

**PENCH TIGER RESERVE (MADHYA PRADESH)
AUGUST 2017**

Team: Mandar Pingle – *Conservation Officer*
Bandu Uikey – *Conservation Officer*
Niranjan Hinge, Kamlesh Pawar – *Field Assistants*

Highlights

- ⇒ *Two compost pits prepared*
- ⇒ *Organised four village level meetings on crop damage prevention*
- ⇒ *Organized rally with conservation message, anti plastic drive in Kundai*
- ⇒ *Organized rally with conservation message on Independence Day at Thuyepani*
- ⇒ *5 nature trails – attended by 62 students*
- ⇒ *Assisted one farmer from Thuyepani in starting fish farming project in his farm pond*
- ⇒ *Organised 8 meetings for village youths regarding various employment opportunities and schemes – attended by 32 youths*
- ⇒ *Celebrated ‘Mil Bache’ programme as part of Van Mohotsav in Thuyepani village – attended by 60 students*
- ⇒ *Planted a total of 877 saplings with the help of 24 villagers*
- ⇒ *Assisted officers from Revenue Department to organise meetings in Thuyepani and Mohgaon on organic farming and biodiversity conservation – attended by 25 farmers*
- ⇒ *Niranjan repaired 2 defunct biogas units – 5 villagers assisted*
- ⇒ *19 environment education lectures – attended by 502 students*
- ⇒ *6 medical camps at which 202 patients were treated*

Conservation work

S.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Aug 28	Bisenpur	Compost tank prepared	10
2.	Aug 04	Sawari	Meeting on crop damage prevention	06
3.	Aug 10	Bisenpur	Meeting on crop damage prevention	05
4.	Aug 17	Dewari	Meeting on crop damage prevention	08
5.	Aug 24	Kanargaon	Meeting on crop damage prevention	04
6.	Aug 26	Thuyepani	Celebrated ‘Mil Bache’ programme	60
7.	Aug 15	Thuyepani	Celebrated Independence Day and organised an environment awareness rally	55
8.	Aug 19	Kundai	Anti-plastic rally and campaign	42
9.	Aug 21	Pulpuldoh	Nature trail	10

10.	Aug 22	Doodhgaon	Nature trail	12
11.	Aug 23	Thuyepani	Nature trail	08
12.	Aug 27	Thuyepani	Meeting on organic farming and biodiversity conservation organised by Revenue Department	15
13.	Aug 25	Mohgaon	Meeting on organic farming and biodiversity conservation organised by Revenue Department	10
14.	Aug 20	Thuyepani	Assisted Gram Panchayat in plantation programme	240 saplings planted; 6 villagers volunteered
15.	Aug 22	Kundai	Assisted Gram Panchayat in plantation programme	600 saplings planted; 12 villagers volunteered
16.	Aug 28	Aamajhiri	Compost tank prepared	5
17.	Aug 09	Durgapur	Nature trail	14
18.	Aug 21	Ambadi	Nature trail	18
19.	Aug 19	Turiya	Plantation programme	7 saplings planted; 2 villagers volunteered
20.	Aug 28	Aamajhiri	Plantation programme	30 saplings planted; 4 villagers volunteered
21.	Aug 18	Aamajhiri	Defunct biogas unit repaired	3
22.	Aug 28	Aamajhiri	Defunct biogas unit repaired	2

On August 28, Niranjana led 5 villagers of Aamajhiri in a programme to prepare a compost pit. The villagers volunteered after Niranjana explained to them that they will be able to make use of the organic compost produced in their farms free of cost. Niranjana also explained the proper procedure to prepare eco-friendly organic compost using degradable house and farm waste.

Kamlesh organised a similar programme in Bisenpur village during which 10 farmers volunteered. Kamlesh explained the economic benefits of preparing such compost tanks and also provided information on vermi-compost.



Aamajhiri – Villagers preparing compost pit (left); pit upon completion (right)

During August, Kamlesh organised meetings for farmers of Sawari, Bisenpur, Dewari and Kanargaon villages and provided information on ways to prevent crop damage from wildlife. Kamlesh emphasised the effectiveness of solar-powered fencing in prevention of crop damage. Kamlesh also informed them the process of applying for crop damage compensation in detail. A total of 23 farmers were addressed by Kamlesh during the meetings.

In August, a total of 5 nature trails were organised by Kamlesh and Niranjana for the children of Pulpuldoh, Doodhgaon, Thuyepani, Durgapur and Ambadi villages. On the trails, our staff spoke to the children about the various plants and common medicinal uses of those plants. They also spotted and identified local birds during the trails and explained their role in nature.



Kamlesh with students on a nature trail near Doodhgaon village

Kamlesh Pawar and Niranjana Hinge organised plantation drive programs in a number of villages during August. Kamlesh assisted Thuyepani Gram Panchayat in planting 240 saplings of local tree species like *amla*, *tamarind*, *mahua* and *neem* etc. He also assisted Kundai Gram Panchayat in planting 600 saplings with the help of villagers, students and teachers. The trees were planted on school, Anganwadi and Gram Panchayat campuses. Saplings were also planted along roads and in farms. The saplings were provided by the state government through the Gram Panchayats.

Niranjana planted a total of 37 saplings of *mango* prepared from the seeds collected by the village children. Niranjana, along with 6 villagers, planted the saplings near farm boundaries.



A farmer from Aamajhiri village planting a sapling near his farm

On August 19, Kamlesh Pawar organised an anti-plastic rally and cleanliness drive in Kundai village. During the rally, 42 students of Government School, Kundai volunteered and picked up plastic trash from the road side and their school premises. The students also raised slogans to make villagers aware of harm caused by plastic waste and urged them to reduce, reuse and recycle the plastic trash.



Thuyepani - Students of Government Middle School raise slogans during an anti-plastic rally

On August 15, Kamlesh Pawar celebrated Independence Day along with 55 students of Government School, Thuyepani. During the celebration, Kamlesh gave a speech on the richness of biodiversity of India and as to why it is important for each and every citizen of the country to contribute towards its conservation.

An awareness rally was also held during which the students raised slogans urging villagers to conserve forests, wildlife, water and soil.

On August 18, Niranjana repaired a defunct biogas unit in a household from Aamajhiri village. The stove unit had waste material accumulated in the gas outlet which had blocked the gas flow. Niranjana also checked the biogas digester tank for faults. 3 villagers assisted him.

On August 28, Niranjana performed similar repair again in another house in Aamajhiri.



Nirranjan repairing biogas stove units in Aamajhiri village

Environmental Education Programme

There were 19 environment education programmes in classrooms during August.

S. no.	Date	School	Village	Number of participants
1.	Aug 01	Govt Middle school	Thuyepani	30
2.	Aug 02	Govt Middle School	Chirrewani	23
3.	Aug 03	Govt Primary school	Mohgaon	12
4.	Aug 07	Govt Primary School	Sawari	26
5.	Aug 08	Govt High School	Deori	40
6.	Aug 09	Govt Middle school	Kundai	28
7.	Aug 10	Govt Primary School	Bisanpur	10
8.	Aug 11	Govt Middle school	Dudhgaon	24
9.	Aug 14	Govt Primary School	Kanhargaon	13
10.	Aug 16	Govt Middle School	Puplpuldoh	32
11.	Aug 17	Govt. Primary School	Satosha	30
12.	Aug 18	Govt High School	Khamarpani	36
13.	Aug 21	Govt. Primary School	Ambadi	20
14.	Aug 24	Govt Primary School	Durgapur	18
15.	Aug 26	Govt Primary School	Potiya	54
16.	Aug 30	Govt. Primary School	Turiya	36
17.	Aug 30	Govt Primary School	Teliya	31
18.	Aug 31	Govt. Primary School	Awarghani	27
19.	Aug 31	Govt. Primary School	Jamuntola	12
Total				502



Niranjan (right) and Kamlesh (left) talk about various environmental and nature conservation issues during classroom programs

Employment Cell

On August 6, Kamlesh Pawar assisted Chaitu Chaudhary, a farmer from Thuyepani village in starting fish farming in a pond on his farm. Kamlesh assisted Chaudhary in getting information on fish farming in farm ponds. He also assisted him in getting Rohu and Katla variety of fish from Chhindwara. Fish farming is a very profitable business and can be done through the year if there is enough water.

In August, Kamlesh organised 8 meetings for unemployed youths to inform them about various employment opportunities and skill development programmes being run by Madhya Pradesh government. Kamlesh organised these meetings in Thuyepani, Mohgaon, Dewari, Marjatpur, Kundai, Kanargaon, Pulpuldoh and Khamarpani villages. A total of 32 youths attended these meetings.

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

We held 6 medical camps in July, in which 202 patients were treated.

S.no.	Date	Village	Patients
1.	Aug 05	Durgapur	22
2.		Awarghani	18
3.	Aug 06	Satosha	45
4.		Jamuntola	31
5.	Aug 07	Turiya	57
6.		Telia	29
	Total		202



Dr Zanjal examines patients during our free medical camp in Durgapur village