



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

Mandar Pingle – Conservation Officer

Highlights

- *Assisted Forest Department staff in monitoring tiger movement and sensitising villagers to prevent man-animal conflict*
- *Organised 2-day food processing workshop for women from 3 villages; 37 women participated*
- *One farmer and a women's self-help group (SHG) from Umari successfully cultivated and marketed oyster mushrooms*
- *Assisted Durga Mahila Bachat Gat of Umari to start food processing micro-enterprise*

Activity

Satpuda Foundation assisted Forest Department staff from Katol Range of Nagpur district in regularly monitoring tiger movement near Chandikapur, Malegaon and Gondikhapa villages. On 28 October, a cow was killed by a tiger in Randhoda area of Isapur round and villagers had encountered the tiger in their farms. In order to prevent any man-animal conflict, Satpuda Foundation and Forest Department staff regularly patrolled the area till 13 November. Pugmarks were seen in a cotton farm in Malegaon village. The team also collected GPS locations of open wells in the region. Villagers were sensitised through meetings and one-on-one interactions. The villagers were instructed to avoid open defecation, grazing of cattle in forest area and to avoid disposal of dead cattle in the open in order to avoid man-animal conflict.



Tiger pugmark seen in a cotton farm in Malegaon village (left); team patrolling to check tiger movement near Chandikapur (right)



Dead cattle disposed in open by villagers near Chandikapur village (left); collecting photos and GPS location of open wells (right)



Interviewing villagers from Gondikhapa (left) and Malegaon (right) who saw tiger in their farms

On 6 November, Satpuda Foundation organised a 2-day workshop to train members of women's SHGs in food processing. 37 women of 7 SHGs from Umari, Telgaon and Lohgad villages participated in the program. Mrs Savita Dhongade, trainer for the workshop is associated with Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM), Nagpur. During the programme, the women were taught to make pickles, sauces, chutneys, jams and squashes. Packaging, marketing and setting up of cottage or micro-enterprises was also taught during the program. Officials from Gram Panchayats and Maharashtra Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM) visited the workshop and provided information regarding various schemes for SHGs being implemented by Panchayat Samiti. During the programme, the women were also sensitised on man-animal conflict and ways to prevent the same.



Women from Lohgad, Umari and Telgaon attend food processing training (left); women learn to make pickles (right)



Women learn to prepare squashes (left); trainees pose before start of training program (right)

On 22 November, Durga Mahila Bachat Gat of Umari village cultivated its first crop of oyster mushrooms. The group was trained in a programme organised by us in October and had set up a unit at Mrs Sangita Ghugal's home. Mrs Ghugal is the president of the SHG. Satpuda Foundation assisted them in selling the mushrooms in Nagpur. We also provided them market linkage by introducing them to wholesale dealers in Kalamna market in Nagpur. The group is now cultivating and selling fresh mushrooms. They are also selling dry mushrooms. Dnyaneshwar Sarve, a farmer, also successfully cultivated and is now selling oyster mushrooms.



Sangita Ghugal, president of Durga Mahila Bachat Gat with oyster mushroom crop



Members of Durga Mahila Bachat Gat cultivating oyster mushrooms



Executive Director of Satpuda Foundation visits oyster mushroom unit of Dnyaneshwar Sarve in Umari

In November, Durga Mahila Bachat Gat of Umari village was trained in food processing in a programme organised by us. We assisted the group in starting a micro-enterprise for manufacture of pickles, jams and squashes. Food registration and Udyog Adhar registration for the micro-enterprise has also been completed. Satpuda Foundation helped the group procure their first order for crushed lemon pickles, lemon sliced pickles, amla murabba and amla pickles. Kashinath Farms, an organic products store in Nagpur, will be marketing these products for the group.



Durga Mahila Bachat Gat members preparing pickles (left); Lemon pickles packed in glass bottle (right)