

TADOBA-ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE

FEBRUARY 2019

Team:

Conservation Officer: Mr. Ajay Poddar

Field Assistant: Mr. Kishor Dudhbarai

Highlights of the month:

- ⇒ *3 check dams built through shramdhaan - 34 villagers participated*
- ⇒ *7 VEDC meetings were organized - 192 members attended*
- ⇒ *5 anti-plastic programmes and programmes to clean areas around hand pumps - 141 villagers participated*
- ⇒ *Nature orientation camp - 25 students and 4 teachers participated*
- ⇒ *5 environment education programmes- 171 students attended*
- ⇒ *6 women's SHG meetings were organized - 86 members attended*
- ⇒ *50 eligible youths identified for four-wheeler driving training*

Nature Orientation Camp 2019

On February 5th and 6th, Satpuda Foundation organized a 2-day nature camp for 25 students from four villages. Various nature-oriented activities were organized during the camp with the support of teachers from Zilla Parishad schools of Khutwanda, Kondegaon, Mudholi and Katwal and the Forest Department.

The camp was held at Forest Department's nature camping site at Agarzari village.

A range of activities were organised for the students including trekking, nature trail, nature games, bird watching, presentations on wildlife conservation, wildlife documentaries and film shows, anti-plastic and cleanliness programmes. We also organized a safari inside the Tiger Reserve for the students and the teachers during which they had sightings of spotted deer, four-horned antelope, mongoose, various birds and iconic tigress Maya with its 2 cubs. The students enjoyed the whole experience of tiger safari organized by us, with the support of the Tiger Reserve management.

Satpuda Foundation has been conducting nature camps for students since its establishment in 2001 in all of our operational areas as we believe engaging youths in

such activities from an early age helps in motivating them to protect the nation's magnificent bio-diversity.

At the concluding session, TATR- Moharli range forest officer, Mr. R. G. Moon addressed the gathering and distributed certificates to the students. Students and teachers were positive about their experience.



(Left) Students and teachers reach at the Nature Camping Site at Agarzari



(Right) Students board the safari vehicle provided by Forest Department



Students learn about bird identification and scat identification during the nature trail



Students engage in nature games and other activities during the camp



*(Left) Agarzari- Students participate in anti-plastic and village cleanliness drive during the camp
(Right) Students visit a souvenir shop and check out some bamboo products made by locals*



(Left) Certificate distribution (Right) Students pose for a group photo at the concluding session

Conservation

Date	Village	Activity	No. of participants
02/02/2019	Mudholi	Cleanliness drive	15
09/02/2019	Bhamdeli	Check dam construction	13
10/02/2019	Katwal	Cleanliness drive	20
13/02/2019	Katwal	Anti-plastic drive	55
16/02/2019	Dewada	Anti-plastic drive	37
19/02/2019	Kondegaon	Check dam construction	09
20/02/2019	Khutwanda	Cleanliness drive	14
21/02/2019	Mudholi	Check dam construction	12
		Total	175

On February 2nd, 10th, 13th, 16th and 20th, we organized cleanliness and anti-plastic programmes with villagers of Mudholi, Katwal, Kondegaon, Khutwanda and Dewada. The programmes were organized in order to sanitize the area around villages by removing litter which sometimes leads wildlife to venture into the village and causes man-animal conflict. We collected over 15 kilograms of plastic litter through voluntary public participation (shramdhaan). A total of 141 villagers, including some members of women's self help groups (SHGs) volunteered for these activities.

On February 9th, 19th and 21st, we constructed check dams in Bhamdeli, Kondegaon and Mudholi villages through shramdhaan, with 34 villagers volunteering.



(Left) Dewada - Villagers and students participate in anti-plastic drive



(Right) Dewada - Students pose for a group picture after collecting over 15 kilograms of plastic litter



(Left) Katwal - Village youths participate in village cleanliness drive



(Right) Kondegaon - Village youths clean the area clogged by invasive shrubs



Khutwanda - Villagers construct a check dam



Kondegaon - Villagers clean a perennial water stream

Education Programme

On February 2nd, 4th, 11th, 18th and 27th, we organized environment education programmes in Mudholi, Sitarampeth, Dewada and Kondegaon. We organized these programmes with students and teachers in order to make them aware of the importance of biodiversity and conservation. We taught them about nature and wildlife through interactive sessions and various nature games. A total of 173 students participated in the programmes.



*(Left) Dewada - Students engage in a nature game during our environment education session
(Right) Mudholi- Kishor gives a talk about forest fires and their prevention ahead of summer*



Sitarampeth - Students watch a film about man-animal conflict during our environment education programme

Sr. no	Date	Village/School	Programme	Participants
1	02/02/2019	ZP school, Kondegaon	Classroom lecture on bird identification	26
2	04/02/2019	ZP school, Sitarampeth	Film show about tiger conservation and skit	17
3	11/02/2019	ZP school, Mudholi	Lecture on forest fire and prevention	47
4	18/02/2019	ZP school, Dewada	Nature game	24
5	27/02/2019	ZP school, Mudholi	Bird watching and classroom lecture	59
			Total	173

Employment Cell

We organized 7 village eco-development committee (VEDC) meetings and 6 women's SHG meetings, focusing on alternative livelihoods which would reduce dependence on the forests that leads to man-animal conflict and degradation of forests. A total of 278 villagers attended these meetings and shared their thoughts. We have submitted a list of 50 eligible youths to the Forest Department to be considered under their planned programme to train villagers in driving four-wheelers.

In the SHG meetings, we discussed about forming a group of interested members who are willing to be trained in making paper bags and in embroidery, which will be provided by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Chandrapur. A total of 86 members attended these meetings.

In the VEDC meetings, we focused on increasing usage of solar-powered fencing in farms to prevent crop depredation by herbivores as well as to prevent wildlife from being electrocuted by electric fencing. We also discussed and explained short- and long-term benefits of fodder plantation. We also discussed about increasing numbers of man-animal confrontation in Moharli buffer and how to prevent it by adapting cattle sheds and stall feeding for their cattle, which sometimes fall prey to medium and large carnivores around the area. A total of 192 villagers attended these meetings.



(Left) Dewada - Members of women's SHG being briefed about embroidery and sewing training provided by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Chandrapur



(Right) Mudholi – Women's SHG members attend awareness session on livelihood opportunities



Adegaon - Farmers and VEDC members attend an awareness session about usage of solar-powered fencing and measures to be taken ahead of summer

Details of the programmes are given below:

Sr. No.	Date	Village	Group	Attended	Program introduced
1	07/02/2019	Dewada	VEDC	20	Livelihood awareness/training programmes
2	08/02/2019	Adegaon	SHG (Adarsh Mahila Bachat Gat)	15	Sewing and embroidery course
3	10/02/2019	Kondegaon	VEDC	27	Discussion on livestock management
4	11/02/2019	Mudholi	VEDC	30	Session on man-animal conflict
5	12/02/2019	Bhamdeli	VEDC	25	Solar-powered fencing
6	14/02/2019	Khutwanda	SHG (Indira Mahila Bachat Gat)	12	Meeting with candidates of embroidery course
7	15/02/2019	Mudholi	SHG (Walmiki Mahila Bachat Gat)	20	Small-scale businesses
8	16/02/2019	UdiyaTola	VEDC	32	Bamboo crafts and products marketing
9	17/02/2019	Bhamdeli	SHG (Savitri Mahila Bachat Gat)	13	Sewing and embroidery course introduction
10	18/02/2019	Dewada	SHG (Ramai Mahila Bachat Gat)	10	Sewing and embroidery
11	22/02/2019	Sitarampeth	VEDC	23	Solar-powered fencing
12	26/02/2019	Khutwanda	VEDC	35	Livestock management and meeting with bamboo artisans
13	28/02/2019	Sitarampeth	SHG (Adivasi Mahila Bachat Gat)	16	Sewing and embroidery
			Total	278	

Mobile Health Unit (MHU):

Team: Dr. Sarang Dhar, MHU driver – Mr. Gajanan Shanware, MHU coordinator- Mr. Deepak Gayna

6 camps were organized by us in February in which a total of 361 patients got free treatment and medicines.

S. no	Date	Village	Patients
1	February 23 rd	Moharli	58
2	February 23 rd	Bhamdeli	77
3	February 24 th	Sitarampeth	42
4	February 24 th	Kondegaon	51
5	February 25 th	Katwal	68
6	February 25 th	Khutwanda	65
		Total	361



Bhamdeli –Dr. Sarang Dhar treats a patient during our free medical camp