

**PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA
FEBRUARY 2019**

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *Two community foot patrols*
- ⇒ *One check dam built at Wagholi*
- ⇒ *One shramdhaan for cleaning of area around well*
- ⇒ *Three programs on LPG connection through Ujjwala scheme in non-VEDC villages*
- ⇒ *Two programs on snakebite awareness & questionnaire survey*
- ⇒ *Three conservation meetings related to forest-fire fighting, renewable energy and chain-link fencing of farmlands*
- ⇒ *One nature trail for students*
- ⇒ *Three celebrations to mark important days in the 'eco-calendar'*
- ⇒ *17 school education programs conducted, 374 students participated*
- ⇒ *Six film shows; 151 participants*
- ⇒ *Two meetings with SHGs to assist them with livelihood initiatives*
- ⇒ *Six free medical camps, 201 patients treated*

Conservation Action and Awareness

Sr.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Feb 17	Shiladevi Beat	Community patrol	3
2.	Feb 3	Harnakund	--do--	5
3.	Feb 24	Wagholi	Check dam construction	8
4.	Feb 19	Suwardhara	Cleaning of area around well	4
5.	Feb 7	Sawara	Ujjwala LPG connection survey & awareness	50
6.	Feb 10	Usripar	--do--	20
7.	Feb 12	Kadbikheda	--do--	40
8.	Feb 11	Pipariya	Snakebite awareness & questionnaire Survey	10
9.	Feb 11	Sillari	--do--	12
10.	Feb 20	Shiladevi	Nature trail	15
11.	Feb 5	Ghoti	Awareness meeting on forest fires	20
12.	Feb 11	Sillari	Listing of chain-link fencing beneficiaries	10
13.	Feb 10	Ghatpendari	Meeting on solar grid	17
14.	Feb 2	Ghatpendari	World Wetlands Day	18
15.	Feb 2	Sawara	--do--	30

16.	Feb 18	Sawara	World Recycling Day	20
Total Participants				282

On February 24, a check dam was constructed in Wagholi by Dilip and women volunteers from the village. This will help ensure availability of water for nearby farms and for livestock in the village throughout the year.

The check dam will also be a water source for nocturnal wildlife in the area.



Wagholi- Volunteers build check dam (left)

Wagholi- Team poses after completing check dam

On February 19, Balkrishna motivated villagers to volunteer for a programme to clean the area around a well in Suwardhara. Such cleanliness drives ensure that the cattle or villagers don't suffer from any illness due to water stagnation. It also helps prevent contraction and possible spreading of any disease from livestock to the wildlife.

On February 17, Balkrishna led a team of four Village Eco-development Committee (VEDC) members from Shiladevi village on a foot patrol in the forest near their village. The VEDC members looked out for signs of illegal tree felling or poaching during the patrol in compartment no. 211.

Dilip joined the Forest Department staff on a foot patrol in the Harnakund beat on February 3. These community-based patrols are supplemental to the regular patrols being done by the Forest Department.



Shiladevi Beat- Balkrishna during foot patrol exercise

On February 20, Dilip organized a meeting in Ghoti to make the villagers aware about the negative impacts of forest fires on the local biodiversity, air quality, farmlands and implications on climate change.

Dilip motivated the women to inform the Forest Department about wildfires and also told them to send village youths to such spots to assist the Forest Department.



Ghoti- Dilip addresses women on forest fires (left); Ghatpendari- A meeting on awareness about renewable energy and discussion on solar grid (right)

On February 10, an awareness meeting was held in Ghatpendari regarding renewable energy. Issues related to the solar grid, set up earlier in the village, were discussed with the villagers. The operators for the two mini grids installed in the village were present along with the beneficiaries of this initiative.

World Wetlands Day was celebrated on February 2 at Sawara and Ghatpendari by Dilip and Balkrishna respectively through programmes with school children. Our team explained the importance of wetlands to school kids and the need to conserve local wetlands.



Ghatpendri- Balkrishna with students during a nature trail on World Wetlands Day (left); Sawara- Celebration of World Recycling Day with students (right)

Environment Education

In February, a total of 17 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 374 students attended these programs.

School Education Programs

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Feb 4	ZP School	Chargaon	17
2.	Feb 5	ZP School	Awaleghat	24
3.	Feb 6	ZP School	Suwardhara	16
4.	Feb 14	ZP School	Ambazari	14
5.	Feb 15	ZP School	Shiladevi	13
6.	Feb 16	ZP School	Dhawalapur	26
7.	Feb 18	ZP School	Narhar	17
8.	Feb 21	ZP School	Ghatpendari	18
9.	Feb 8	ZP School	Khudsapar	9
10.	Feb 9	ZP School	Khapa	20
11.	Feb 13	ZP School	Kirangisarra	10
12.	Feb 14	ZP School	Pipariya	17
13.	Feb 14	ZP School	Sillari	11
14.	Feb 16	ZP School	Wagholi	19
15.	Feb 20	ZP School	Sawara	40
16.	Feb 22	ZP School	Kadbikheda	38
17.	Feb 23	ZP School	Ghoti	65
Total Participants				374



Kadbikheda- Dilip during a school education program

Education Van Program

The education van conducted six wildlife movie screenings in February. Five school programs and one village night-show program were conducted.

A total of 151 students and villagers attended these programs.

Sr. No.	Date	Place	Village	Movie	Number of students
1.	Feb	ZP School	Narhar	Corbett Tiger Reserve	17
2.	25	ZP School	Ghatpendari	--do--	18
3.	Feb	ZP School	Ambazari	--do--	15
4.	26	Village Night Show	Saleghat	--do--	50
5.	Feb	ZP School	Suwardhara	--do--	16
6.	27	ZP School	Dhawlapur	--do--	35
Total Participants					151



Saleghat- Education van village night-show program (left); Ambazari- Education van film show 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 teach the students.

Four such classes were held in February.



Sawara- IT education program

Employment Cell

On February 5, Dilip conducted a meeting with SHG members in Ghoti. He discussed making of cloth and paper bags and mushroom cultivation with the SHG members.

On February 19, Dilip conducted a meeting with SHG members in Khudsapar. He discussed making of cloth and paper bags with the SHG members. He also provided training to SHG members on how to make paper bags.

Livelihood activities & meetings:

Sr.no.	Date	Village / Place	Livelihood Activity	Participants
1.	Feb 5	Ghoti	SHG Livelihood meeting	20
2.	Feb 19	Khudsapar	SHG Paper bag training	11
Total Participants				31



Khudsapar- Paper bag making training to SHG women by Dilip

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

Six free medical camps were held in February in which 201 patients were treated.

S.no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1.	Feb 26	Khudsapar	28
2.		Usripur	42
3.	Feb 27	Kadbikheda	19
4.		Khapa	17
5.	Feb 28	Kirangi Sarra	39
6.		Ghoti	56
Total Patients Treated			201



Khapa- Dr. Khode treating patients at our free medical camp