

Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

October 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 141 patients
- Wildlife week celebrations across 14 villages consisting of 17 activities
- Film shows in 6 schools reaching 348 students
- Formation of new SHG at Turia
- Education programme at 8 schools attended by 236 students
- Formation of farming support network and anti-predation system
- Check Dam construction through shramdhaan near Mohgaon
- Celebration of World Food Day, International Day for Climate Action
- Six livelihood related meetings with SHGs and farmers
- Two computer awareness sessions organised for school students

Conservation work

S. no	Date	Location /Village	Activity	No of participants
1	27 th October	Turia	Compost pit construction	8
2	2 nd October	Khamba	Nature Trail	13
3	4 th October	Potiya	Nature Trail	41
4	18 th October	Ambadi	Nature Trail	11
5	27 th October	Khamba	Nature Trail	19
6	4 th October	Aamajhiri	Biogas repair activities	3
7	27 th October	Aamajhiri	Biogas repair activities	3
8	16 th October	Satosha	World Food Day Celebration	11
9	24 th October	Turia	International Day for Climate Action	42
10	3 rd October	Khamrith	Rally on wildlife conservation	52
11	1 st October	Kohoka school	Collage competition on the theme “Nature and Wildlife”	36
12	1 th October	Telia school	Drawing contest on Wildlife	42
13	3 rd October	Turia	Drawing contest among SHG member on Wildlife theme	12

14	4 th October	Potiya	Audio presentation on wildlife of Central India	53
15	5 th October	Aamajhiri school	Ephemeral art	51
16	6 th October	Turia High School	Quiz	36
17	7 th October	Turia	Wall painting	6
18	2 rd October	Thuyepani	Antiplastic Drive	8
19	3 rd October	Kundai	Presentation on Pench (SHG)	25
19	4 th October	Pulpuldoh	Rally on wildlife conservation	89
20	5 th October	Thuyepani and Mohgaon	Nature Trail and Birding	33
21	5 th October	Doodhgaon	Audio presentation on Tiger Reserves of India	42
22	14 th October	Chirrewani	Compost Pit construction	6
23	24 th October	Thuyepani	International Day for Climate Action	7
24	22 nd October	Mohgaon	Check Dam construction	8
25	15 th October	Mohgaon	Nature Trail	6
26	8 th October	Thuyepani	Assistance for LPG Connection	3
27	3 rd October	Kundai	Awareness session for SHG members	25

On 2nd October, Niranjana organized a nature trail and bird-watching programme for schoolchildren of Khamba village. During the trail, he gave information on the various bird species found in the vicinity of the village, the ecological significance of birds and also the difference between core and buffer region of the Tiger Reserve. He was assisted by Mr. Rajesh (local naturalist for Pench Tiger Reserve).

Similar activities were undertaken on 4th, 18th and 27th October at Potiya, Ambadi and Khamba.

Kamlesh organized a nature trail for school children of Thuyepani along the buffer region beside Thuyepani gate during Wildlife week and was accompanied by Sumit and Mr. Verma (Forest Guard). Students were told about the relocation process of Spotted Deer (Cheetal), significance of water bodies in forest and tiger census methodology during this trip.

Another nature trail was organised on 15th October by Kamlesh at Mohgaon. Nature trails provide an interactive platform for students to learn about their local flora and fauna and understand the issues faced by the local biodiversity in their areas.



*Niranjan with school students after completion of a nature trail in Khamba (Left)
Niranjan spotting a bird in Potiya (right)*



School students during a nature trail in Thuyepani (left);, Students with Kamlesh and Forest Department staff before the beginning of the trip (right)

On 4th October, Kamlesh organized a rally at Pulpuldoh Government Primary and Middle school as part of Wildlife Week activities in which 89 students participated and raised slogans on wildlife conservation while undertaking a tour of the village. Niranjan had organised a similar rally on 3rd October at Khamrith.

Plastic pollution poses a serious issue around protected areas and, to address this, anti-plastic drives are undertaken regularly. Kamlesh organized an anti-plastic drive on 2nd October with the help of local volunteers and Forest Department staff near the Thuyepani gate.



Students during a rally on wildlife conservation at Pulpuldoh (left), and Kamlesh with Forest Department staff and local volunteers during anti-plastic drive near Thuyepani gate (right)

Wildlife Week is celebrated in India during the first week of October every year. This year it was celebrated with the theme “**Big Cats: Predators under Threat**”. Wildlife Week was conceptualized in 1952 with the aim of raising awareness on wildlife conservation.

Satpuda Foundation organises a variety of activities to celebrate Wildlife Week each year. Various competitions such as collage making, drawing, quizzes, etc... were organised during 1-7th October focusing on local biodiversity and their conservation. 17 activities were undertaken in 14 villages as part of our Wildlife Week celebrations.



School children during a drawing contest at Telia (left) and a girl engaged in making a collage from waste newspapers at Kohoka (right)



Student from Aamajhiri making ephemeral art from stones, twigs and leaves

World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.

Satpuda Foundation also celebrated World Food Day by organising a meeting with farmers of Satosha Village and forming a farmers' network. During discussions with farmers, the issue of crop-raiding by wild boar and Spotted Deer was raised. Man-animal conflict can often result from such crop-raiding incidents.

To address these issues, our team held further discussion and subsequently designed a prototype system based on blinking LED lights to scare off wildlife. The system, which we have named "Sentinel 1.0", is based on Arduino open-source electronics prototyping platform. Our team is currently testing the system.



Sumit having a discussion with farmers on the occasion of World Food Day (left)



Anti-predation system designed by our team based on flashing Led lights (right)

Biogas is a sustainable cooking medium for families close to forests. Niranjana attended two biogas repair calls from Aamajhiri village in October.



Bio-gas stove being repaired by Niranjan (left) and the unit working after repair (right)

Tribal families often use firewood for cooking which is detrimental to forests and also causes indoor air pollution. Kamlesh assisted families at Thuyepani in applying for and subsequently obtaining LPG cylinders through Ujjwala Scheme of the government.



Sanjana Dhurve, a resident of Thuyepani, with LPG cylinder and gas stove obtained with the assistance of Kamlesh through the Ujjwala Scheme

Climate change is very serious issue having wide ramification for humans as well as wildlife. Satpuda Foundation celebrated the International Day for Climate Action by organising an awareness session on the possible impact of climate change. The programme was held at Turia High School on 24th October.



Niranjan explaining the possible impact of climate change during the Climate Change Action Day programme at Turia School

Water scarcity is an issue which is slowly growing in magnitude. To improve water availability to wildlife, Satpuda Foundation routinely undertakes check dam construction. Check dams have been shown to reduce surface runoff, recharge groundwater and reduce soil erosion. Kamlesh motivated a group of villagers to construct a check dam along a small ditch near Mohgaon village on 22nd October.



Construction of check dam near Mohgaon village by volunteers

Livelihood

During October, six livelihood-related meetings were organised. On 12th October, a new Self Help Group (SHG) was formed by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) team with assistance from Niranjan. On October 24th and 25th, subsequent meeting of the newly formed SHG were held which focused on documentation and various government schemes available for SHGs.

On 28th October, a SHG meeting was held in the presence of Kishor Rithe, founder of Satpuda Foundation and representative from Born Free Foundation in which new ideas and existing issues were discussed.

On 16th October, a farmers' meeting was organised at Satosha by Sumit and Niranjan. The agenda was -- issues faced by farmers in the village and how to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. A farmer consultancy group was formed to help farmers on issues like pest problems and better seed collection. The group members would be linked to the SMS-based farm advisory system of the government-run KVK in the coming months.

S. no	Date	Village/location	Event	Topic	No of participants
1	12 th October	Turia	SHG Meeting	Formation of new SHG Group	11
2	16 th October	Satosha	Farmers Meeting	Formation of farmers consultancy group	14
3	24 th October	Turia	SHG Meeting	Documentation related	12
4	25 th October	Turia	SHG Meeting	Government schemes available for SHGs	14
5	28 th October	Turia	SHG Meeting	New ideas for implementation	12
6	21 st October	Kundai	SHG Meeting	New ideas for implementation	21



SHG meeting with Kishor Rithe and representatives of Born Free Foundation at Turia (left), Niranjan with the members of newly formed SHG at Turia (right)

Environment Education

School Education Programs

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Oct 9	Govt. Middle School	Deori	46
2.	Oct 10	Govt. Middle School	Thuyepani	20
3.	Oct 12	Govt. Middle School	Kundai	24
4.	Oct 13	Govt. Middle School	Pulpuldoh	21
5.	Oct 23	Govt. High School	Deori	40
6.	Oct 28	Govt. Primary School	Sauri	30
7.	Oct 28	Govt. Middle School	Telia	26
8.	Oct 28	Govt. Middle School	Kohoka	29
Total participants				236

In October, a total of 8 school education programs were held by Niranjan, Kamlesh and Sumit during which students were given lectures on pollution, man-animal conflict, biodiversity conservation, climate change and other issues related to nature conservation. A total of 236 students attended these programmes.



Niranjan speaks to students of Telia school (left)



Kamlesh addressing students during an environment education session at Deori (right)

Education Van Program

The education van conducted six wildlife movie screenings in October. 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 348 students attended the sessions.

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Movie	Number of students
1.	Oct 25	G.P.S	Sauri	Lions of Gujarat	44
2.		G.M.S	Chirrewani	Wildlife of Western Ghats	60
3.	Oct 26	G.M.S	Kundai	Tiger Reserves of India	31
4.		G.M.S	Bisenpur	Simlipal Tiger Reserve	25
5.	Oct 27	G.M.S	Pulpuldoh	Corbett Tiger Reserve	110
6.		G.M.S	Thuyepani	Corbett Tiger Reserve	78
Total Participants					348



Sauri – Students watch movie - Lions of Gujarat

IT Education Program

Satpuda Foundation has been conducting IT education program for village students free of cost since 2013. Basic computer skills are taught to the students to make them feel comfortable with the technology and improve their IT skills. During the month of October, two such sessions were conducted, one at Turia on 21st October attended by 13 students and one at Deori on 23rd October attended by 50 students.



Sumit teaches students of Turia village during the computer awareness session (left)



Participants after completion of the session (right)

Nature games

Nature games are invaluable as they impart important conservation related messages through fun-filled games. 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	3 rd October	Khamrith	Web of life	52
2	27 th October	Khamba	Who am I?	19

3	1 st October	Sauri	Who am I?	14
4	7 th October	Kundai	Who am I?	18
			Total Participants	103



Niranjan with school students engaged in “Web of life” nature game

Mobile Health Service

Medical camps were organised in six villages in Turia cluster in which a total of 126 patients were treated. A telemedicine session was also conducted using the Lifecycle Health session with Dr. Chaitanya Vaidya coordinating the session from Nagpur and Dr Zanzal onsite.

S. no	Date	Location	No of patients
1	9 th October	Jamuntola	24
2		Satosha	11
3	10 th October	Turia	38
4		Potiya	17
5	11 th October	Durgapur	15
6		Kohoka	21
		Total	126



Telemedicine session being held with Dr Zanzal at Turia and Dr Chaitanya interacting through the Lifecycle Telemedicine platform from Nagpur