

TADOBA-ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE

AUGUST 2020

Team:

Conservation Officer: Ajay Poddar

Field Assistant: Kishor Dudhbarai

Highlights of the month:

- *2 garbage management programmes to mitigate human-wildlife conflict – 68 villagers participated*
- *2 foot patrols – 19 local youths participated*
- *2 plantation drives- 270 saplings planted*
- *2 Nature games - 44 children participated*
- *1 nature trail- 25 children participated*
- *3 women's SHG meetings were organized - 35 members attended*
- *4 VEDC meetings- 53 members attended*
- *5 livestock management meetings- 61villagers attended*
- *Assisted 4 villagers in filing claims for compensation for their cattle killed by carnivores*

Conservation activities

Date	Village(s)	Activity	No. of participants
04/08/2020	Mudholi	Foot patrol in buffer area	09
14/08/2020	Khutwanda	Garbage management	32
19/08/2020	Ashtha	Plantation drive (120 saplings planted)	07
22/08/2020	Khutwanda	Foot patrol in buffer area	10
27/08/2020	Katwal	Garbage management	36
30/08/2020	Kondegaon	Plantation drive (150 saplings planted)	09
02/08/2020	Ashtha	Livestock management meeting,	15

		awareness and village level workshop	
08/08/2020	Sitarampeth	-do-	10
15/08/2020	Agarzari	-do-	10
28/08/2020	Khutwanda	-do-	12
29/08/2020	Wadala	-do-	14
		TOTAL	164

During the month of August, we organized garbage management programmes with villagers of Mudholi and Khutwanda. After the programmes, conservation officer Ajay Poddar gave a talk on cleanliness and precautions to be taken during the ongoing COVID19 pandemic. Programmes were also organized to sanitize the area around villages, as garbage spillover and food leftovers lure wildlife into villages and cause human-wildlife conflict. We collected over 5 kilograms of plastic litter through public participation (shramdhaan). A total of 68 villagers volunteered for the programmes.



Khutwanda- Anti-plastic drive during garbage management programme

We also organized plantation drives with villagers. A total of 270 saplings of different species were planted during the drives.



Kondegaon- Village youths participate in plantation drive

We have formed groups of local village youths who have been supporting Satpuda Foundation and Forest Department in nature and conservation activities. During August, we organized joint foot patrols with them at Khutwanda and Mudholi along with Forest Guards. Following recent tiger mortality case, we patrolled the beats adjoining farmlands. Patrolling teams also noted water levels of water bodies, hoof and pug marks, presence of birds etc. The youths were also taught about floral indicators of bio-diverse forest.



Khutwanda- Youths patrol an area prone to poaching

Environment Education Programme

Sr. no	Date	Village/School	Programme	Participants
1	12/08/2020	Mudholi	Nature Game	25
2	16/08/2020	Bhamdeli	-do-	19

			Total	44
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During the month of August, we organized wildlife conservation awareness and environment education programmes in Mudholi and Bhamdeli villages. We engaged children in interactive nature games through which they learned to identify wild animals and the importance of their conservation. A total of 44 local children participated in these activities. Nature and bird watching trails will be organized post-monsoon.



Bhamdeli- Children participate in an interactive nature game

Employment Cell

Sr. No.	Date	Village	Group	Attended	Program introduced
1	03/08/2020	Kondegaon	VEDC members and farmers	15	Crop damage by wildlife
2	05/08/2020	Bhamdeli	SHG (Indira Mahila Bachat Gat)	10	Presentation on oyster mushroom cultivation
3	06/08/2020	Adegaon	VEDC	12	Solar fencing application and distribution register
4	11/08/2020	Khutwanda	VECD and PRT members	16	Presentation on rising number of

					electrocution cases in buffer
5	13/08/2020	Dewada	SHG (Ramabai Mahila Bachat gat)	12	Introduced Chandrapur based buyer for candles made by SHG
6	20/08/2020	Mudholi	VEDC and PRT members	10	Presentation on rising number of electrocution cases in buffer area
7	21/08/2020	Kondegaon	SHG	13	Livelihood awareness session, presentation on oyster mushroom cultivation

Due to current lockdown situation, most of the forest dwelling communities are going through hardship. Members of women's SHGs requested us to conduct programmes on alternative livelihood options, especially on oyster mushroom cultivation.



Kondegaon- Livelihood awareness session

In VEDC meetings, we talked about preventing electrocution of wild animals. The meetings included primary response teams (PRTs) and staff from the Forest Department and Electricity Board. We also discussed the issue of domestic livestock grazing in the forest which leads to increased conflict with wild animals. Some villagers have set up cattle sheds and are not sending their cattle to graze in forests area in the buffer area.

We also discussed the rising number of free-ranging stray dogs in villages that often pose threat to small and medium-sized wild animals. These dogs often spread infections. Such dogs will be marked to be neutered by related department/organization.



(Left) Adegaon- Meeting with cattle owners about livestock management (Right) Khutwanda- meeting with PRT and VEDC members about preventing electrocution of wild animals



Ashtha- Balakrishna Jivtode who opted for cattle shed with our support