

**PENCH MAHARASHTRA
OCTOBER 2017**

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

Highlights

- ⇒ *Socio-economic surveys of 24 villages*
- ⇒ *One check dam built during Wildlife Week 2017 - 25 people participated*
- ⇒ *Four awareness rallies organized during Wildlife Week 2017 - total of 225 students/villagers participated*
- ⇒ *One anti-plastic drive during Wildlife Week 2017 – 20 students & 15 villagers volunteered*
- ⇒ *One nature trail & one nature visit held for students of Ghatpendari – a total of 41 students participated in these 2 events*

Conservation work

S.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Oct 2	Ghatpendari	Anti-plastic drive	35
2.	Oct 4	Sillari Beat	Check dam construction	25
Total Participants				60

On October 2, Bandu Uikey organized an anti-plastic programme in Ghatpendari village as a part of Wildlife Week 2017 celebrations. Bandu explained to the students and villagers about the hazards of plastic waste for both environment and human health.

He also explained how plastic and non-degradable waste was causing irreparable damage to the ecosystem near the water bodies and adversely affecting the birds and other life forms. He told them that the waste was equally harmful to people. He brought to the notice of the students the large amount plastic waste along the road in the village.

Later, the students along with villagers volunteered and cleaned the plastic waste along the road.

On October 4, Dilip arranged a shramdhaan programme in Sillari beat. During the shramdhaan, villagers volunteered and constructed a check dam. The check dam will help in water conservation for wildlife and people alike.



Bandu leading the way during plastic waste clean-up campaign (left); Check dam construction at Sillari (right)

Wildlife Week 2017 Events

S.no.	Date	Program	Village	Number of participants
1.	Oct 1	Awareness Rally: Save Environment	Sillari	50
2.	Oct 2	Awareness Rally: Save Environment	Ghatpendari	35
3.	Oct 2	Nature Trail	Ghatpendari	15
4.	Oct 2	GR explanation about crop depredation to villagers	Khapa	38
5.	Oct 2	Awareness Rally: Save Environment	Chargaon	50
6.	Oct 2	Classroom Session for students: Environment Education	Ghatpendari	20
7.	Oct 3	Awareness Rally: Save Environment	Ghoti	90
8.	Oct 3	Classroom Session for students: Environment Education	Ghoti	85
9.	Oct 4	Nature visit to East PENCH-Totladoh dam & Ambakhori	Ghatpendari	26
Total Participants				409

Four awareness rallies were organized during Wildlife week 2017 at Sillari, Ghatpendari, Chargaon and Ghoti; the theme being 'Save Environment'. Balkrishna, Bandu & Dilip organized these rallies.

On October 2, a nature trail was organized for the students of Ghatpendari, during which Bandu explained the importance of preserving local flora and fauna, focusing on insects & beetles.

On October 2, Dilip read out a Government Resolution on crop depredation to the villagers of Khapa and explained it in full to them.

On October 4 Bandu organised a nature visit to East Pench for students of Ghatpendari. They were taken to Totladoh dam and Ambakhori. Bandu spoke to them about Pench Tiger Reserve and about the birds and animals that thrive here. Classroom sessions on the environment were held at Ghatpendari and Ghoti on October 2 and October 3 respectively.



Awareness rally organized by Dilip at Sillari (left) and by Bandu at Ghatpendari (right)



Balkrishna leads an awareness rally during Wildlife Week at Chargaon (left) school students with Dilip in a rally at Ghoti raising awareness about wildlife protection (right)



Khapa-meeting with villagers on GR explanation & man-animal conflict mitigation measures (left) School students of Ghatpendari on a nature visit to Totladoh with Bandu (right)



Nature trail at Ambakhori (left) and nature trail for school students at Ghatpendari (right)



Bandu speaks to school students and Forest Dept. staff about wildlife (left) and Dilip explaining the importance of celebrating Wildlife week to students at Ghoti (right)

Ghatpendari Solar Project

A meeting was organized by Bandu with the villagers of Ghatpendari to discuss the monthly rates for the solar project. The meeting was attended by Gram Panchayat

member Mr. Keshav Admachi and it was decided by the villagers that the monthly payment rate per household to maintain the solar set-up would be Rs. 50 starting from the month of October.



Bandu attending meeting with villagers of Ghatpendari regarding Solar Grid

Employment Cell

In September 2017, Satpuda Foundation assisted Maharashtra Forest Department in the selection of candidates to be trained in driving four-wheelers. The training was provided at Ashok Leyland Driver Training Institute, Linga (Chhindwara) and the program was funded by BCRLIP. Most of the youths who participated were involved in fishing activities in the Totladoh reservoir. This month long training provided an excellent opportunity to the youths to learn a skill which will help reduce their dependence on forests, thus helping in wildlife conservation. These 29 candidates graduated from the programme on 15th October 2017. The mandatory Government tests for the granting of licenses are currently underway.

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 the year 2013. Basic computer skills are taught to the students to make them feel comfortable with the technology and improve their IT skills. Ms. Sita, a resident of Sawara village works on an honorarium basis for Satpuda Foundation, wherein, she is able to earn a livelihood as well. Four such classes were held in the month of October 2017.