



**SATPUDA FOUNDATION**  
**Monthly Report – February 2020**  
**Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra**

***Team:***

Mandar Pingle – Conservation Officer  
Bandu Uikey – Assistant Conservation Officer  
Dilip Lanjewar – Field Assistant  
Balkrishna Bagmare – Field Assistant

***Highlights***

- *227 patients treated free of cost in 6 health camps, distributed pamphlets of process to apply for compensation for crop depredation and cattle kill by wildlife*
- *Assisted 1 villager in filing for compensation for cattle kill by leopard*
- *Organised 3 community forest patrols, 21 villagers participated*
- *One water hole cleaned in Ghoti, 5 members of Primary Response Team volunteered for the programme*
- *Organised one shramdhaan to clean plastic trash in Awaleghat, 27 villagers participated*
- *Organised 2 meetings of village eco-development committees (VEDCs), 23 villagers were present*
- *Arranged one nature camp in association with Forest Department for 38 students of Pipariya village*
- *Organised 5 audio-visual presentations for school students, 215 students present*
- *Organised 2 night film shows in Pipariya on leopard-human conflict, 120 villagers present*
- *Organised 13 classroom sessions on importance of birds in ecosystem, 272 students attend sessions*
- *One nature trail conducted, 14 students participated in the nature trail*
- *Organised two-day training session for eco-tourism guides in association with Maharashtra Forest Department, 70 guides took part*
- *Meeting of members of self help groups on Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojna organised, 46 women took part*

- *Meetings organised for 2 women self help groups in Usripur and Khudsapur on setting up of microenterprises*
- *Assisted two unemployed youths in gaining employment*

### ***Mobile Health Service***

Six free health camps were organised in 6 villages of West Range, Saleghat Range and Nagalwadi Range of Pench Tiger Reserve during February. A total of 227 patients were treated for various ailments and medicines were distributed free of cost. Forest Department staff also got treatment during these camps. During the camps, our staff distributed copies of the Government Resolution explaining compensation package for crop depredation and cattle loss due to wild animals. (Village wise details of patients treated in table below)

<b><i>Sr. No.</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Village</i></b>	<b><i>No of Patients</i></b>
1.	20-Jan	Makardhokda	17
2.	20-Jan	Shiladevi	36
3.	21-Jan	Saleghat	43
4.	21-Jan	Ambazari	25
5.	22-Jan	Dhawalpur	78
6.	22-Jan	Suwardhara	28
		<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>227</i></b>



*Dr Khode checks patients*



*Forest guard from Saleghat (left) and RFO Mr Joshi and his staff (right) attend our health camps*



*Bandu distributing pamphlets for compensation schemes for crop depredation and cattle loss due to wildlife during health camps*

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Participants</i>
1.	18 Feb	Assistance to Haribhau Neware to file for cattle kill compensation	Pipariya	01
2.	19 Feb	Cleaning of waterhole	Ghoti	07
3.	12 Feb	Foot patrol in forest	Khapa	09
4.	13 Feb	--do--	Kadbikheda	07
5.	19 Feb	--do--	Awaleghat	05
6.	10 Feb	Anti-plastic drive	Awaleghat	27
7.	18 Feb	VEDC meeting	Ghoti	11
8.	18 Feb	VEDC meeting	Awaleghat	12

### ***Activity***

On 18 February, a cattle kill was reported around 20:30 from Pipariya village. A calf owned by Mr Haribhau Neware was killed by a leopard in the cattle shed. Our staff informed the concerned forest guard and ranger about this incident. Our staff also assisted Mr Neware to file for compensation for the killed livestock. Later on 20 February, a shed net was set up around the poorly lit and unfenced cattle shed to prevent further cattle depredation by the leopard. For the past few months, a male

leopard has been lifting livestock from Pipariya village. RFO East Pench and RFO Pauni UFC along with Satpuda Foundation's Mandar Pingle and Dilip Lanjewar and VEDC president Suryabhan Hazare surveyed the area and decided to try out this solution as a deterrent for the leopard. Lights and music system has also been setup. The owner of the cattle shed will be provided chain link fencing for the shed soon through VEDC.

Regular monitoring of the leopard's movement is also being carried out by Forest Department staff through day and night patrols. Assisting villagers to get compensation for cattle killed by wild animals helps reduce retaliatory killings of wildlife by the affected villagers.



*Mandar assisting Haribhau Neware to file for compensation for calf killed by leopard (left) RFO East Pench and RFO Pauni UFC along with SF team inspecting area near the cattle shed (right)*



*Temporary shed net fencing setup around the shed to prevent cattle kills by leopard*

On 19 February, Satpuda Foundation organised a shramdhaan program to clean a water hole used by wildlife near Ghoti village. The artificial water hole is located around 5 km from the village. Lot of weed growth and scum had accumulated in the waterhole. 5 members of Primary Response Team from the village volunteered for the shramdhaan and cleaned the water body. This will provide water for wildlife during dry summer seasons and help prevent any human-wildlife conflict which can take place when animals venture near human settlements in search of water.





*Water hole before (left) and after (right) cleaning*



*Primary Response Team members along with Dilip after cleaning waterhole near Ghoti village*

On 12 February, Satpuda Foundation organised a foot patrol in the forest area adjoining Khapa village. 5 members of Primary Response Team (PRT) from Khapa joined Dilip on the foot patrol. This team assisted forest guard Ms Thombre and her team of 2 forest labourers to check for any illegal activity in the forest. The team checked for snares, electrocution, poisoning of water bodies, illicit felling etc during the patrol. No such signs were found during the patrol. The team also checked for indirect signs of wildlife present in the area. They found pugmarks of tiger, leopard, wild dogs (dhole), sloth bear and hoof marks of wild boars, sambhar and chital deer indicating a good presence of wildlife in this area. The patrol lasted around 2 hours covering a track of almost 7 kilometres in one compartment of Pauni Unified Forest Control (UFC) range.



*Dilip helps the patrol team to identify indirect signs of wildlife (left)*



*Team on foot patrol near Khapa village (right)*

On 13 February, Satpuda Foundation organised a foot patrol in 2 compartments of Pauni UFC range adjoining Kadbikheda village. During the 3-hour patrol, a team of 5 PRT members led by Dilip assisted forest guard Ms Bhelavi to check for any illegal activity and indirect signs of wildlife in this area. No illegal activity was reported during the patrol. Fresh as well as old scat of wild dogs and pellet droppings of sambhar deer were observed at various locations.



*Dilip and team along with forest guard on patrol near Kadbikheda*

A team of 5 villagers from Awaleghat, led by Balkrishna assisted Forest Department staff in patrolling forest patch adjoining the village. No illegal activities were reported during the patrol.



*Balkrishna leading team of villagers from Awaleghat during foot patrol*

On 6 February, Dilip organised a meeting with members of Village Eco-Development Committee (VEDC) in Ghoti village. During the meeting, Dilip discussed various works that can be undertaken by the VEDC such as installing fencing for open wells in the periphery of the village to prevent wild animals falling into the wells, installing display boards to create awareness regarding ways to prevent and reduce human-wildlife conflict, banners and posters to provide information regarding compensation schemes for crop and livestock depredation by wildlife. 11 villagers were present for the meeting.



*Members of VEDC Ghoti during the meeting*

On 18 February, Balkrishna organised a meeting of villagers from Chargaon village. During this meeting, Balkrishna sensitised the villagers on the harms of forest fires for both wildlife and humans. He explained to the villagers that forest fires often start due to negligence and poor practices during collection of minor forest produce like mahua flowers and tendu leaves. He explained to the villagers that they should collect minor forest produce but without resorting to forest fires during the collection season. 12 villagers were present.



*Balkrishna along with members of VEDC Chargaon during the meeting*

On 10 February, Satpuda Foundation organised a shramdhaan program to collect plastic trash and clean the village premises in Awaleghat. 27 villagers volunteered for the shramdhaan and collected plastic trash strewn along the road side and near the school and Anganwadi premises. This will help prevent plastic trash from entering and choking up water bodies.





*Youths cleaning plastic trash during cleanliness drive in Awaleghat village*

### ***Education and Awareness Programs***

#### ***Nature Education Camp***

On 3 February, Satpuda Foundation, in association with Maharashtra Forest department, organised a one-day nature camp for students from Pipariya and Sillari villages. 38 students and 5 teachers of Zilla Parishad Primary schools from the villages took part in the program. Bandu Uikey and Dilip Lanjewar sensitised students on issues like importance of forest conservation, human-wildlife conflict and human-wildlife coexistence. These concepts were taught through nature games, interactive sessions, audio-visual presentations and a nature safari. The students learnt about flora and fauna of Pench during the safari. They were able to observe spotted deer, sambhar deer, nilgai, wild boar etc. RFO East Pench Mr Mangesh Tate and his staff provided support for the organisation of the camp.



*Dilip interacts with students (left); Students visit Tiger Tale interpretation centre (right)*





*Students observe sambhar deer during safari (left); Students visit Ambakhori in Pench Tiger Reserve during safari (right)*



*Students and Forest Department staff during the nature camp in Sillari*

***Audio-visual presentations***

<b><i>Sr. No.</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Village/School</i></b>	<b><i>Film/Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Participants</i></b>
1.	24/02/2020	ZPUPS Sawara	BBC – Real Jungle Book	57
2.	24/02/2020	ZPPS Kadbikheda	BBC- Real Jungle Book	35
3.	25/02/2020	ZPUPS Zinzeriya	BBC – Real Jungle book; Slide show on ‘Birds of Pench’	48
4.	25/02/2020	ZPPS Pipariya	Animated film ‘Jabu’s Jungle – Leopard’	23
5.	25/02/2020	Pipariya (night show in village)	Jawai: India’s Leopard Hills	40
6.	26/02/2020	ZPUPS Ghoti	Slide show on ‘Mammals of Pench Tiger Reserve’	52
7.	26/02/2020	Pipariya (night	Jawai: India’s Leopard	80

		show in village)	Hills The Girl Gang of Teliya (film on tiger sisters)	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b> (120 villagers, 215 students)



*Students and teachers of ZPUPS Sawara (left) and Kadbikheda (right) watch audio-visual presentations*



*Night time film show in Pipariya village to sensitise villagers regarding human-leopard conflict and ways to prevent such incidents*

### ***Classroom Education***

<b><i>Sr. No.</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>School</i></b>	<b><i>Participants</i></b>
1.	01/02/2020	Kirangi Sarra	08
2.	04/02/2020	Kadbikheda	30
3.	12/02/2020	Khapa	19
4.	17/02/2020	Sawara	50
5.	22/02/2020	Ghoti	25
6.	28/02/2020	Wagholi	15

7.	28/02/2020	Pipariya	12
8.	04/02/2020	Chargaon	19
9.	05/02/2020	Awaleghat	23
10.	06/02/2020	Shiladevi	16
11.	07/02/2020	Suwardhara	17
12.	21/02/2020	Narhar	16
13.	22/02/2020	Pench Kukda	22
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>272</b>

### ***Nature trail***

A nature trail was organised on 29 February in Zilla Parishad Upper Primary school of Ghoti village. 14 students attended the trail. Dilip taught the students about the importance of various biotic elements in the ecosystem through an interactive game ‘Web of Life’. He explained to them how the extinction of a species destroys the fragile food web ultimately threatening the very existence of human life.

### ***Nature Games***

In February, Dilip organised a session of interactive nature games to engage 25 students of ZPPS, Ghoti. During this session, Dilip and students played various games through which students were able to understand concepts of sustainability, careful and responsible use of nature resources etc.



*Dilip teaching sustainability during nature game session in Ghoti*

### ***Alternate Livelihood and Employment***

On 4 and 5 February, Satpuda Foundation in association with Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra organised a two-day refresher workshop for nature guides of Sillari gate of Pench Tiger Reserve and Chorbahuli and Khudsapar gates of Mansinghdeo Wildlife Sanctuary. 70 guides from Sillari, Chorbahuli and Khudsapar gates participated in this workshop. RFO East Pench, Mr Mangesh Tate inaugurated the workshop and explained the importance of tourism for villagers of buffer area of



Pench. He also conducted a session on rules and regulations to be followed. Mandar Pingle, Conservation Officer for Satpuda Foundation along with Bandu Uikey, Assistant Conservation Officer for Satpuda Foundation conducted sessions on biodiversity of Pench Tiger Reserve. On the concluding day, the guides were taken on a nature trail to learn about lesser fauna and about bird watching expeditions that they can arrange for tourists, thereby promoting eco-tourism in the park.



*Training session for eco-tourism guides from Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra at Amaltas Tourist Complex in Sillari*

Satpuda Foundation in association with Vruksh Ecosystems Foundation organised an awareness session for women's self help groups (SHGs) and villagers engaged in micro and small enterprises. The morning session was held at Satpuda Foundation's 'Saila Community Resource Centre' in Pipariya and the evening session was held in Khudsapar village. Members of SHGs from Sillari, Pipariya, Wagholi, Ghoti and Salai attended the morning session while SHG members and youths from Khudsapar were present during the evening session.

Mr Nishant Burnase, Program officer for Vruksh Ecosystem Foundation, which is the implementing agency for Prime Minister Yuva Yojna explained the scope and benefits of PM Yuva Yojna to 46 representatives of SHGs. Mandar Pingle, Conservation Officer along with Bandu Uikey Assistant Conservation officer for Satpuda Foundation explained importance of micro-enterprises as a means of alternate or supporting livelihood option. During the session, the members of SHGs discussed various issues such as training, marketing of goods etc faced by them while running their micro-enterprises. A follow-up session will be organised soon to provide solutions and assistance for these issues.



*Mandar and Nishant providing information regarding PM Yuva Yojna in Pipariya*



*Members of SHGs give inputs regarding their interest in starting micro-enterprises (left); interaction with members of SHG from Khudsapar (right)*

On 4 February, Dilip organised a meeting of 20 women from Usripar village. During this meeting Dilip discussed options for businesses that can be started by the women by forming a self help group. Dilip suggested various options such as food processing, mushroom cultivation and cloth bag making to the group. He also provided information regarding various schemes for self help groups implemented by state government and encouraged them to avail the benefits of these schemes. During this meeting, 17 women formed a new self help group and named it 'Van Samvardhan Sanskruti Mahila Bachat Gat'. Mrs Renuka Kumare was elected president while Mrs Kavita Kumre was elected secretary of the group. Forest Guard Ms Bhelavi was also present at the meeting.



*Dilip interacting with members of SHG during meeting in Usripar village*

On 15 February, Satpuda Foundation organised a meeting of members of self help groups from Khudsapar village. 17 women representing 3 self help groups were present during the meeting. These three groups are newly formed and have been registered at Panchayat Samiti.



*Women from Khudsapar village form new self help group during a meeting*

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Participants</i>
1.	04/02/2020	Self help group meeting	Usripar	20
2.	15/02/2020	Self help group meeting	Khudsapar	17
3.	14/02/2020	Self help group meeting for information on PM Yuva Yojna	Pipariya	46
			<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>

During the month, Satpuda Foundation staff started collected and updated information regarding current status of existing women's self help groups. Our team is collecting information regarding existing micro-enterprise being run by the SHGs and information on the willingness of SHGs to start micro-enterprises. This will help us organise alternate livelihood options in coming months.



*Dilip (left) and Balkrishna (right) collecting information regarding existing self help groups*



In February 2020, our team helped 2 unemployed youths from Pench Tiger Reserve to gain employment. (Details in table below)

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Employed by</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
1	Raju Baldev Ahake	23 years	12 <sup>th</sup>	Chargaon	Shivratri Hotel, Khaparkheda	8,000/- per month
2	Pravin Dongre	22 years	10 <sup>th</sup>	Pipariya	Labourer with welding store in Pauni	7,500/- per month