the month of May, one girl was sent to a month-long hospitality training programme at Sillari. She will be provided with campus placement opportunity by the training institute on successful completion of this training.

On May 27th-31st, two youths were sent to Nagpur, for an Agro Business Start-up training programme, conducted by Maharashtra Centre of Entrepreneurship Development (MCED).



Youth from Ghoti who attended the Agro Business Start-up Training by MCED

Sr. No.	Name	Village	Age	Qual.	Programme
1.	Payal Prakash Adakne	Ghoti	19	12 th	Hospitality training
2.	Nikhil Devchand Sariyam	Ghoti	26	12 th	Agro-business start-up
3.	Jitendra Suryabhan Idpachi	Sillari	26	12 th	--do--

Other Activities

On May 17, we attended a post-mortem examination on being invited by the Forest Department. A leopard was found dead in Ranidoh River, South Fulzari beat, Pipariya. It was apparently killed in a fight with a tiger.



*Ranidoh River, Pauni Range - (Left) Dead leopard after post mortem
(Right)- Post-mortem examination*

Research

A study to understand the awareness level of farmers in the buffer region is being undertaken by us. A questionnaire has been prepared which included basic information regarding agriculture, knowledge about impact of fertilizers and pesticides on environment as well as crop raiding and significance of insects and birds in agriculture. The project is intended to study the awareness level among farmers and to identify areas which could be improved through training. The study was launched in West PENCH cluster in May.



West PENCH cluster: Balkrishna conducting survey