

# TADOBA-ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE

February 2020

## Team:

*Conservation Officer: Ajay Poddar*

*Field Assistant: Kishor Dudhbarai*

## Highlights of the month:

- *Organised meetings to discuss mitigation of human-wildlife conflict and promote awareness about conservation - 58 villagers attended*
- *Organised 2 garbage management programmes to reduce human-wildlife conflict – 83 villagers participated*
- *1 foot patrol – 11 villagers participated*
- *3 Nature club activities - Nature games and bird watching trail – 106 students participated*
- *8 Environment education programmes - 466 students and 21 teachers attended*
- *4 livestock management workshops - 83 villagers participated*
- *Candle making workshop - 15 women participated*
- *3 women’s SHG meetings were organized - 50 members attended*
- *3 VEDC meetings were organized - 64 members attended*
- *Mobile Health Unit organised free camps in 6 villages - 247 patients treated*

## Conservation activities

<b>Date</b>	<b>Village(s)</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>
01/02/2020	Kondegaon	Meeting on livestock management	17
03/02/2020	Agarzari	-do-	15
06/02/2020	Mudholi	Adoption of solar-powered fencing and prevention of electrocution	35
19/02/2020	Bhamdeli	-do-	16

17/02/2020	Khutwanda	Garbage management program	38
20/02/2020	Mudholi	-do-	45
22/02/2020	Kondegaon	Foot patrol	11
		<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>

During the month of February, we organised several meetings with villagers focusing on reducing human-wildlife conflict. In order to spread awareness, we spoke to the community members about potential threats and danger of venturing into the forest areas for *fuel wood, mahua, tendu collection* etc. As the Tadoba area has a good tiger breeding population and other large carnivores, many encounters turn fatal, often leading to retaliatory killing of wildlife by villagers. Resolving issues like garbage dumps around village, cattle grazing, minor forest produce (MFP) collection and unemployment help in reducing human-wildlife confrontation.

Electrocution is an emerging practice of poaching and killing of wild animals. It causes a large number of wildlife mortalities. To prevent electrocution of wildlife, we organised meetings with Forest Department, VEDC presidents and Gram Panchayat members to discuss preventive measures. During the meeting, it emerged that an interdepartmental approach would be required to prevent electrocution around protected areas. A patrolling unit, consisting of FD-beat guard, VEDC member, Satpuda Foundation officer, Vidhyut sevak (Electricity Dept.) and electric pump connection holder will be formed to tackle this issue.



(Left) Kudesawli- Community meeting on preventing electrocution and discussion on human-wildlife conflict (Right) Khutwanda- Survey on usage of solar-powered fencing

We organized garbage management meetings and activities with villagers of Khutwanda and Mudholi village. Programmes were organized to sanitize the area around villages, as garbage spillover and food leftovers lure wildlife into villages and cause human-wildlife conflict. We also

collected over 10 kilograms of plastic litter through public participation (shramdhaan). A total of 83 villagers volunteered for the programmes.



*Khutwanda- Garbage management programme with students and villagers*

We also organized a foot patrol involving selected local youths. We selected the forest area adjoining Kondegaon, where wire traps have been reported earlier. During the foot patrol, we scanned the area and we recorded herbivores' hooves impression, scats and the presence of birds. We patrolled an area of 5 kilometer with forest guard. A total 11 people participated in the patrol. No signs of illegal activities were detected.



*Kondegaon – Local youths on foot patrol in buffer zone*

***Environment Education Programme***

Sr. no	Date	Village/School	Programme	Participants (students+teachers)

1	04/02/2020	Katwal	Class room lecture- Faunal diversity of the landscape	56
2	05/02/2020	Bhamdeli	Interactive nature game- 'Annaskhri'	26
3	07/02/2020	Mudholi	Nature and bird watching trail	30
4	08/02/2020	Khutwanda	Wildlife conservation awareness (film shows, presentation)	28+2
5	08/02/2020	Katwal	-do-	90+4
6	10/02/2020	Chiwanda	Film show- Uninhabitable earth	17+2
7	10/02/2020	Kanargaon	Film show- Truth about tigers by Shekhar Dattatri	50+4
8	10/02/2020	Kanargaon	Interactive nature game- 'Mi Kaun'	50
9	11/02/2020	Gunpur	Film show- Uninhabitable earth, Tale of the tiger	79+5
10	12/02/2020	Dewada	-do-	22+2
11	12/02/2020	Adegaon	Presentation on human-wildlife conflict	18+2
			<b>Total</b>	<b>466+21</b>

During February, we organized wildlife conservation awareness and environment education programmes in Mudholi, Bhamdeli, Katwal, Ashtha, Dewada, Khutwanda, Adegaon, Chiwanda, Gunpur and Kanhargaon 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 wildlife films, documentaries, presentations and classroom lectures. A total of 466 students and 21 teachers participated in the programmes.



*(Left) Gunpur- Students and teachers watch a documentary on human-animal conflict (Right) Chiwanda- Class room lecture and speech on wildlife*

Students of Nature clubs 'Raangawa' 'Bibat' and 'Chimni' from Mudholi, Khutwanda and Kanargaon participated in interactive nature games and bird watching trails. During these activities, students observed birds' behaviour and learned how to identify birds. They also made notes of their observations and showed the same to us. A total of 106 students participated in these activities.



*(Left) Mudholi- Children observe birds near a perennial water body during a bird watching and nature trail (Right) Kanargaon- Field asst. Kishor engages students in an interactive nature education game*

### ***Employment Cell***

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>	09/02/2020	Dewada	SHG (Ramabai Mahila Bachat Gat)	18	Livelihood awareness session on product transport and review
<b>2</b>	11/02/2020	Kanargaon	SHG (Saraswati Mahila Bachat Gat)	15	Candle-making workshop
<b>3</b>	16/02/2020	Katwal	SHG (Jai Matadi Mahila Bachat Gat)	19	Awareness session on mushroom cultivation, candle making
<b>4</b>	18/02/2020	Ashtha	VEDC	24	Meeting on crop damage and solar – powered fencing survey
<b>5</b>	21/02/2020	Khutwanda	VEDC	20	-do-
<b>6</b>	28/02/2020	Dewada	SHG	13	Livelihood awareness session on product transport and review
<b>7</b>	27/02/2020	Wadala	VEDC	20	Selection of youths for foot patrolling
			<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	

During the month, we organized 3 village eco-development committee (VEDC) meetings and 3 self-help group (SHG) meetings, focusing on alternative livelihoods which would reduce dependence on forests that leads to human-wildlife conflict and degradation of forests. After several meeting and group discussions, a few cattle owners from Katwal and Mudholi have taken up stall feeding and some more have applied for the same. A total of 114 villagers attended these meetings. In the SHG meetings, we discussed several livelihood related issues. We also formed groups of interested members who are willing to be trained in making candles and cultivating oyster mushrooms. Training will be provided to these members in coming months.

In Kanargaon, we provided training to 15 members of a women's SHG in making candles. The members of Savitri Mahila Bachat Gat prepared 4 dozen candles in glasses. The women had



expressed interest in the same, following the success of a candle-making unit in Dewada village where we had trained members of a women's SHG.



*(Left) Dewada- Members of women's SHG attend a livelihood awareness session (Right) Kanargaon- Members of women SHG learn how to make candles*

### ***Mobile Health Unit***

During the month of February, we organized health camps in 6 villages. We covered Dewada, Junona, Adegaon, UdiyaTola, Chorgaon and Katwal villages. A total of 247 patients were treated for free in the camps.



*Chorgaon- Dr. Khode examines a patient during our camp*

### ***Mobile Health Unit***

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>No. of patients</b>
<b>1</b>	24/02/2020	Dewada	54
<b>2</b>	24/02/2020	Junona	23
<b>3</b>	25/02/2020	Adegaon	43
<b>4</b>	25/02/2020	UdiyaTola	19

<b>5</b>	26/02/2020	Chorgaon	35
<b>6</b>	26/02/2020	Katwal	73
		<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>