

# PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

## January 2019

**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 293 patients
- Education programme at 11 schools attended by 371 students
- Two Tribal Dance programs organised
- One youth placed in a local job
- Three nature trails attended by 49 students
- Five farmers trained in mushroom cultivation
- Listing of 22 unemployed youths in driver training institute
- Two computer awareness sessions organised -- attended by 51 students
- Career counselling and session on how to handle examinations at Turiya High School attended by 53 students
- Meeting with village eco-development committee (VEDC) members at Ambadi
- Presentation at Central India Landscape Symposium on Open well mapping using GPS and Groundwater data

**Conservation Action and Awareness**

Sr. no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Jan 31	Khamba	Area around hand pump cleaned	6
2.	Jan 30	Aamajhiri	Biogas unit repaired	3
3.	Jan 13	Kohoka	Nature trail	14
4.	Jan 2	Potiya	Nature trail	22
5.	Jan 7	Potiya	Tree atlas	31
6.	Jan 26	Ambadi	EDC meeting	07
7.	Jan 25	Mohgaon	Anti-plastic rally	07
8.	Jan 4	Mohgaon	Nature trail	13
9.	Jan 28	Chirrewani	Soak pit	04
10.	Jan 19	Thuyepani	Compost pit	05
11.	Jan 04	Mohgaon	Rally on wildlife conservation	13
12.	Jan 24	Kundai	Enrollment for LPG scheme	5
12.	Jan 26	Thuyepani	Meeting with villagers	54
<b>Total participants</b>				<b>153</b>

On January 31, Niranjana organized a shramdhaan programme to clean the area next to a hand pump at Khamba village. Six villagers volunteered to undertake the activity along with our team. Niranjana had earlier explained to the villagers the importance of cleanliness and how water stagnation could create a mosquito problem. The villagers cleaned the area of weeds and also cleaned the soak pit as a result of which the spillover water from the hand pump operations now percolates into the ground effectively.



*Khamba– Cleaning of area next to hand pump underway (left); after completion (right)*

On January 28, Kamlesh assembled a group of volunteers at Chirrewani to construct a soak pit. Kamlesh had explained the concept of groundwater recharge and how soak pit construction can help in faster percolation of waste water and reduce the spread of water borne insect vectors.



*Chirrewani –Volunteers prepare soak pit*

On 26<sup>th</sup> January, Niranjana attended a meeting of Eco-development Committee (EDC) members. Eco-development Committee (EDC) is made up of inhabitants of the village, under the supervision of the Forest Department, and works towards ecological development of village through funded projects such as installation of solar power lights, biogas plants, solar fencing etc The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the funding status of EDC and prepare a list of activities which could be undertaken from EDC funds. During the meeting Niranjana recommended a variety of activities to the members such as stall feeding of animals, vermi-composting and organic farming.



*Khamba- Niranjan with VEDC members*

On January 24<sup>th</sup> Kamlesh assisted villagers of Kundai village in enrolling in the Ujjwala scheme (LPG Cylinder connection scheme) so as to reduce dependence on firewood for cooking purposes.

Biogas is a sustainable form of energy which is used mainly for cooking purpose, reducing the need for fuel wood and thereby reducing pressure on forests. Biogas is produced from a slurry of cow dung through anaerobic decomposition. Satpuda Foundation has been undertaking repair activities of these biogas production units and stoves. During January, Niranjan repaired a faulty unit at Aamajhiri village.



*Aamajhiri – Niranjan undertaking repair of a biogas stove*

On January 26 Kamlesh attended a Gram Panchayat meeting at Thuyepani. He discussed various issues with villagers and the Sarpanch such as defunct Eco-Development Committee (EDC) in the village, water conservation activities, vermi-composting and stall feeding. The meeting was attended by 54 villagers.



*Thuyepani –Kamlesh addressing villagers at a meeting*

### **Environment Education**

In the month of January, 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 371 students attended these programmes.

#### *School Education Programs*

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
1.	Jan 9	Govt. Primary School	Ambadi	15
2.	Jan 10	Govt. Primary School	Satosha	52
3.	Jan 23	Govt. High School	Turiya	53
4.	Jan 28	Govt. Middle School	Aamajhiri	60
5.	Jan 29	Govt. Middle School	Telia	38
6.	Jan29	Govt. Middle School	Kohoka	26
7.	Jan1	Govt. Middle School	Chirrewani	22
8.	Jan 2	Govt. Middle School	Doodhgaon	34
9.	Jan 3	Govt. Middle School	Pulpuldoh	26
10.	Jan 7	Govt. Middle School	Thuyepani	21
11.	Jan 27	Govt. Middle School	Kundai	24
<b><i>Total participants</i></b>				<b><i>371</i></b>



*Ambadi - Niranjan conducts environment education program (left)  
Chirrewani – Kamlesh addressing students at an environment education program (right)*

On January 13, Niranjan organized a nature trail for students of Kohoka Middle School. During the nature trail program, Niranjan and Sumit spoke about the various birds found in the vicinity of the village and nearby Kohoka Lake and their role in ecosystem. Kohoka Lake, being a site for migratory water birds, presented an opportunity for the students to explore the water bird diversity. A similar trail was earlier conducted by Niranjan on January 2 at Potiya. Kamlesh also organised a nature trail in Mohgaon on 4<sup>th</sup> January.



*Teliya –Sumit interacting with students during nature trail (left)  
Participants at Kohoka Lake after completion of a nature trail (right)*

On January 7, Niranjana held an activity at Potiya Middle School to make a leaf book and tree atlas. The activity was meant to create interest among students in the floral diversity of the area and to better understand medicinal plants used in traditional medicine. The activity was based on collection and identification of leaves of various trees found in the vicinity of the village along with listing of their properties such as medicinal values, fruiting and flowering season.



*Potiya–Students of Government Middle school making a Leaf book and Tree atlas*

During January, the Education Van organised 6 film shows in which 188 students from six schools participated.

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
1.	Jan 15	Government Primary School	Satosha	41
2.		Government Primary School	Khamba	16
3.		Government High School	Turiya	46
4.	Jan 16	Government Middle School	Durgapur	18
5.		Government Middle School	Potiya	51
6.		Government Middle School	Jamuntola	16
<b><i>Total participants</i></b>				<b><i>188</i></b>



*Primary school students watching a wildlife documentary at Potiya (left) and Turiya (right)*

Satpuda Foundation has been conducting 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. During January, computer awareness and hands-on practice sessions were held in Potiya Middle School and Kohoka Middle School on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 22<sup>nd</sup> January respectively which were attended by a total of 51 students.



*Students handle computers during computer awareness session at Potiya (left) and at Kohoka (right)*

High School Certificate examination is an important examination for school students. With the state level examination due to be held next month, our team visited Turiya High School and held a session on motivating students for the upcoming examination and also discussed various techniques to boost performance in the final exam.



*Turiya –Sumit during a session on examinations before the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students*

*Nature games*

Nature games impart important conservation-related messages through simple games. They are more interactive than traditional lectures and are more effective in capturing the attention of young minds. During the month of January, three such nature games were organised .

SL no	Date	Village/Location	No of Participants
1	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Ambadi	12
2	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Chirrewani	12
3	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Kundai	9
		<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>33</b>





*Students learn conservation message through nature games*

### **Employment Cell**

Satpuda Foundation has been assisting local youths to obtain employment by connecting them to potential recruiters. During the month of January, a youth of Aamajhiri village was placed at the Jungle Home Resort as a waiter with our assistance.

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Qual.</b>	<b>Job</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Salary (Rs. Per month)</b>
1.	Nandlal Hinge	Aamajhiri	35	8 <sup>th</sup> Pass	Waiter	Jungle Home Resorts	5000

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 January, two such performances were organised.



*Awarghani- Tribal dance program at Olive Resort*

<b>Sl. no</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Village/location</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Amount paid</b>	<b>No of participants</b>
1	Jan 15	Jungle Home, Awarghani	Tribal Dance	7000	12
2	Jan 4	Olive Resort, Awarghani	Tribal Dance	6000	10

One of the Foundation's activities related to employment is supporting Self Help Groups (SHGs) for starting and sustaining new ventures which can give them adequate financial

returns. A Tiffin Centre started by the SHG members at Turia last month was supported by Satpuda Foundation. A training program on documentation, record keeping, inventory management and related issues was conducted by Sumit and Abhijit during January. Another training program was conducted by Sumit and Niranjana to improve the service quality at the tiffin center. Our team has been guiding them on the menu and inventory purchases as well.



*Turiya - Niranjana with a member of Shristhi SHG at their new shop (left)  
Members in their kitchen area (right)*

Last month, we organised a training session on mushroom cultivation in which some farmers and our field assistant were trained. During January, another training programme on mushroom cultivation was organised by Kamlesh at Thuyepani in which 8 farmers were trained. Post-training, Sunil Pathe of Thuyepani was motivated and started mushroom cultivation (around 6 kg seed) at his farm.



*Thuyepani - Kamlesh with farmers during a training session on mushroom cultivation (left); Sunil Pathe starting mushroom cultivation at his farm (right)*

During January, Kamlesh identified 22 unemployed youths of the buffer region of Khamarpani cluster for commercial driver training at Ashok Leyland Institute. The

programme is funded by the Panchayat and Forest Department. A list of the youths was drawn up and submitted to appropriate government channel.

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

During January, 293 patients were treated through at our free Mobile Health Service (MHS) camps.

<b>Sr. no.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>No. of Patients</b>
1	Jan 8	Chirrewani	62
2.		Marjatpur	28
3.	Jan 9	Doodhgaon	24
4.		Kanhargaon	27
5.	Jan 10	Sauri	120
6.		Mohgaon	32
<b>Total Patients</b>			<b>293</b>



*Chirrewani- Dr. Khode treats patients during free medical camp*

### **Research**

A research project to understand the status of groundwater in the buffer region of Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh was undertaken last month. The data was analysed in Q-GIS platform to reveal the location and the status of groundwater in the region. A poster was prepared based on the findings and was presented at 3<sup>rd</sup> Central India Landscape Symposium (CILS) held at Melghat from Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jan 7<sup>th</sup>.



*Open well and groundwater data on a GIS Map (left); Poster presentation at CILS (right)*