



**PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA
SEPTEMBER 2018**

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *Two community foot patrols*
- ⇒ *Two programs to prepare kitchen gardens*
- ⇒ *One anti-plastic programme at Chargaon*
- ⇒ *Six meetings on conservation issues like JFM committee formation, Govt. Resolution reading, resettlement, crop damage compensation*
- ⇒ *Two conservation awareness rallies*
- ⇒ *Four celebrations to mark important days in the 'eco-calendar'*
- ⇒ *Fourteen school education programs conducted - 346 students participated*
- ⇒ *IT education program at Sawara*
- ⇒ *Personality Development Training organized for nature guides, Gypsy jeep owners and drivers from Sillari and Khudsapar Wildlife Safari gates - 45 participants from the 2 gates attended*
- ⇒ *Two youth shortlisted and sent for hospitality training program funded by Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation*
- ⇒ *Three livelihood meetings on various trades with Women Self Help Group (SHG) members and youths*
- ⇒ *Six free medical camps - 268 patients treated*
- ⇒ *One research project on snakes underway*

Conservation Action and Awareness

Sr. no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Sep 9	Compartment No. 621	Community patrol	5
2.	Sep 13	Compartment No. 733	--do--	4
3.	Sep 11	Chargaon	Anti-plastic programme	32
4.	Sep 15	Sawara	Kitchen Garden Preparation	25
5.	Sep 25	Kadbikheda	--do--	25
6.	Sep 2	Ghoti	Reading of Govt. Resolution on Village Eco-Development Committee	12
7.	Sep 4	Sawara	Meeting with women on conservation issues	35

8.	Sep 13	Kirangisarra	Meeting with villagers regarding community patrol & crop damage compensation	12
9.	Sep 19	Kadbikheda	Meeting with villagers regarding JFM committee formation	20
10.	Sep 23	Kirangisarra	Resettlement meeting	35
11.	Sep 26	Ghoti	Meeting with villagers regarding community patrol	13
12.	Sep 8	Ghoti	Conservation Awareness Rally	60
13.	Sep 11	Chargaon	--do--	35
14.	Sep 3	Khapa	International Vulture Awareness Day Celebration	20
15.	Sep 17	Ghoti	Ozone Layer Preservation Day Celebration	70
16.	Sep 27	Wagholi	World Tourism Day Celebration	17
17.	Sep 28	Sawara	Green Consumer Day Celebration	55
Total Participants				475

On September 15, Dilip motivated students to volunteer for a program to prepare a kitchen garden in Sawara Zilla Parishad (ZP) School. He explained to them the benefits of the kitchen garden and demonstrated methods of organic farming to them. He stressed the need of organic farming to save wildlife from pollutants and to save ourselves from harmful chemicals. He instructed the students to use organic manure like vermi-compost for the kitchen garden and encouraged all students to create such gardens in their backyards at their homes. The crop from this kitchen garden will be used for the mid-day meal program at the school for the students.

On September 25, Dilip motivated students, teachers and villagers to volunteer for a similar program in Kadbikheda ZP School.



Sawara - Dilip guides kitchen garden preparation through Shramdhaan at ZP School with students (left); Kadbikheda - Dilip at kitchen garden preparation through shramdhaan at ZP School with students, teacher & villagers (right)

On September 11, Balkrishna organized a plastic litter collection drive in Chargaon. During the shramdhaan program, Balkrishna explained the hazards of plastic waste for

both the environment and human health. Balkrishna explained to the students that plastic and non-degradable waste was causing irreparable damage to the ecosystem and adversely affecting birds and other life forms. He also told them that the waste was equally harmful to people. He brought to the notice of the students and teachers the large amount of plastic waste along the road leading to the school and in the village. Later, the students volunteered and collected the plastic litter in the village and along the road.



*Chargaon - Students during a cleanliness drive and anti-plastic campaign (left);
Chargaon - Balkrishna with students after the anti-plastic programme (right)*

On September 9, Balkrishna led a team of four Village Eco-development Committee (VEDC) members from Narhar village on a foot patrol in the forest area near their village.

The VEDC members looked out for signs of illegal tree felling or poaching during the patrol. No such illegal activities were detected.

Balkrishna joined Forest Department staff on a foot patrol in the Ambazari beat on September 13. These community-based patrols are supplemental to the regular patrols being done by the Forest Department.



*Ambazari Beat - Balkrishna on community foot patrol (left);
Kirangisarra - Dilip at a conservation meeting with villagers (right)*

On September 13, Dilip organized a meeting in Kirangi Sarra on crop damage compensation claim procedure and community foot patrol.

On September 23, a meeting was conducted by Dilip in the same village to promote awareness about the resettlement process and its benefits.

On September 19, Dilip organized a meeting in Kadbikheda to make the villagers aware about the formation process and benefits of a village eco-development committee (VEDC).

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

A similar program was carried out in Ghoti on September 2 by Dilip.

A conservation awareness rally was carried out by Dilip in Ghoti on September 8. The students raised slogans on water conservation and the importance of saving rivers and other local water bodies.

A similar program was carried out by Balkrishna in Chargaon on September 11.



Ghoti - A conservation awareness rally in progress (left); Chargaon - A conservation awareness rally with students and villagers (right)

On September 17, Dilip celebrated International Day for preservation of the ozone layer in Ghoti. He explained the purpose of the ozone cover over earth's atmosphere to the villagers and why we must conserve it.

Various other days from the 'eco-calendar' were celebrated in by Dilip in the month of September which included the International Vulture Awareness Day, World Tourism Day and the Green Consumer Day.

Environment Education

In September, a total of 14 school education programs were conducted by Dilip and Balkrishna in which students were given lectures on man-animal conflict, biodiversity conservation, climate change and other issues related to nature conservation.

A total of 346 students attended these programs.

School Education Programs

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
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1.	Sep 3	ZP School	Khapa	20
2.	Sep 6	ZP School	Jhinjheria	45
3.	Sep 8	ZP School	Ghoti	70
4.	Sep 11	ZP School	Pipariya	15
5.	Sep 11	ZP School	Sillari	12
6.	Sep 12	ZP School	Khudsapar	9
7.	Sep 25	ZP School	Kadbikheda	35
8.	Sep 27	ZP School	Wagholi	17
9.	Sep 3	ZP School	Chargaon	18
10.	Sep 4	ZP School	Shiladevi	15
11.	Sep 5	ZP School	Awaleghat	25
12.	Sep 6	ZP School	Narhar	18
13.	Sep 7	ZP School	Dhawalapur	30
14.	Sep 8	ZP School	Suwardhara	17
Total Participants				346



Khapa - Dilip conducts environment education program (left); Suwardhara - Balkrishna conducts environment education program (right)

IT Education Program

Satpuda Foundation has donated desktops as well as laptops to the Zilla Parishad School in Sawara village and has been conducting IT education program for the students free of cost since 2013. Basic computer skills are taught to the students to make them feel comfortable with the technology and improve their IT skills. Sita Uikey, a resident of Sawara village, works on an honorarium basis for Satpuda Foundation to impart IT education to students. Four classes were held in September in ZP School Sawara for the students of this village.



Sawara - Sita Uikey teaches students in our IT Education Program

Employment Cell

Personality Development Training for Nature Guides, Gypsy jeep drivers and owners:

Satpuda Foundation conducted a one-day “Nature Guide Personality Development Training” for Nature Guides, Gypsy Drivers and Gypsy owners of Pench Tiger Reserve on September 22. Around 45 nature guides, gypsy owners and drivers from Sillari and Khudsapar Wildlife Safari gates participated in this workshop. The resource person for this training was Sandip Chowdhury from Bangalore, presenter at Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project and an ecotourism consultant.

The aim of this program was to induce behavioral change in nature guides, which will enable the guides to interact with tourists in a professional way and will encourage them to engage with the tourists through story-telling.

The module for the training workshop included the following:

<i>Ice Breaking & Preliminary Evaluation (with cross introduction)</i>
<i>Ownership Building</i>
<i>Basics of human interaction and Mannerisms</i>
<i>Understanding Guest-Host relationship (with Role play)</i>
<i>Best practices in guest handling, including story-telling (with Role play)</i>
<i>Communication Rules (with Role play)</i>
<i>Activity – Transaction Analysis and Ego States</i>
<i>Hospitality and ego-management</i>
<i>Setting Outcomes and Expectations</i>

The guides expressed satisfaction and thanked Satpuda Foundation for organizing such a workshop just before the start of the tourism season. Certificates signed by the Range Forest Officer were distributed to the participants at the end of the workshop.



Pipariya - Nature Guide Personality Development Training at Satpuda Foundation's Community Center

During September, our team shortlisted two youths from Sawara for hospitality training program run by Pratham Arora Center for Education (PACE) in Sillari and funded by the Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation.

The Deputy Director of Pench Tiger Reserve had earlier asked our team to submit lists of short-listed candidates from villages to the respective Range Forest Officers (RFOs).

Youth informed, mobilized, encouraged and sent for livelihood training programs funded by Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation:

Sr. No.	Name	Village	Age	Qual.	Training	Institute
1.	Poornima Sunder Maraskohle	Sawara	19	11 th	Hospitality	PACE Sillari
2.	Poornima Dharmya Inwate	Sawara	20	12 th	Hospitality	PACE Sillari

On September 4, Dilip conducted a livelihood and self-employment meeting with the women of Sawara village. Dilip conducted this meeting to encourage women to undertake activities like stitching, paper and cloth bag making through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

A similar meeting was conducted on September 19 by Dilip in Kadbikheda for women SHG members.

Balkrishna conducted a meeting for youths in Suwardhara on September 14 and encouraged them to register for various livelihood programs funded by the Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation.

Other Livelihood activities & meetings:

Sr. no.	Date	Village / Place	Livelihood Activity	Participants
1.	Sep 4	Sawara	Women's employment	35
2.	Sep 14	Suwardhara	Employment for youths	15
3.	Sep 19	Kadbikheda	SHG- self employment	20
Total Participants				70



*Sawara- Dilip at a SHG meeting with women (left)
Suwardhara- Balkrishna at a livelihood meeting with youths (right)*

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

There were 6 medical camps in September in which 268 patients were treated.

no.	Sr.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1.		Sep 22	Shiladevi	38
2.			Narhar	28
3.		Sep 23	Saleghat	64
4.			Dhawlapur	12
5.		Sep 24	Chargaon	93
6.			Suwardhara	33
Total Patients Treated				268



Dr. Zanzal treating patients at free medical camp at Shiladevi (left) and Chargaon (right)

Research

A field survey on recording snakes, incidence of sighting them and incidence of snake bites in buffer zone villages is currently underway. This study will help us in preparing a checklist of snakes for Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra and will also help in noting the snake species that are more prone to come into contact with humans. The study will conclude in December 2018.