



**Monthly report
IUCN Pench Bor Tiger Corridor
December 2019**

Mandar Pingle – Conservation Officer

Highlights

- **Silt removal and habitat restoration from lake in Telgaon village**
- **2-day residential nature education camp organised at Pench Tiger Reserve Maharashtra; 30 students and 6 teachers participated**

Activity

As part of IUCN's tiger corridor project, Satpuda Foundation undertook de-silting of a recharge lake in Telgaon village in Pench-Bor corridor. The recharge lake is spread over an area of 0.6 acre and invasive species like *lantana camara* had encroached upon the land surrounding the lake. The silt from the recharge lake was removed and the lake deepened. The invasive species have been uprooted and the land has been cleared for plantation work. The inauguration of the work was done by Mr Taywade, member of gram sabha. Other members and prominent villagers were present during the inaugural ceremony of the work. Sarpanch Mrs Chanda Gaydhane expressed her gratitude towards IUCN, Maharashtra State Forest Department for funding and Satpuda Foundation for undertaking this work as it will help solve water shortage issues for her village.



Gram Panchayat members involved in planning the de-silting work in Telgaon



Site of recharge lake in Telgaon before undertaking de-silting and restoration of degraded land



Growth of invasive species of plants in and around recharge lake (left); Gram Panchayat members inaugurating de-silting work (right)



Uprooting of invasive plants around lake and preparing land for plantation



Site after de-silting of recharge lake



Site after de-silting (left); silt being spread in the area prepared for plantation after removal of invasive plant species (right)



Panoramic view of the recharge lake in Telgaon

As part of IUCN project, Satpuda Foundation organised a 2-day residential nature camp at Pench Tiger Reserve, Sillari on 27 and 28 December 2019. 30 students from Narendra High School (HS), Telgaon, and Sarvoday HS, Umari, along with 6 teachers participated in the camp. On day one, the students learnt about the basics of tiger ecology at Tiger Tale Interpretation Centre. Later they learnt about concepts of ecosystem, habitat, and importance of insects, birds and animals in nature. The students also learned to spot and identify birds during the trail. Signs of the presence and movement of leopard, sloth bear and spotted deer were seen during nature trails organised by our team.

On the concluding day of the nature camp, the students went on a safari ride in the jungle and observed *gaur*, *sambhar deer*, *spotted deer*, *peafowl*, *red crested pochards*, *ruddy*

shelducks, and Eurasian wigeons. A visit to medicinal plantation in Sillari was organised. Later in the afternoon, through nature games, students learnt the importance of conservation. During discussion sessions, students came to a conclusion that forests and biodiversity are absent near their villages and that they will take collective efforts to improve the situation and support Forest Department in conservation initiatives. Teachers also expressed their willingness to support nature education programmes in their schools.



Students and teachers of Narendra High School Telgaon (left) and Sarvoday High School Umari (right) participated in the nature camp



Students learn to interpret signs of sloth bear (left) and visit to wetlands during nature trail



Visit to 'Tiger Tale' interpretation centre (left) and medicinal herb plantation (right) in Sillari



Jungle safari at Sillari gate of Pench Tiger Reserve (left); visit to Ambakhori waterfall during safari (right)