

SATPUDA FOUNDATION

Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra

Activity Report – July 2019

Team:

Bandu Uikey – Assistant Conservation Officer

Dilip Lanjewar – Community Officer

Balkrishna Bagmare – Community Officer

Highlights:

- *Organised 2 foot patrols in West Pench Range; 6 villagers participated*
- *One soak pit prepared through shramdhaan*
- *Awareness rally and plantation drive organised in Khapa*
- *7 plantation programmes organised; 890 saplings planted*
- *Global Tiger Day 2019 celebrated*
- *11 nature education programs organised in schools; 344 students attended sessions*
- *Mushroom cultivation training organised; 12 villagers undertook training*
- *4 unemployed youths enrolled for hospitality training program*
- *Assisted two youths in getting employment in Nagpur*
- *One village meet organised to provide information on various agriculture schemes*

Activities

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Participants</i>
<i>1.</i>	<i>05 July</i>	<i>Plantation drive</i>	<i>Makardhokda beat</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>2.</i>	<i>07 July</i>	<i>Mushroom cultivation training organised</i>	<i>Wagholi</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>3.</i>	<i>10 July</i>	<i>Meeting with village youths regarding employment opportunities</i>	<i>Shiladevi</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>4.</i>	<i>10 July</i>	<i>Plantation drive</i>	<i>Dahoda</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>5.</i>	<i>11 July</i>	<i>Plantation drive</i>	<i>Usripur</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>6.</i>	<i>12 July</i>	<i>Plantation drive</i>	<i>Ghoti</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>7.</i>	<i>13 July</i>	<i>Awareness rally and plantation drive</i>	<i>Khapa</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>8.</i>	<i>14 July</i>	<i>Community foot patrol</i>	<i>Shiladevi</i>	<i>03</i>
<i>9.</i>	<i>20 July</i>	<i>Shramdhaan to prepare soak pit</i>	<i>Ghoti</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>10.</i>	<i>21 July</i>	<i>Community foot patrol</i>	<i>Suwardhara</i>	<i>03</i>
<i>11.</i>	<i>23 July</i>	<i>Plantation drive</i>	<i>Kadbikheda</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>12.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Mushroom cultivation training organised</i>	<i>Shiladevi</i>	<i>17</i>

	<i>July</i>			
<i>13.</i>	<i>24 July</i>	<i>Plantation drive</i>	<i>Sawara</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>14.</i>	<i>28 July</i>	<i>Drive to clear plastic waste</i>	<i>Chargaon</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>15.</i>	<i>29 July</i>	<i>Global Tiger Day 2019 celebration</i>	<i>Sawara</i>	<i>102</i>
			<i>Chargaon</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>16.</i>	<i>30 July</i>	<i>Farmers' meet for providing information on agriculture schemes</i>	<i>Ghoti</i>	<i>15</i>

On July 14, Balkrishna led a foot patrol in the forest area adjoining Shiladevi village. Forest Guard Mr. Chopde and 3 villagers from Shiladevi took part in the patrol. The team searched for illegal activity like snares, live electric cables, logging or encroachment during the patrol. They did not come across any signs of illegal activities during this patrol. They also searched for signs of wildlife presence in the area so that any conflict could be avoided. A similar patrol was organised by us on 21 July in the forest area near Suwardhara Lake. 3 villagers and 2 labourers from the Forest Department took part in the patrol. No illegal activity was detected by the team.



Balkrishna leads villagers on patrol

On 7 July, Satpuda Foundation organised a training programme on mushroom cultivation in Wagholi village. 3 men and 9 women attended the training programme. During the programme, the participants were taught techniques of oyster mushroom cultivation. Mushroom cultivation is a lucrative livelihood option as it is less cost- and labour-intensive. It also helps solve farm waste and stubble burning problem as it uses farm waste as a raw material for mushroom cultivation. Sahadeo Tekam, one of the participants of the training program, has started a mushroom cultivation unit with 100 kg production capacity. Satpuda Foundation assisted him in selecting the location for setting up this unit and also in procuring the required spawn and materials.

A similar training programme was organised for 17 villagers from Shiladevi village. Raju Ahake, an unemployed youth has taken up mushroom cultivation after attending the training programme.



Villagers from Wagholi after undertaking mushroom cultivation training (left); Mushroom cultivation training underway in Shiladevi (right)

On 20 July, Satpuda Foundation organised a shramdhaan program to prepare a soak pit near a community hand pump in Ghoti village. 7 villagers volunteered for the program. They cleared the weeds growing around the hand pump and dug the soak pit. This soak pit will help the spill over water to effectively percolate and help recharge groundwater level. This will also help prevent spread of water-borne diseases like malaria during the monsoon season.



Dilip and villagers of Ghoti preparing soak pit near a hand pump

On 28 July, Satpuda Foundation organised a shramdhaan program to clear plastic trash near Chargaon Zilla Parishad Primary school. 21 students volunteered to clear the trash on and around their school premises. During the monsoon, plastic trash tends to accumulate in nallahs and also ends up being eaten by cattle within the village. The students collected almost 25kg of plastic trash during the drive.



Students cleaning and collecting plastic trash in Chargaon school

In July, Satpuda Foundation organised seven plantation drives in villages of buffer area of Pench Tiger Reserve. On 10 July, Dilip organised a drive in Jai Seva Adivasi Ashram School in Dahoda village during which 70 students, along with their teachers, planted 200 saplings around the school premises. Similar programs were organised in schools of Khapa, Usripar, Kadbikheda and Sawara villages of East Pench Range during which a total of 137 students planted 170 saplings of local tree species.

We also planted 20 saplings at Ghoti forest protection hut. During the plantation drive program in Kadbikheda, Dilip also distributed educational material like notebooks, pens etc to poor students.

A similar plantation drive was organised by the Forest Department in which Balkrishna encouraged 35 villagers of Makardhokda village to participate. The villagers assisted Forest Department staff in planting 500 saplings of local tree species.



Awareness rally and education material distribution in Kadbikheda



Plantation drive in Usripar school (left) and near Ghoti forest protection hut (right)



Plantation drive in Makardhokda beat

On July 29, Satpuda Foundation celebrated 'Global Tiger Day 2019' at Zilla Parishad Upper Primary school in Sawara village. 102 students along with 3 teachers took part in an awareness rally organised by us. Students raised slogans about the importance of tigers in the ecosystem and also the need to help protect tigers and forests for future generations. Dilip organised an interactive session for the students during which he explained the threats to tigers and what they can do to help protect tigers and forests. Balkrishna also celebrated the day with 23 students of Zilla Parishad Primary School, Chargaon by organising an interactive session to explain the relationship between tigers, forests, water and survival of all living beings. He engaged them in games to explain these concepts effectively.



Awareness rally and interactive session on Global Tiger Day in Sawara



Balkrishna celebrates Global Tiger Day at Chargaon

On July 30, Dilip provided information about various schemes being implemented by Agriculture and Livestock Departments of state government in Ghoti village. Dilip assisted 10 villagers in applying for subsidy of Rs 10,000/- for adopting vegetable cultivation. 3 villagers applied for a 50 per cent subsidy scheme to setup storage units while 2 villagers applied for milk cattle distribution scheme.

Education programs

<i>Sr. no.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Participants</i>
1.	08 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Chargaon	17
2.	09 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Awaleghat	27
3.	11 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Usripur	07
4.	11 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Shiladevi	16
5.	12 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Narhar	18
6.	13 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Dhawalpur	25
7.	15 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Khapa	19
8.	15 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Sillari	11
9.	15 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Ambazari	19
10.	17 July	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School	Zinzeriya	60
11.	18 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Pipariya	20
12.	20 July	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School	Ghoti	60
13.	22 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Kadbikheda	38
14.	22 July	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary School	Sawara	94
15.	25 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Kirangisarra	11
16.	26 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Khudsapar	09
17.	27 July	Zilla Parishad Primary School	Wagholi	15
			<i>Total</i>	<i>466</i>



Dilip conducting education program in Sawara (left); Balkrishna interacts with students of Shiladevi (right)

Employment cell

In July, Dilip helped 4 unemployed youths enrol for hospitality training program being conducted by Pratham Arora Centre for Education (PACE) and sponsored by Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation. (Details in table below)

In July, Balkrishna helped Roshan Inmate of Narhar village apply for a vacancy of technician at Bharat Udyog in Hengan MIDC, Nagpur. Roshan successfully gained employment and is now earning a salary of Rs 9,000/- per month. Earlier he used to work as a daily wage labourer earning Rs 3,000/- per month.

Balkrishna also helped two youths to apply and gain employment with METRO Ltd, Nagpur (Details in table below).

<i>Sr. no.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Placement/Training</i>
1.	Amar Govind Bhalavi	20	12 th	Lakhapur	Hospitality training program at PACE, Sillari
2.	Kamlesh Imarchand Bhalavi	20	12 th	Lakhapur	Hospitality training program at PACE, Sillari
3.	Vishal Yashwant Warkhade	21	10 th	Kharpada, Pauni	Hospitality training program at PACE, Sillari
4.	Avinash Rohidas Mesram	21	12 th	Dongartal	Hospitality training program at PACE, Sillari
5.	Roshan Ganu Inwate	23	12 th	Narhar	Technician, Bharat Udyog, Hingna MIDC, Nagpur
6.	Raju Ramrao Bagmare	22	10 th	Chargaon	Labourer, METRO Ltd., Nagpur
7.	Prafull Moreshawar Dunedar	23	12 th	Navegaon	Labourer, METRO Ltd., Nagpur