

# TADOBA-ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE

MARCH 2019

## Team:

*Conservation Officer: Mr. Ajay Poddar*

*Field Assistant: Mr. Kishor Dudhbarai*

*Leave: Nil*

## Highlights of the month:

- ⇒ *3 anti-plastic programmes and programmes to clean areas around bore wells to mitigate man-animal conflict - 108 villagers participated*
- ⇒ *2 check dams built through shramdhaan - 35 villagers participated*
- ⇒ *1 foot patrol in forest – 12 local youths participated*
- ⇒ *8 environment education programmes - 274 students attended*
- ⇒ *4 nature club activities - seed collection, birdbath and feeder making - 121 students participated*
- ⇒ *7 women's SHG meetings were organized - 106 members attended*
- ⇒ *8 VEEDC meetings were organized - 216 members attended*
- ⇒ *World Forest Day and World Wildlife Day 2019 celebrated.*

## Conservation

Date	Village	Activity	No. of participants
06/03/2019	Katwal	Anti-plastic drive	36
11/03/2019	Adegaon	-do-	32
12/03/2019	Mudholi	Check dam construction	15
16/03/2019	Kondegaon	-do-	20
19/03/2019	Kondegaon	Anti-plastic drive	40

23/03/2019	Khutwanda	Foot patrol	12
			155

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, we organized cleanliness and anti-plastic programmes with villagers of Katwal, Kondegaon and Adegaon. Programmes were organized in order to sanitize the area around villages, which sometimes leads wildlife to venture into the village and causes man-animal conflict. We also collected over 8 kilograms of plastic litter through voluntary public participation (shramdhaan). A total of 108 villagers including members of women's SHGs volunteered in these activities.



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

*(Right) Adegaon- Students pose for a group picture after collecting over 8 kilograms of plastic litter*

On March 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, we constructed check dams near Bhamdeli, Kondegaon and Mudholi villages through shramdhaan. 35 villagers volunteered.



*Mudholi - Villagers volunteer to construct a check dam*

During the months of March to May, forest fire incidents increase in the buffer zone.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, we organized a foot patrol in the forest around Khutwanda village involving local youths and the Forest Guard. We are also helping the Forest Department in its forest fire mitigation plan.



*Khutwanda- Local youths participate in foot patrol*

### ***Education Programme***

During the month of March, we visited and organized environment education programmes in Mudholi, Sitarampeth, Dewada, Kondegaon, Khutwanda, Adegaon, Katwal and Bhamdeli villages. 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's value through interactive sessions and various nature games. A total of 395 students participated in the programmes.

Students of Nature club 'Vagh' also participated in seed collection drive and collected over 2.5 kilograms of mixed seeds of endemic tree species. They are also preparing saplings for our proposed monsoon plantation drive. 53 students from Zilla Parishad schools of Khutwanda and Kondegaon participated in the drive.

Students of Khutwanda and Mudholi also prepared 4 bird baths and hung them on trees around their school premises.



*(Left) Bhamdeli- Kishor gives a talk on forest fires*



*(Right) Dewada- Students learn about biodiversity through interactive nature game*



*(Left) Mudholi - Students prepare bird baths*



*(Right) Khutwanda - Nature Club 'Aswal' collected mixed seeds during seed collection drive*



*(Left) Kondegaon - Members of nature club 'Vagh' take care of their kitchen garden*



*(Right) Kondegaon - Students participate in a nature and bird watching trail*

***Celebration of important days in eco-calendar***



## World Wildlife Day

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, on the occasion of World Wildlife Day, we organized a conservation awareness rally with students of Zilla Parishad School, Mudholi. During the rally, students walked through the village and chanted slogans on wildlife conservation. After the rally, we organized a classroom lecture on tiger ecology and how it functions. 30 students participated in the programme.

## World Forest Day

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, on the occasion of World Forest Day, we organized a conservation awareness rally and nature games with students of Zilla Parishad School, Kondegaon. After the rally we organized a meeting with VEDC members and other villagers to discuss issues like, water conservation, village sanitation and usage of solar-powered fencing to prevent crop depredation.



*(Left) Kondegaon- Conservation awareness rally on the occasion of World Forest Day*

*(Right) Mudholi- Students learn about biodiversity through interactive nature game.*

Sr. no	Date	Village/School	Programme	Participants
1	05/03/2019	ZP school, Kondegaon	Classroom lecture on forest fires	22
2	06/03/2019	ZP school, Mudholi	-do-	57
3	09/03/2019	ZP school, Khutwanda	-do-	32
4	12/03/2019	ZP school, Bhamdeli	Nature game	22
5	13/03/2019	ZP school, Khutwanda	Nature club 'Aswal' activity - seed collection	23

6	14/03/2019	ZP school, Kondegaon	Nature trail	28
7	15/03/2019	ZP school, Dewada	Classroom lecture on forest fires	28
8	18/03/2019	ZP school, Mudholi and Katwal	Bird baths	36
9	21/03/2019	ZP school, Kondegaon	Conservation awareness rally on World Forest Day	46
10	24/03/2019	ZP school, Adegaon	Classroom lecture on forest fires	32
11	28/03/2019	ZP school, Kondegaon	Nature club 'Vagh' activity - seed collection	30
12	29/03/2019	ZP school, Mudholi	Nature games	39
			<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>

### ***Employment Cell***

We organized 8 village eco-development committee (VEDC) meetings and 7 women's self-help group (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 322 villagers attended these meetings and shared their thoughts.

In the SHG meetings, we formed a group of interested members who are willing to take up training in making paper bags and in embroidery. A total of 106 members attended the SHG meetings. Some members prepared 15 paper bags as samples.

In the VEDC meetings, we focused on increasing usage of solar-powered fencing in farm lands to prevent conflict with wildlife as well as to prevent wildlife from being electrocuted by electrified 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 this by using cattle sheds and stall feeding for their cattle, which often fall prey to carnivores in the area while grazing in the forests. A total of 216 villagers attended these meetings.



*Katwal- Members of women 's SHGs prepare paper bags.*



*(Left) Katwal- Awareness session on human-wildlife conflict and on solar-powered fencing and its benefits*

*(Right) Junona – Members of women 's SHG being introduced to paper bag making and other small scale businesses*

Details of the programmes are given below:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Program introduced</b>
<b>1</b>	01/03/2019	Bhamdeli	VEDC	19	Livelihood awareness/training programmes discussion.
<b>2</b>	04/03/2019	Khutwanda	SHG (Savitri Mahila Bachat Gat)	12	Sewing and embroidery course introduction
<b>3</b>	07/03/2019	Katwal	SHG (Jai Matadi Mahila Bachat Gat)	15	Paper bags making
<b>4</b>	08/03/2019	Katwal	SHG (Walmiki Mahila Bachat	10	-do-

			Gat)		
<b>5</b>	09/03/2019	Khutwanda	VEDC	22	Solar fencing usage overview
<b>6</b>	10/03/2019	Dewada	VEDC	19	-do-
<b>7</b>	12/03/2019	Bhamdeli	VEDC	35	Small scale business discussion
<b>8</b>	13/03/2019	Khutwanda	VEDC	41	Workshop on solar fencing usage
<b>9</b>	14/03/2019	Sitarampeth	SHG (Adivasi Mahila Bachat Gat)	16	Sewing and embroidery course introduction
<b>10</b>	15/03/2019	Dewada	SHG (Ramai Mahila Bachat Gat)	12	Sewing and embroidery and paper bag making
<b>11</b>	19/03/2019	Katwal	VEDC	27	Solar fencing usage overview
<b>12</b>	21/03/2019	Sitarampeth	VEDC	30	Livestock management and meeting with bamboo artisans
<b>13</b>	23/03/2019	Khutwanda	SHG (Indira Mahila Bachat Gat)	25	Paper bags making
<b>14</b>	24/03/2019	Adegaon	VEDC	23	Solar fencing usage overview
<b>15</b>	27/03/2019	Katwal	SHG (Jai Matadi Mahila Bachat Gat)	16	Paper bags making
			<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	