

SATPURA TIGER RESERVE

APRIL 2019

Team: Ashfaq Aarbi – Conservation Officer
Hamid Khan – Field assistant
Aabid Khan - Field assistant

Highlights

- ⇒ *12 water conservation shramdhaans during the month – 10 water bodies cleaned; 2 soak pits dug*
- ⇒ *6 vermi-compost units prepared*
- ⇒ *21 awareness programs on forest fires*
- ⇒ *16 forest patrols jointly with Forest Department*
- ⇒ *22 awareness programs on need to provide water for birds and putting up of 1,100 water pots/containers*
- ⇒ *4 unemployed youths placed in Madhya Pradesh Silk Federation, Pachmarhi*
- ⇒ *Organized self-help group workshop*
- ⇒ *10 village meetings on Ujjwala Yojana.*
- ⇒ *Organized program on seed collection and nursery*
- ⇒ *Visit to check on status of 9 villages which have already been relocated*
- ⇒ *Celebration of World Earth Day at Matkuli*

Conservation

S.N.	Date	Village	Activity	No. of participants
1	April 7	Mehandikheda	Cleaning of water body	15
2	April 7	Pisuwa	Cleaning of water body	13
3	April 12	Almod	Cleaning of water body	17
4	April 13	Matkuli	Cleaning of water body	11
5	April 14	Maili	Cleaning of water body	12
6	April 15	Matkuli	Soak pit dug	09
7	April 15	Matkuli	Soak pit dug	09
8	April 18	Pisuwa	Cleaning of water body	13
9	April 25	Jhirpa	Cleaning of water body	17
10	April 25	Aaditoriya	Cleaning of water body	15
11	April 26	Karer	Cleaning of water body	13
12	April 26	Khanchari	Cleaning of water body	10
	Total			154

During April, we organized 12 programs related to water conservation.

On April 7, we organized a program to clean a water body in the jungle near Mehandikheda village. The water body, which is located in the buffer zone, was covered

with leaves and organic litter and animals were finding it difficult to drink. Our team, consisting of field assistant Hameed Khan and 14 students of Government Primary School (GPS) Mehandikheda, cleared the litter and made the water body accessible to the animals again. Spotted deer are regularly spotted around the water body while there are occasional sightings of sloth bears and leopards.

Nine similar programs were organized at Pisuwa, Almod, Matkuli, Maili, Jhirpa, Aaditoriya, Karer and Khanchari on April 7, 12, 13, 14, 18, 25 and 26.



Water body being cleaned at Mehandikheda

On April 15, we organized a program to dig a soak pit at the Government Middle School (GMS), Pisuwa. 12 children joined hands with Hameed in digging the pit, which will take spillover water from a hand pump on the school premises. The pit will help to recharge the water table around the hand pump.

A similar program was organized at GPS, Pisuwa on April 15.



Soak pit dug at GPS Pisuwa (left) and GMS Pisuwa (right)

Organic farming- Drip irrigation and solar-powered water pump

During the month, we helped construct 6 vermi-compost tanks at Mehandikheda, Aaditoriya, Khanchari and Karer with the support of Agriculture Department. We also trained villagers in making vermi-compost to reduce their dependence on chemical fertilizers and to promote organic farming in the upcoming agriculture season. We spoke to them about water conservation through drip irrigation and use of renewable energy like solar-powered water pumps, etc.

S. N.	Date	Village	Activity
1	April 15	Mehandikheda	Construct vermi-compost pit
2	April 15	Mehandikheda	--do--
3	April 27	Aaditoriya	--do--
4	April 27	Aaditoriya	--do--
5	April 28	Karer	--do--
6	April 28	Khanchari	--do--

Forest fire management awareness program

During the month, our team organized 21 awareness programs on forest fires. Fires are a recurring hazard during summers – both deliberate and accidental. Sometimes, villagers start fires as they believe that *tendu* leaves sprout better after such fires. In our awareness programs, we explained the dangers that such fires cause to the forest and to wildlife and how they could harm villages if they blazed out of control. In 2 of the meetings, local staff of the Forest Department joined us in addressing the villagers.

The details are given in the table below.

S. N.	Date	Village	Activity	No. of par.
1	April 1	Matkuli	Forest fire awareness programme	27
2	April 2	Jhirpa	Forest fire awareness programme	12
3	April 4	Khanchari	Forest fire awareness programme	16
4	April 6	Duddi	Forest fire awareness programme	21
5	April 7	Tekapar	Forest fire awareness programme	35
6	April 8	Almod	Forest fire awareness programme	15
7	April 9	Mohgaon	Forest fire awareness programme	45
8	April 10	Binora	Forest fire awareness programme	17
9	April 11	Maili	Forest fire awareness programme	49
10	April 12	Churni	Forest fire awareness programme	11
11	April 13	Bindakheda	Forest fire awareness programme	54
12	April 14	Aaditoriya	Forest fire awareness programme	39
13	April 15	Chillod	Forest fire awareness programme	29
14	April 16	Karer	Forest fire awareness programme	31
15	April 17	Chirrai	Forest fire awareness programme	24
16	April 18	Bandhan	Forest fire awareness programme	36
17	April 20	Khari	Forest fire awareness programme	23
18	April 20	Nandiya	Forest fire awareness programme	34
19	April 22	Supdongar	Forest fire awareness programme	29
20	April 24	Chandanpipariya	Forest fire awareness programme	18
21	April 24	Gutkheda	Forest fire awareness programme	21

Forest patrolling

During the month, we participated in forest patrols with Forest Department in buffer zone villages. Participants included Mr. Shivnarayan Devda, P.R. Moodotiya (Forest Guards), forest chowkidars and Eco Development Committee members.

S.N.	Date	Village	Participants
1	April 1	Matkuli	5
2	April 3	Mehandikheda	4
3	April 3	Pisuwa	5
4	April 7	Tekapar	4
5	April 9	Mohgaon	6
6	April 11	Maili	3
7	April 13	Bindakheda	4
8	April 14	Duddi	4
9	April 14	Bandhan	5
10	April 15	Chillod	4
11	April 17	Chirrai	6
12	April 20	Khari	3
13	April 24	Chandanpipariya	4
14	April 26	Almod	5
15	April 29	Jhirpa	5
16	April 30	Aaditoriya	4

Our teams work across the landscape to provide water to birds during the scorching summer. Our team motivates villagers to put up small containers with water around the villages and their outskirts for birds to quench their thirst.

During April, we arranged for 1,100 containers to be placed at suitable places in trees, roofs of houses and buildings.

S.	Date	Village	Activity	par.
1	April 1	Jhirpa	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	19
2	April 2	Tekapar	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	12
3	April 3	Aaditoriya	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	14
4	April 4	Mohgaon	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	14
5	April 5	Karer	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	16
6	April 6	Bindakheda	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	10
7	April 7	Bandhan	Putting up of pots with drinking water for	11

			birds	
8	April 8	Pisuwa	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	15
9	April 9	Nandiya	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	16
10	April 10	Chandan-Pipariya	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	17
11	April 11	Supdongar	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	12
12	April 12	Mehandikheda	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	17
13	April 13	Gutkheda	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	11
14	April 15	Khanchari	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	09
15	April 16	Khari	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	12
16	April 17	Duddi	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	15
17	April 19	Matkuli	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	21
18	April 19	Almod	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	12
19	April 21	Chillod	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	8
20	April 23	Maili	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	10
21	April 23	Churni	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	7
22	April 25	Chirrai	Putting up of pots with drinking water for birds	11



Matkuli- Villagers and Forest Dept. officer put containers with water for birds

Employment Cell - Placement

4 youths got jobs in April with our assistance.

Details of the placements are as follows:

S. n	Village	Name	Salary	Qual.	Age	Job
1	Matkuli	Pawan Kahar	7,500/- + accommodation	8 th std	20	Laborer, Madhya Pradesh Silk Federation, Pachmarhi
2	Matkuli	Lavkush	7,500/- + acco.	10 th std	21	----do----
3	Matkuli	Ajay Kahar	7,500/- + acco.	8 th std	23	----do----
4	Matkuli	Dilip Kahar	7,500/- + acco.	8 th std	25	----do----

Self-Help Group Workshop

We organized a Self- Help Group (SHG) workshop at Matkuli on April 15 which focussed on SHG review, grading, selection of livelihood activity and loan distribution. This programme was attended by Block Coordinator NRLM, bank officials and SHGs from 10 villages.



Self-help group workshop at Matkuli

Ujjwala Gas Yojna

During the month we organized 10 programmes on Ujjwala Yojana, under which eligible applicants get free cooking gas connections. This helps reduce villagers' dependence on firewood and thus eases pressure on forests. The programmes were held at Matkuli, Mohgaon, Chillod, Khari, Duddi, Bandhan, Nandiya, Gutkheda, Sakri, Churni and Supdongar between April 20 and 25. This programme was support by Food Inspector, Pipariya and Tamiya.



Matkuli- Selection of candidates for Ujjwala Yojna

Seed collection and Nursery

On April 9 and 18, we organized programmes to collect seeds of native plant varieties which can be used for our proposed plantation programmed during the forthcoming monsoon. Participants included teachers and students of Government Higher Secondary School Jhirpa, Matkuli and Government Middle School Tekapar, Pisuwa.



Programme on seed collection at Matkuli

Relocated villages

Ashfaq and Hameed Khan visited the relocated villages of Anjandhana, Jamandhonga, Dhargaon, Sonpur, and Muar during April to follow up on the status of the relocated villagers. Satpura Tiger Reserve and Zilla Panchayat administration have asked Satpuda Foundation to focus on youths from relocated villages in our livelihood activities.

Celebration of Earth Day

On April 21, we organized a programme to celebrate Earth Day at Matkuli. Water conservation was discussed at the meeting. Following the meeting, villagers voluntarily dug a trench to collect water leaking from an overhead tank. This makeshift water tank now provides drinking water for domestic livestock, while, earlier, the water was being wasted. The programme was attended by Mr. N.P. Tiwari (Range Officer east Pachmarhi), Mr Kamal Kishor Pal (Sarpanch - Matkuli), deputy ranger, forest guard and around 50 villagers from Matkuli.



Matkuli- Celebration on Earth Day