

# PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

## April 2019

**Team:**

**Conservation Officer** – Sumit Kumar Kar

**Field Assistant** – Niranjan Hinge (Turia cluster)

**Field Assistant**– Kamlesh Pawar (Khamarpani cluster)

**Major highlights of the month**

- Health camps at 6 villages -- 121 patients treated
- Education programme at 11 schools attended by 215 students
- Film shows attended by 147 students
- Earth Day celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- Three nature trails
- Birdbath preparation and installation
- Seed collection and nursery preparation
- SHG meeting at Turiya and Kundai

**Conservation Action and Awareness**

Sr. no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Apr 21	Satosha	Anti-plastic drive	7
2.	Apr 18	Turiya	Biogas unit repaired	3
3.	Apr 19	Turiya	--do--	3
4.	Apr 21	Turiya	Seed collection and nursery set up	5
5.	Apr 22	Durgapur	Earth Day celebration	12
6.	Apr 11	Kohoka	Bird bath installation	06
7.	Apr 12	Khamba	Bird bath installation	04
8.	Apr 13	Durgapur	Bird bath installation	09
9.	Apr 15	Aamajhiri	Bird bath installation	05
10.	Apr 16	Potiya	Bird bath installation	06
11.	April 19	Satosha	Nature trail	13
12.	April 22	Durgapur	Nature trail	11
13.	April 6	Mohgaon	Nature trail	8
15	April 15	Chirrewani	Compost tank prepared	4
16	Apr 17	Pulpuldoh	Bird bath installation	3
17	Apr 18	Mohgaon	Bird bath installation	5
18	Apr 28	Kundai	Bird bath installation	4
19	Apr 20	Mohgaon	Seed collection for nursery	6
<b>Total Participants</b>				<b>194</b>

Seeds are source of regeneration of the forest. They form the means through which trees pass on their genetic information. During the month of April, Niranjan and Kamlesh

organised wild seed collection activities with children of buffer villages. The objective of the activity was to familiarize children with the shape, size and appearance of various types of seeds found in the forest and to create a nursery by planting the collected seeds. The saplings generated will be used for plantation activities during the monsoon.



*Turiya - Children planting seeds collected by them*

Earth Day is celebrated across the globe on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Since 1970, Earth Day has been a focus for various activities centered around preservation of various life forms and maintenance of the delicate balance of life on Earth. Satpuda Foundation celebrated Earth day by having interactive sessions with young students. Niranjana arranged an education programme at Durgapur village to celebrate the occasion.



*Durgapur – Niranjana addresses young students on biodiversity of Earth during Earth Day Celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> April*

On April 15, Kamlesh assembled a group of volunteers at Chirrewani to construct a compost pit. Kamlesh had earlier explained to the villagers the concept of waste management and how compost pits can help in waste management and compost making. Composting recycles various organic materials otherwise regarded as waste products and produces a soil conditioner (the *compost*). Compost is rich in nutrients. It is used, for example, in kitchen gardens, horticulture, and organic farming thus completing the nutrient recycling process



*Chirrewani –Volunteers dig a compost pit*

Water scarcity during summer can led to avaian mortality. In order to involve students in conservation of avifauna, our team organised the making of bird baths in villages of the buffer region. During April, Niranjana held activities at various villages in the buffer region to install bird baths with the help of students and villagers. Similar activity was also undertaken by Kamlesh in Khamarpani cluster. The bird baths were installed by the students who volunteered to regularly fill them through the summer.



*Kohoka – Students making ready a bird bath for installation (top left);*

*Installation by children of Khamba Village ( top right);  
Bird bath installed by Kamlesh at a Forest Dept. camp at Thuyepani Gate (bottom)*

Abundance of cow dung in rural India can be tapped via biogas plants to convert the organic material into biogas which mainly consists of methane via anaerobic process. Biogas is a sustainable form of energy which is used mainly for cooking reducing the need for fuel wood and thereby reducing pressure on forest. Biogas is produced from slurry of cow dung through anaerobic decomposition. Satpuda Foundation has been undertaking repair activities of faulty biogas production unit and stoves. During April, Niranjana repaired a faulty unit at Turia



*Turia – Niranjana undertaking repair of a faulty biogas stove (left)  
Stove after repair (right)*

Plastic, due to its non-degradable nature, creates waste management issues. With availability of plastic packing in numerous daily use products, the rise in plastic waste is significant. The plastic litter not only makes the surroundings look dirty, it is often mistaken by herbivores as a food source. This results in death in some instances due to blockage of digestive tract. Plastic waste often finds its way into water and results in water pollution. Satpuda Foundation regularly organises anti-plastic programmes in which volunteers help in gathering plastic waste and dispose it properly. Niranjana organised an anti-plastic drive on April 21 in Satosha village.



*Satosha – Anti-plastic drive by volunteers*

On April 6, Kamlesh organized a nature trail for students of Mohgaon Primary School. During the nature trail program, Kamlesh explained the various birds found in the vicinity of the village and their role in the ecosystem. Kamlesh also explained the utility of various plant and insect species found in the forest. Nirranjan organised similar trails on April 19 and 22 at Satosha and Durgapur villages respectively.



*Students on nature trail in Satosha (left) and Mohgaon (right)*

### **Environment Education**

In the month of April, a total of eleven school education programs were held by Nirranjan, Kamlesh and Sumit in which students were given lectures on a wide range of topics such as pollution, man-animal conflict, biodiversity conservation and other issues related to nature conservation. A total of 215 students attended these programs.

#### *School Education Programs*

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
1.	Apr 4	Govt. Middle School	Kohoka	19
2.	Apr 3	Govt. Middle School	Turiya	21
3.	Apr 8	Govt. Middle School	Telia	16
4.	Apr 9	Govt. Primary School	Satosha	18
5.	Apr 10	Govt. Middle School	Aamajhiri	19
6.	Apr 1	Govt. Middle School	Deori	30
7.	Apr 2	Govt. Middle School	Thuyepani	20
8.	Apr 3	Govt. Middle School	Kundai	15
9.	Apr 4	Govt. Middle School	Chirrewani	18
10.	Apr 5	Govt. Middle School	Doodhgaon	19
11.	Apr 16	Govt. Middle School	Pulpuldoh	20
<b>Total Participants</b>				<b>215</b>



*Turiya – Niranjan conducts environment education program (left);  
Kohoka– Sumit addressing students at an environment education program on honeybees  
(right)*

During April, we screened 6 films on nature and wildlife conservation, attended by 147 students from six schools. During the education van program, documentaries related to various tiger reserves of India, Western Ghats and bird diversity of India were shown to the students. The shows were followed by interactive sessions with our staff on wildlife related issues.

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
1.	Apr 8	Government Middle School	Thuyepani	31
2.		Government Primary School	Chirrewani	26
3.	Apr 9	Government Middle School	Mohgaon	14
4.		Government Middle School	Doodhgaon	31
5.	Apr 10	Government Primary School	Deori	23
6.		Government Primary School	Pulpuldoh	22
<b><i>Total Participants</i></b>				<b><i>147</i></b>



*School students interacting with Sumit before film show at Deori (left)*

*Students watching wildlife documentary at Pulpuldoh (right)*

Satpuda Foundation 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. A computer awareness and hands-on practice session was held at Kohoka Middle School on 5<sup>th</sup> April in which a total of 26 students were involved.



*Students trying their skills on a computer during computer awareness session at Kohoka*

*Nature games*

Nature games are unique as they impart important conservation-related message through interesting, simple games. They are more interactive than a traditional lecture and are more effective in capturing the attention of young minds. During the month of April, three such nature games were organised.

SL no	Date	Village/Location	No of Participants
1	10 <sup>th</sup> April	Kohoka	21
2	20 <sup>th</sup> April	Satosha	13
3	7 <sup>th</sup> April	Thuyepani	11
4	19 <sup>th</sup> April	Kundai	10
		<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>55</b>



*Nature game in progress at Satosha (left) and Thuyepani (right)*

### Employment Cell

One of the activities related to livelihood at the Foundation is supporting women's self help groups (SHGs) in starting and sustaining new ventures which can give them adequate financial returns. During the month of April, the following activities were undertaken with respect to SHGs.

Sl. no	Date	Village/location	Event	Topic	No of participants
1	18 <sup>th</sup> April	Turia	SHG Meeting	Documentation related	03
2	25 <sup>th</sup> April	Turiya	SHG meeting	Profit analysis for food venture , planning	04
3	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Kundai	SHG meeting	Credit related and documentation	08
				<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

### Mobile Health Service (MHS)

During April, 121 patients were treated through our free medical camps organised in Turiya cluster.

Sr. no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1	April 4	Aamajhiri	32
2	April 5	Satosha	22
3		Telia	26
4	April 6	Potiya	28
5		Durgapur	13
<b>Total Patients</b>			<b>121</b>





*Dr. Khode treats patients during free medical camp at Durgapur (left) and Potiya (right)*

## **Research**

A research project is currently under way to understand the awareness level of farmers in the buffer region. A questionnaire was prepared which included basic queries regarding agriculture, knowledge about impact of fertilizers and pesticides on environment as well as crop depredation by wildlife and significance of insects and birds in agriculture. The project is intended to study the awareness level among farmers and to identify areas which could be improved through training. During April, basic data collection and data entry operations were conducted.



*Interview with a farmer of Mohgaon village*