

**PENCH TIGER RESERVE MAHARASHTRA
AUGUST 2017**

Team: Mandar Pingle – *Conservation Officer*
Bandu Uikey - *Conservation Officer*
Dilip Lanjewar, Balkrishna Baghmare – *Field Assistants*

Highlights

- ⇒ *One soak pit prepared*
- ⇒ *One shramdhaan to clean sewage waste in Chargaon*
- ⇒ *Celebrated Adivasi Divas in Sawara with conservation programmes*
- ⇒ *Celebrated Independence Day in Chargaon, Ghatpendari with conservation programmes*
- ⇒ *Two nature trails held for students of Sawara and Khapa – 31 students participated*
- ⇒ *Joined Forest Department staff on 7 anti-poaching patrols*
- ⇒ *Bandu Uikey assisted 3 youths from Ghatpendari in getting jobs*
- ⇒ *Dilip organised meetings in Khudsapar and Kadbikheda to inform villagers about alternate livelihood options and government-aided skill development programmes*
- ⇒ *Organized class room lectures in 13 schools - attended by 347 students*
- ⇒ *Organized 1 medical camp – 30 patients treated free of cost*

Conservation work

S.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Aug 10	Pipariya	Soak pit prepared	09
2.	Aug 17	Sawara	Nature trail	17
3.	Aug 27	Khapa	Nature trail	14
4.	Aug 22	Tuyapar hut	Foot patrol	05
5.	Aug 27	Khapa	VEDC foot patrol	05
6.	Aug 01	Khudsapar	VEDC meeting on alternate livelihood	14
7.	Aug 03	Kadbikheda	VEDC meeting for farm pond fish farming as livelihood option organised	12
8.	Aug 28	Chargaon	Shramdhaan to clean area near bore well	07
9.	Aug 15	Chargaon	Celebrated Independence Day	40
10.	Aug 15	Chargaon	Awareness rally organised	50
11.	Aug 28	Siladevi	VEDC foot patrol	04
12.	Aug 21	Ambazari	VEDC foot patrol	04
13.	Aug 22	Kolitmara	VEDC foot patrol	04
14.	Aug 04	Ghatkukda	Meeting with beneficiaries of milch cow distribution	05

			scheme regarding dairy management	
15.	Aug 15	Ghatpendari	Celebrated Independence Day, information on various schemes on agriculture given to villagers	110
16.	Aug 17	Ghatpendari	Meeting on proper management of Solar Grid Project	218
17.	Aug 21	Ghatpendari	VEDC foot patrol	04

On August 10, Dilip Lanjewar along with 9 villagers of Pipariya village prepared a soak pit near a hand pump in the village. The excess water was stagnating, causing unhygienic conditions near the hand pump. The pool of waste water had become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The soak pit will help the waste water to seep into the ground and help improve the ground water level. The area near the hand pump is also clean now and this will help prevent diseases.

On August 28, Balkrishna along with 7 volunteers from Chargaon cleaned the area near a bore well in their village. During the monsoon season, a lot of mud had gathered near the hand pump causing inconvenience to all the villagers. It also posed a health hazard as it had become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies. By cleaning the excess grass and mud near the bore well, the villagers assisted in keeping their village clean.



Villagers volunteer to clean area near bore well in Chargaon village

Dilip joined village eco-development committee (VEDC) members and Forest Department staff on patrols on August 22 and 27 at Tuyapar hut and Khapa villages respectively. The team patrolled the forest and borders of the villages, checking for signs of illegal activities.

Balkrishna joined similar patrols thrice on August 21, 22 and 28 near Ambazari, Kolutmara and Siladevi villages of West Pench Range, while Bandu Uikey joined the Forest Department team along with 4 villagers on foot patrol near Ghatpendari village on August 21 and 22 on occasion of Pola festival.

No illegal activity was detected on these patrols.



Villagers from Khapa on a foot patrol near their village

In August, Dilip took students on 2 nature trails during which he spoke to the students about birds, trees and forests. The impact of degradation of natural resources was explained to the students. The kids spotted a number of bird species like *drongo*, *tree pie*, *bush quail*, *white eyed buzzard* etc while on the nature trails. Students from Sawara and Khapa took part in the nature trails.



Dilip Lanjewar with children from Sawara village during a nature trail

On August 9, Dilip Lanjewar celebrated Global Indigenous Tribes Day (Adivasi Divas) in Sawara village along with students, teachers and villagers. Dilip organised a rally during which the students raised slogans to make villagers aware of the rich culture of Gond tribes which aims at preserving and judiciously using natural resources. Later a lecture session was arranged in the school.



Students of Sawara School participate in awareness rally (left) and lecture session on occasion of Adivasi Divas celebrations in Sawara village

On August 15, Balkrishna organised a rally along with 50 students, teachers and villagers of Chargaon village on the occasion of India's Independence Day. The participants of the rally raised slogans to create awareness about importance of wildlife conservation and protection of the rich ecological heritage of India. The students urged villagers to actively contribute towards wildlife conservation in all possible ways.



Students, teachers and villagers participate in an awareness rally in Chargaon village

On August 4, Bandu Uikey organised a meeting in Ghatkukda village for five beneficiaries of milch cow distribution scheme and gave information about good practices of dairy management. Bandu gave the villagers information on ways to optimise milk production and also gave them information on processing of the milk to add value to the product. Dairy and animal husbandry is a very profitable livelihood option for the villagers of buffer area of the National Park and will help them reduce their dependency on forests for livelihood.

On August 15, Bandu Uikey attended a meeting in Ghatpendari on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations and gave information regarding various government schemes for farmers regarding agriculture. 110 villagers were present during the meeting.



Bandu interacting with farmers during a meeting in Ghatpendari village

Environmental Education

In August 2017, 13 environment education sessions were arranged; 329 students attended these sessions.

S.no.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Aug 02	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Kirangi Sarra	13
2.	Aug 04	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Wagholi	22
3.	Aug 04	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Pipariya	15
4.	Aug 16	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Khudsapar	09
5.	Aug 18	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary school	Kadbikheda	37
6.	Aug 21	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary school	Ghoti	67
7.	Aug 23	Zilla Parishad Upper Primary school	Sawara	50
8.	Aug 26	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Sillari	08
9.	Aug 26	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Khapa	20
10.	Aug 09	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Suwardhara	23
11.	Aug 10	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Siladevi	15
12.	Aug 19	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Chargaon	25
13.	Aug 23	Zilla Parishad Primary school	Awaleghat	25
Total				329



Balkrishna (left) and Dilip (right) teaching students about environment protection and wildlife conservation during classroom education programme

Employment Cell

S. no	Date	Village	Name	Qual.	Age	Job	Salary
1.	Aug 17	Ghatpendari	Sukhdas B Warthi	12 th	27	Daily wage labourer in Bajaj Construction Ltd, Tiroda	300/- per day
2.	Aug 17	Ghatpendari	Sunil N Uikey	12 th	30	Daily wage labourer in Bajaj Construction Ltd, Tiroda	300/- per day
3.	Aug 17	Ghatpendari	Kishor B Kalokar	10 th	32	Daily wage labourer in Bajaj Construction Ltd, Tiroda	300/- per day

On August 1, Dilip Lanjewar organised a meeting in Khudsapar village and gave information on self-employment schemes to the unemployed youths and women's self help group members. Dilip also gave information on the farm pond fish farming scheme being run by Maharashtra State government and prepared a list of interested candidates. Later Dilip submitted the list to Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF), East Pench

Range, Mrs. Geeta Nannaware. Dilip Lanjewar prepared a list of candidates interested in undertaking a one-month programme to train candidates in driving four-wheelers at Ashok Leyland's driver's training institute located at Linga in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.

The cost of training and accommodation is borne by Maharashtra Forest Department under the aegis of Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Programme (BCRLIP). The candidates have to pay for the expenses of procuring the driving license from Regional Transport Office (RTO).

The list of the candidates ready to undertake the driver's training was forwarded to ACF Mrs. Geeta Nannaware.

Dilip organised a similar meeting in Kadbikheda village on August 3 during which 12 villagers were present.

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 technology and improve their IT skills. Ms Sita Uikey, a resident of Sawara village works on an honorarium basis for Satpuda Foundation and teaches the children.

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

One camp was held in August.

S. no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1	Aug 26	Saleghat	30
<i>Total</i>			<i>30</i>



Dr Zanjali examines a patient during our free medical camp in Saleghat village