

**PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA
MARCH 2019**

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *Three community foot patrols*
- ⇒ *One waterhole prepared at Sawara*
- ⇒ *One shramdhaan for cleaning of waterhole at Usripar*
- ⇒ *One anti-plastic campaign at Awaleghat*
- ⇒ *Four community meetings on prevention of forest fires during mahua collection season*
- ⇒ *One meeting on chain-link fencing for farmlands*
- ⇒ *Two community meetings on celebrating Green Holi*
- ⇒ *Three nature trails for students*
- ⇒ *Seven celebrations to mark important days in the 'eco-calendar'*
- ⇒ *18 school education programs conducted - 490 students participated*
- ⇒ *IT education program at Sawara*
- ⇒ *Five youths assisted in getting admission at RSETI livelihood training center, Nagpur*
- ⇒ *Six free medical camps - 198 patients treated*

Conservation Action and Awareness

Sr.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Mar 19	Suwardhara Beat	Community patrol	7
2.	Mar 21	Ambazari Beat	--do--	5
3.	Mar 21	Tuyepar	--do--	7
4.	Mar 17	Sawara	Waterhole construction	9
5.	Mar 3	Usripar	Waterhole cleaning and de-silting	7
6.	Mar 20	Awaleghat	Anti-plastic programme	45
7.	Mar 22	Chargaon	Meeting on prevention of forest fires during mahua collection season	9
8.	Mar 6	Kadbikheda	--do--	15
9.	Mar 15	Khudsapar	--do--	15
10.	Mar 17	Sawara	--do--	20
11.	Mar 8	Ghoti	Meeting on chain-link fencing	10
12.	Mar 15	Bandra	Meeting on celebrating eco-friendly Holi	40
13.	Mar 17	Usripar	--do--	20

14.	Mar 14	Dhawalapur	Nature trail & seed collection	37
15.	Mar 15	Shiladevi	--do--	17
16.	Mar 16	Ghatpendari	--do--	16
17.	Mar 20	Awaleghat	Conservation awareness rally	50
18.	Mar 3	Suwardhara	World Wildlife Day	42
19.	Mar 3	Usripar	--do--	7
20.	Mar 3	Chargaon	--do--	28
21.	Mar 21	Kadbikheda	International Forest Day	45
22.	Mar 22	Sawara	World Water Day	50
23.	Mar 23	Khapa	World Climate Day	23
Total Participants				524

On March 3, we cleaned and de-silted a water hole near Usripar village with assistance from volunteers.

A new waterhole was constructed near Sawara village for birds and smaller wildlife on March 17. The waterholes are of great help to wildlife especially in the summer months due to water scarcity.



*Sawara- Volunteers pose after waterhole construction (left)
Usripar- Volunteers cleaning and de-silting a waterhole (right)*

On March 19, Balkrishna led a team of four Village Eco-development Committee (VEDC) members from Suwardhara 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. 622. Night foot patrols were carried out in Ambazari beat and Tuyepar on the eve of Holi.

On March 20, Balkrishna organized a plastic litter collection drive in Awaleghat village. During the shramdhaan program, Balkrishna explained the hazards of plastic waste for both environment and human health. Balkrishna explained to the villagers 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 villagers the large amount of plastic waste along the road leading to the school and in the village.

Later, the villagers volunteered along with students and cleaned the plastic litter in the village and along the road.



Ambazari Beat- Balkrishna during community foot patrol (left)

Awaleghat- Balkrishna with students after completion of the anti-plastic campaign (right)

On March 15, Dilip organized a meeting in Bandra with villagers to promote the celebration of Holi in an eco-friendly manner. He demonstrated methods of extracting and making colours from natural products like palash flower.

A similar meeting was conducted by Dilip in Usripar.

On March 22, Balkrishna organized a meeting in Chargaon to make the villagers aware about the negative impacts of forest fires on the local biodiversity, air quality, farmlands and implications on climate change. He told them to harvest mahua sustainably.

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

Similar programs were carried out by Dilip in Kadbikheda, Khudsapar and Sawara



Khudsapar- Dilip shows community members how to celebrate green Holi (left)

Chargaon- Balkrishna with community members during a meeting on prevention of forest fires during mahua collection season (right)

On March 3, Balkrishna celebrated World Wildlife Day in Suwardhara by organising awareness rallies with students and villagers.

On March 22, World Water Day was celebrated by Dilip with school students and villagers of Sawara village. An awareness rally was organized, with participants going through the village shouting slogans for water conservation. Dilip explained the need to conserve forests and water to the villagers.



*Suwardhara- World Wildlife Day celebration (left)
Sawara- Dilip with students during World Water Day celebration (right)*

Environment Education

In March, a total of 18 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 490 students attended these programs.

School Education Programs

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Mar 5	ZP School	Narhar	17
2.	Mar 6	ZP School	Suwardhara	15
3.	Mar 7	ZP School	Chargaon	13
4.	Mar 8	ZP School	Dhawlapur	33
5.	Mar 9	ZP School	Shiladevi	16
6.	Mar 11	ZP School	Ambazari	14
7.	Mar 12	ZP School	Ghatpendari	18
8.	Mar 13	ZP School	Awaleghat	27
9.	Mar 2	ZP School	Khudsapar	9
10.	Mar 5	ZP School	Kirangisarra	10
11.	Mar 9	ZP School	Kadbikheda	35
12.	Mar 12	ZP School	Khapa	17
13.	Mar 13	ZP School	Ghoti	70
14.	Mar 13	ZP School	Wagholi	20
15.	Mar 14	ZP School	Pipariya	24
16.	Mar 14	ZP School	Sillari	9
17.	Mar 18	ZP School	Sawara	78
18.	Mar 19	ZP School	Zinzeriya	65
Total Participants				490



*Kadbikheda-Dilip during a school education program (left)
Shiladevi- Balkrishna with students during a nature game session (right)*



Dhawlapur- Balkrishna with students during a nature trail

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 March.



Sawara- Sita during the IT education program classes

Employment Cell

On March 28, Dilip took five youths to RSETI (Rural Self-Employment Training Institute) Nagpur where they were admitted to a training course on repairing mobile phones.

These five youths belonged to Ghoti, Kadbikheda and Sawara.

Youths taken for interview to Nagpur for training in Bank of Maharashtra - RSETI Mobile Repairing training program:

Sr. No.	Name	Village	Age	Qual.
1.	Subham Suresh Warkhade	Ghoti	19	12 th
2.	Aniket Bala Badan	Ghoti	20	12 th
3.	Mangesh Sadashiv Maraskolhe	Kadbikheda	23	12 th
4.	Jitendra Laxman Uikey	Sawara	19	12 th
5.	Rupesh Jivan Tumdam	Kadbikheda	19	12 th



Ghoti- Subham Suresh Warkhade, one of the youths who was assisted by us in getting admission at RSETI

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

Six free medical camps were held in March in which 198 patients were treated.

S.no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1.	Mar 26	Chargaon	47
2.		Saleghat	36
3.	Mar 27	Ghatpendari	49
4.		Narhar	32
5.	Mar 28	Ambazari	21
6.		Shiladevi	13
Total Patients Treated			198



Saleghat- Dr. Khode treating a patient