

PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

June 2019

Team:

Conservation Officer – Sumit Kumar Kar

Field Assistant – Niranjan Hinge (Turiya cluster)

Field Assistant– Kamlesh Pawar (Khamarpani cluster)

Major highlights of the month

- Recruitment drive conducted in association with Checkmate Security Pvt. Limited for unemployed youths
- SHG meeting and training programme
- Nursery preparation
- Nature trails conducted in Turiya and Potiya
- Environment education programme in 4 schools attended by 71 students

Conservation Action and Awareness

| Sr. no. | Date | Village / Place | Activity | Participants |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | June 27 | Turiya | Nursery preparation | 2 |
| 2. | June 21 | Turiya | Nature trail | 5 |
| 3. | June 16 | Potiya | Nature trail | 18 |
| 4. | June 6 | Turiya | Compost pit preparation | 5 |
| Total participants | | | | 194 |

With the arrival of the monsoon, planting drives are organised by Satpuda Foundation across the landscape. To provide seedlings for planting, Niranjan conducted nursery seedling plantation activities with the help of local youths from seeds collected last month. Seeds of trees such as neem and mahua were planted in suitable polybags and other nursery related operations were conducted.



Nursery preparation in Turiya

On June 6, Niranjana assembled a group of volunteers at Turiya to dig a soak pit. Niranjana had earlier explained to villagers the concept of groundwater recharge and how soak pits can help in faster percolation of waste water and reduce the spread of water borne insect vectors.



Turiya – Volunteers help in constructing a soak pit

On June 21 and June 16, Niranjana organised nature trails for students. During the nature trails, Niranjana explained about the various birds found in the vicinity in the buffer region of Pench Tiger Reserve and their role in the ecosystem. A visit was organised to a nearby dry river bed to create awareness on water conservation and importance of water hole for wildlife conservation.



Students spotting birds during a nature trail at Durgapur

Environment Education

In the month of June, a total of four school education programs were organised by Niranjana and Sumit in which students were given lectures on a wide range of topics such as water conservation, pollution, man-animal conflict, biodiversity conservation, and other issues related to nature conservation. A total of 71 students attended these programs.

Environment education programs

| Sr. No. | Date | School | Village | Number of students |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | June 24 | Govt. Middle School | Kohoka | 22 |
| 2. | June 25 | Govt. Primary School | Satosha | 24 |
| 3. | June 26 | Govt. Primary School | Khamba | 12 |
| 4. | June 27 | Govt. Primary School | Ambadi | 13 |
| Total participants | | | | 71 |



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

Nature games

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

| Sl. No. | Date | Village/Location | No. of Participants |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | June 22 | Satosha | 24 |
| 2 | June 23 | Potiya | 19 |
| Total Participants | | | 43 |



Nature game in progress at Potiya (left) and Satosha (right)

Employment Cell

Satpuda Foundation has been helping local youths obtain employment by connecting them to potential recruiters. During the month of June, Satpuda Foundation organised recruitment workshops in association with Checkmate Industrial Services Pvt. Ltd., Pune in the Khamarpani cluster. The recruitment drive was conducted for the position of security guards, to be employed in Pune. The drive was successful with many youths of the region registering.



Recruitment programme rally organised by Satpuda Foundation in association with Checkmate Industrial Services Pvt. Ltd., Pune, at Khamarpani (left) and Kumbhpani (right)

One of the activities related to employment at the Foundation is supporting Self Help Groups (SHGs) start and sustain new ventures which can give them adequate financial returns while reducing their dependence on forests for livelihood. During the month of June, with effort of our team and support from government's NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission), a new shop was allocated by local Panchayat for women SHG

members to operate in Turiya village. The new shop would enable the SHG members to expand their food business and also act as a selling point for SHG-made handicrafts. A meeting was organised in which Sumit and Niranjana discussed the future course of action. A training session in accounting and book keeping was organised by Sumit for the SHG members.



New SHG shop at Turiya (left) and a SHG member trying out her skills at accounting and book-keeping after training (right)