

# PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

## May 2019

**Team:**

**Conservation Officer** – Sumit Kumar Kar

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

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

**Major highlights of the month**

- Shramdhaan activities on soil and water conservation
- Biological Diversity Day celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- Two nature trails
- Birdbath preparation and installation
- Seed collection and nursery preparation
- Anti-plastic drive at Satosha
- Two livelihood-related meetings
- SHG meetings at Turiya and Kundai

**Conservation Action and Awareness**

Sr. no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	May 5	Satosha	Soak pit construction	6
2.	May 6	Satosha	Anti-plastic drive	7
3.	May 14	Turiya	Biogas unit repaired	3
4.	May 16	Turiya	Biogas unit repaired	3
5.	May 22	Potiya	International Biodiversity Day Celebration	12
6.	May 4	Satosha	Water Bath/Bird bath Installation	05
7.	May 9	Jamuntola	Water Bath/Bird bath Installation	04
8.	May 11	Telia	Water Bath/Bird bath Installation	04
9.	May 23	Durgapur	Seed collection and Nursery Set up	08
10.	May 30	Durgapur	Nature Trail	08
11.	May 18	Potiya	Nature Trail	06
12.	May 24	Chirrewani	Repair of water conservation structure	04
13.	May 07	Deori	Compost Tank	03
14.	May 12	Pulpuldoh	Compost tank	03
<b>Total Participants</b>				<b>76</b>

On May 24, Kamlesh assembled a group of volunteers at Chirrewani to repair a loose boulder-based soil and water conservation structure around village farms. Such structures help in conservation of soil by preventing soil erosion and also help to arrest water runoff

Kamlesh had earlier explained to villagers the concept of water management; how such structures help in soil and water management and the need for their maintenance. With monsoon rains due in less than a month, proper maintenance of water and soil conservation structures could help in maintaining fertility of soil and ensuring adequate water availability.



*Chirrewani – Volunteers repair a soil and water conservation structure*

On May 5, Niranjana assembled a group of volunteers to construct a soak pit for percolation of waste water from a hand pump. Niranjana had earlier explained to the villagers the concept of waste water management and augmentation of ground water resources by proper recharge through soak pit and other structures.



*Satosha– Volunteers dig soak pit*

Seeds are source of regeneration for the forest. They are the means through which trees pass on their genetic information. During the month of May, Niranjana organised wild seed collection with children of buffer zone villages. The objective of the activity was to familiarize children with the shape, size and appearance of various types of seeds such as mahua (*Madhuca longifolia*) found in the forest and create a nursery by planting the collected seeds. The sapling generated would be used for plantation during monsoon.



*Durgapur - Children collecting wild seeds for preparation of a nursery*

The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated across the globe on 22<sup>nd</sup> May to increase awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues. Satpuda Foundation celebrated this occasion by organising awareness sessions for young students. Niranjana arranged an education session at Durgapur village to celebrate the occasion.



*Durgapur – Niranjana talks to young children about biodiversity of Earth during Biological Diversity Day Celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

Water scarcity during summer can lead to avian mortality. In order to involve students in conservation of avifauna, our team organised the making of bird baths in villages of buffer region. During the month of May, Niranjana and Kamlesh held activities in various villages to install bird baths with the help of students and villagers. The bird baths were installed by the students. The students also volunteered to regularly fill up the bird baths during the summer.



### *Satosha – Installation of a bird bath by children*

Abundance of cow dung in rural India is tapped via biogas plants to convert the organic material into biogas which mainly consists of methane. Biogas is a sustainable form of energy which is used mainly for cooking, reducing the need for fire wood and thereby reducing pressure on forests. Biogas is produced from slurry of cow dung through anaerobic decomposition. Various biogas plants have been constructed in the past by government and private entities but, due to poor maintenance, many have been abandoned. Satpuda Foundation has been undertaking repair activities of faulty biogas production units and stoves and restoring them. During May, Niranjana repaired two units at Turiya village.



*Turiya – Niranjana undertaking repair of a faulty biogas stove (left); stove after being repaired (right)*

Plastic, due to its non-degradable nature, creates waste management issues. With availability of plastic packing in numerous daily use products, the rise of 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 drives in which volunteers help in gathering plastic waste and dispose it properly. Niranjana organised an anti-plastic drive on May 6 in Satosha village near the primary school premises.





### *Satosha – Anti-plastic drive by volunteers*

In May, Niranjana organized two nature trails for students of Aamajhiri and Potiya. During the nature trails, Niranjana spoke about the various birds found in the vicinity of the villages and their role in the ecosystem. Both nature trails were along water bodies, providing opportunities for spotting various water birds. Niranjana also explained the role of water conservation.



*Students on a nature trail in Amajhiri (left) and Potiya (right)*

An awareness programme on forest fires was organised by Niranjana at Durgapur village. The agenda of the meeting was to increase awareness on the various causes of forest fires and their impact. Various measures to prevent such fires were discussed and volunteer groups to fight forest fires were formed to help the Forest Department.



*Durgapur – Awareness meeting on forest fires*

### **Environment Education**

Kamlesh organised an environment awareness session for school students at a coaching center in Khamarpani on 18<sup>th</sup> May in which 16 students participated.

*Nature games*

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

SL no	Date	Village/Location	No of Participants
1	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Aamajhiri	8
2	25 <sup>th</sup> May	Potiya	9
		<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>17</b>



*Nature game in progress at Amajhiri (left) and Potiya (right)*

**Employment Cell**

Satpuda Foundation has been assisting local youths in obtaining employment by connecting them with potential recruiters. During May, a youth from Khamba village was placed at the Village Machan Resort in the utility department with our assistance.

Sr. No.	Name	Village	Age	Qual.	Job	Organisation	Salary (Rs. Per month)
1.	Sanjay Modabi	Khamba	23	8 <sup>th</sup> Pass	Utility Department	Village Machan Resorts	6,000/-



*Sanjay Modabi at his new job in Village Machan Resorts*

One of the Foundation's activities related to employment 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 May, three SHG meeting were organised in which ideas to generate revenue for the groups were discussed and progress made since previous meetings was reviewed. One of the SHGs has started mango pickle production for sale in local markets. Satpuda Foundation has been assisting in better marketing of the product and in quality control.

During the month of May, two employment-related meetings were organised in Turiya and Khamarpani clusters. The objective of the meetings was to increase awareness of various skill-development programs of the government as well as local employment opportunities.

Sr. no	Date	Village	Event	Topic	No of participants
1	07 <sup>th</sup> May	Turia	SHG Meeting	Training on improving profitability	07
2	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Turiya	SHG meeting	New ideas discussed; status of old projects	14
3	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Kundai	SHG meeting	--do--	08
4	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Thuyepani	Employment related meeting	Various government skill development programs	14
5	29 <sup>th</sup> May	Durgapur	Employment related meeting	Various jobs available in hospitality sector	10
				<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>



*Turiya – Sumit with SHG members during meeting*



*Kamlesh with SHG members during a meeting (left), employment-related meeting underway in Thuyepani (right)*



*Turiya -Mango pickles made by SHG*