

## Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

November 2018

### Team

**Conservation Officer** – Sumit Kumar Kar

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

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

### Major highlights of the month

- Mobile Health service camps at 6 villages treating 231 patients
- Film show program reached 277 students across 6 schools
- Education programme at 11 schools attended by 311 students
- Employment of 4 unemployed youths and 2 tribal dance programs organised
- Two computer awareness sessions organised for school students
- Celebration of Dr. Salim Ali Birth Anniversary and World Fisheries Day
- Open well mapping using GPS and groundwater data collection from villages in buffer region

### Conservation work

Sl. No	Date	Location /Village	Activity	No of participants
1	21	Turia	Compost pit construction	7
2	30	Turia	Compost pit construction	9
3	12	Potiya	Dr. Salim Ali birth anniversary	12
4	12	Potiya	Nature Trail	11
5	13	Turiya	Dr Salim Ali birth anniversary	5
6	14 <sup>th</sup>	Turia	Biogas repair activities	3
7	16	Aamajhiri	Biogas repair activities	3
8	15 <sup>th</sup> November	Thuyepani	Cleaning of the area next to a hand pump	6
8	15 <sup>th</sup> November	Thuyepani	Compost pit construction	4
9	20 <sup>th</sup> November	Pulpuldoh	Compost pit construction	3
10	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Thuyepani	Anti-Plastic Rally	50
11	24 <sup>th</sup> November	Pulpuldoh	Nature Trail	18
12	22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Deori	World Fisheries Day celebration	28
			Total participation	172

Waste management in the vicinity of the Tiger Reserve is important and, in the absence of adequate facility to dispose of food and kitchen waste, animals such as wild boar can be attracted to villages. Satpuda Foundation has been working to address this issue through the construction of compost pits.

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. Kamlesh organised the construction of two compost pits at Pulpuldoh and Thuyepani with the aid of volunteers from the villages. Niranjn, with the assistance of members of local self-help groups (SHGs) constructed two compost pits at Turiya.

Separately, a shramdhaan was organised by Kamlesh on 15<sup>th</sup> November in which the area next to a hand pump was cleaned with the help of local volunteers



*A local volunteer assisting in construction of compost pit at Pulpuldoh*

On 24<sup>th</sup> November, Kamlesh and Sumit organized a nature and bird-watching trail for schoolchildren of Pulpuldoh village and they were assisted by a guest teacher. During the trail, the students were informed about the various bird species and how to identify birds found near the village, the utility of various tree species and also the difference between core and buffer regions of the Tiger Reserve.

Niranjn organised a nature trail on 12<sup>th</sup> November for school children of Potiya and was accompanied by a school teacher. The students learned techniques of spotting birds and also learned to use binoculars. Nature trails provide interactive platforms for students to learn about their local flora and fauna and understand the issues faced by the local biodiversity in their areas.



*School students during a nature trail in Pulpuldoh (Left), Sumit explaining the difference between core and buffer region of Tiger Reserve to students (right)*



*Students of Potiya school on a nature trail*

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Kamlesh organized a rally at Thuyepani Government Middle school in which 50 students participated and raised slogans on wildlife conservation while undertaking a tour of the village.



*Students during anti-plastic rally at Thuyepani*

**Salim Ali** (12 November 1896 – 20 June 1987) was an Indian ornithologist and naturalist. Sometimes referred to as the "*Birdman of India*", Salim Ali was among the first Indians to conduct systematic bird surveys across India and wrote several books that popularised ornithology in India.

In order to celebrate his birth anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup> November, Satpuda Foundation organised a nest adoption programme among school students of Potiya Government Middle School. Nests were prepared by Niranjan with local materials and were installed at sites near the school. Each nest was assigned to a group of students who were given responsibility to protect the nest and document any arrival of birds. The activity was organised in order to increase awareness of the local avifauna of the region and instill a sense of bird conservation among students



*Niranjan installing a bird nest in Potiya (Left) and a nest prepared by Niranjan with locally available materials (Right)*

Biogas is a sustainable cooking medium for families close to protected areas. Niranjan attended two biogas repair calls in November: one each from Turia and Aamajhiri villages.



*Biogas stove being repaired by Niranjana at Turia (Left) and the unit working after repair (Right)*

World Fisheries Day was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Government Middle School, Deori.

Kamlesh gave a classroom lecture on the importance of sustainable fisheries. The importance of sustainable harvesting of fish resources for the long term was conveyed to the students.

### **Employment Cell**

During November, 4 unemployed youths got jobs through our Employment Cell. Our employment cell actively followed up with organisations for vacancies and connected youths to positions available.

<b>Sl. no</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Name of the candidate</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>
1	Aamajhiri	Kanhaiya Lal Hinge	10 <sup>th</sup>	36	Village Machan Resort, Turia	Gardener	5000
2	Thuyepani	Milesh	12 <sup>th</sup>	19	Universal Bore well PVT Ltd, Betul	Equipment Operator	10000
3	Thuyepani	Amit	12 <sup>th</sup>	20	Universal Bore well PVT Ltd, Betul	Equipment Operator	10000
4	Thuyepani	Girvar	12 <sup>th</sup>	20	Universal Bore well PVT Ltd, Betul	Equipment Operator	10000



*Amit and Miles at their new job in a bore well company (left)*



*Kanhaia Lal in his new job as a gardener at a local resort (right)*

On 18th November, a meeting of “Unnati “ and “Shristhi” SHGs was held at Turia in which Niranjana discussed the idea of a food complex operated by SHG members at Turia village at the Gram Panchayat building. The meeting was attended by 15 members

Satpuda Foundation has been working with tribals for their empowerment and exploring new employment opportunities for them. Since 2008, the Foundation has been associated with Tribal Dance group of Sawara village in Maharashtra, motivating them and supporting them to perform at local resorts. During the month of November, two such performances were organised.



*Tribal Dance performance at Olive Resort*

Sl. no	Date	Village/location	Event	Amount paid	No of participants
1	15	Olive Resort	Tribal	7000	17

			Dance		
2	25	Olive Resort	Tribal Dance	7000	17

## Environment Education

### *School Education Programs*

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Nov 1	Govt. Middle School	Thuyepani	46
2.	Nov 11	Govt. Middle School	Pulpuldoh	20
3.	Nov 16	Govt. Middle School	Deori	24
4.	Nov 17	Govt. Middle School	Pulpuldoh	21
5.	Nov 18	Govt. Primary School	Deori	40
6.	Nov 16	Govt. Primary School	Satosha	46
7.	Nov 20	Govt. Middle School	Telia	24
8.	Nov 22	Govt. Primary School	Ambadi	15
9.	Nov 24	Govt. Middle School	Aamajhiri	20
10.	Nov 26	Govt. Primary School	Khamba	26
11.	Nov 27	Govt. Middle School	Potiya	29
<b>Total Participants</b>				<b>311</b>

In November, a total of 11 school education programs were held by Niranjana, Kamlesh and Sumit in which students were given lectures on a wide range of topics such as the role of each species in an ecosystem, pollution, man-animal conflict, biodiversity conservation and other issues related to nature conservation. A total of 311 students attended these programs.



*Niranjana addresses students of Telia school (Left) and Kamlesh addressing students during an environment Education session at Deori*



*Sumit explaining the interconnectedness of species in an ecosystem with the aid of a pack of cards*

### *Education Van Program*

The education van conducted six wildlife movie screenings in November. A short introduction before the screening and a short conclusion after the screening was conducted at each session to reinforce the conservation message advocated through the wildlife movie. A total of 277 students were reached through the sessions.

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Movie</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
1.	Nov 15	G.P.S	Awarghani	Corbett Tiger Reserve	22
2.		G.M.S	Khamrith	Wildlife of Western Ghats	53
3.	Nov 16	G.M.S	Kohoka	Tiger Reserves of India	30
4.		G.M.S	Telia	Wildlife of Western Ghats	85
5.	Nov 17	G.M.S	Aamajhiri	Corbett Tiger Reserve	54
6.		G.M.S	Potiya	Corbett Tiger Reserve	33
<b>Total Participants</b>					<b>277</b>



*Potiya - Education van movie screening (Left) and Teliya (Right)*

### *IT Education Program and Career Counselling Session*

Satpuda Foundation has been conducting an IT education program for students free of cost since the year 2013. Basic computer skills are taught to the students to make them feel comfortable with technology and improve their IT skills. Operation of various software suites such as Word, PowerPoint and Excel are taught during these sessions.

During November, two such sessions were conducted, one at Kohoka on 20<sup>th</sup> November attended by 29 students and the second one at Khamarpani on 25<sup>th</sup> November attended by 23 students. At Khamarpani, a career counselling session was also held in which various options available to students after completion of school were discussed.





*Sumit addressing students of Kohoka school during a computer awareness session*

### *Nature games*

Nature games are invaluable as they impart important conservation-related message through a simple game. They are more interactive than a traditional lecture and are more effective in capturing the attention of young minds.

SL no	Date	Village/Location	Nature game	No of Participants
1	26 <sup>th</sup> November	Pulpuldoh	Web of life	16
2	27 <sup>th</sup> November	Bisenpur	Who am I?	14
3	30 <sup>th</sup> November	Satosha	Who am I?	39
			<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>69</b>



*Sumit with students of Pulpuldoh School during a nature game (Left), Students of Primary level of Bisenpur engaged in a nature game (Right)*

### **Mobile Health Service (MHS)**

Mobile Health Service camps were conducted in six villages in Turia cluster in which a total of 231 patients were treated. Our MHS team on request of Deputy Ranger of Thuyepani range visited an anti-poaching/ patrolling camp and provided medical services to staff of the camp.

Sl. no	Date	Location	No of patients
1	4 <sup>th</sup> November	Kundai	30
2		Bisenpur	34
3	5 <sup>th</sup> November	Thuyepani	60
4		Mohgaon	28
5	6 <sup>th</sup> November	Pulpuldoh	52
6		Dewari	27
		<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>



*Dr Zanjil examines patient at Thuyepani (left); Dr Zanjil taking blood pressure measurement of Deputy Ranger Mr. Verma at Forest Check post near Thuyepani aate (right)*



*Dr Zanjil and MHS team treating patients at Balardev anti-poaching camp near Mohgaon*

Research

Wells form an important source of water in rural India for drinking water, for fulfilling domestic water requirements and also for irrigation. Often these wells are not properly fenced nor do they have a proper boundary in many cases. These open wells are a recipe for accidents and as reported in various cases, wild animals accidentally fall into open wells.

Satpuda Foundation, after interaction with Field Director of Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, decided to map these open wells to prevent future accidents. Our team began the exercise of mapping the open wells during the month using a GPSLogger Android app.

Groundwater is an important source of water in rural areas. But often groundwater resources are overexploited without any measure to conserve them. Our team was engaged in measuring groundwater data during November. The data will be analysed for patterns and to identify areas where awareness needs to be generated to



conserve the vital resource.

*Kamlesh taking measurement of groundwater level (Left), Niranjan taking measurement of a well (Right)*



*An open unfenced well in the vicinity of a forested region*