

TADOBA-ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE

JANUARY 2020

Team:

Conservation Officer: Ajay Poddar

Field Assistant: Kishor Dudhbarai

Highlights of the month:

- *Awareness meetings on human-wildlife conflict and conservation - 90 villagers attended*
- *Meeting on preventing electrocution of animals - 38 farmers and VEDC members attended*
- *2 garbage management programmes to prevent human-wildlife conflict – 67 villagers participated*
- *1 foot patrol – 11 villagers participated*
- *3 Nature club activities - Nature and bird watching trail and drawing competition – 86 students participated*
- *5 Environment education programmes - 231 students and 14 teachers attended*
- *5 livestock management workshops - 90 villagers participated*
- *Oyster mushroom cultivation training programme - 17 members of women's SHG participated*
- *Candle making workshop- 20 members of women's SHG participated*
- *3 women's SHG meetings were organized - 47 members attended*
- *3 VEDC meetings were organized - 58 members attended*
- *Free medical camps in 6 villages- 243 patients treated*

Conservation activities

Date	Village(s)	Activity	No. of participants
09/01/2020	Kondegaon	Meeting on solar fencing/ prevention of electrocution	22
11/01/2020	Adegaon	Garbage management	35

12/01/2020	Ashtha	Community meeting on human-wildlife conflict	19
18/01/2020	Kondegaon	Garbage management	32
19/01/2020	Wadala	Solar fencing/ prevention of electrocution of animals	16
20/01/2020	Mudholi	Community meeting on livestock management	18
22/01/2020	Adegaon	-do-	15
26/01/2020	Mudholi	Foot patrol	11
		Total	168

During the month of January, 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 man-animal confrontation.

Electrocution is an emerging practice of poaching and killing of wild animals. To prevent electrocution of wildlife, we discussed preventive measures with community and village eco-development committee members. During the meeting, it discussed that an interdepartmental approach would be required to prevent electrocution around protected areas. A patrolling unit, consisting of Forest Department's beat guard, VEDC members, Satpuda Foundation officer, Vidhyut sevak of Electricity Department and electric pump connection holder will be formed.



Community meeting on preventing electrocution and human-animal conflict at Astha (left) and Kudesawli (right)

We organized garbage management meetings and activities with villagers of Kondegaon and Adegaon. Programmes were organized to sanitize the area around the 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 67 villagers volunteered for the drives.



Adegaon- Garbage management programme with students and villagers

We also organized a foot patrol with select local youths in Mudholi. During the foot patrol, we recorded impressions of herbivores' hooves, scats and birds. We patrolled an area of 5 kilometers along with Forest Guard. A total 11 people joined the patrol.



Mudholi – Local youths volunteer for foot patrol in buffer zone

Environment Education Programme

Sr. no	Date	Village/School	Programme	Participants
1	02/01/2020	Mudholi	Nature game	30
2	18/01/2020	Kondegaon	Nature and bird-watching trail	28
3	21/01/2020	Bhamdeli	Nature game	28
4	28/01/2020	Kanargaon	Wildlife conservation awareness (film shows, presentation)	50+4
5	29/01/2020	Wamanpalli	-do-	17+1
6	29/01/2020	Kudesawli	Classroom lecture and presentation on human-wildlife conflict, identification of snakes	46+4
7	30/01/2020	Kondegaon	Film show - Truth about tigers by Shekhar Dattatri	28+2
8	30/01/2020	Katwal	Class room lecture- inspired by 'The hidden life of trees' by Peter Wohlleben	90+3

			Total	317+14
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During the month of January, we organized a students' sensitization drive through wildlife conservation awareness and environmental education programmes in Mudholi, Kondegaon, Kanhargaon, Kudesawli, Wamanpalli, Katwal and Bhamdeli villages. We organized these programmes with students and teachers in order to make them aware of the importance of biodiversity and the need for conservation. We taught them about nature and wildlife's value through films, documentaries, presentations and classroom lectures. A total of 231 students and 14 teachers participated in the programmes.



(Left) Bhamdeli - Students and teachers watch a documentary on human-wildlife conflict



(Right) Kudesawli- Film show on identification of snakes

Students of Nature clubs 'Ashwal' 'Wagh' and 'Chimni' from Mudholi, Bhamdeli and Kondegaon participated in interactive nature games and bird watching trails. During these activities, students observed birds' behaviour around a perennial water body. They also made notes of their observations. A total of 86 students participated in these activities.



(Left) Kondegaon- Children observe birds near a perennial water body during a bird-watching and nature trail



(Right) Kudesawli- Field assistant Kishor engages students in an interactive nature educational game.

Employment Cell

Details of the programmes are given below:

Sr. No.	Date	Village	Group	Attended	Program introduced
1	03/01/2020	Dewada	SHG (Ramabai Mahila Bachat Gat)	15	Livelihood awareness session – introduction to candle making
2	10/01/2020	Mudholi	SHG (Savitri Mahila Bachat Gat)	20	Selection of members interested in mushroom cultivation
3	17/01/2020	Bhamdeli	VEDC	19	Awareness about vocational training programmes (residential/non-residential)
4	23/01/2020	Bhamdeli	SHG (Indira Mahila Bachat Gat)	12	Workshop to discuss and promote traditional folk dance

5	24/01/2020	Dewada	SHG (Ramabai Mahila Bachat Gat)	20	Candle making workshop
6	25/01/2020	Khutwanda	VEDC	17	Selection of youths for foot patrol
7	27/01/2020	Dewada	VEDC	22	-do-
8	28/01/2020	Kanargaon	SHG(Saraswati Mahila Bachat Gat)	17	Mushroom cultivation workshop
			Total	142	

During January, 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. A total of 105 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 paper bags and in embroidery. The training will be provided to these members in order to improve their earnings and reduce their dependence on forests.



(Left) Wamanpalli - Meeting with VEDC members on fodder plantation



(Right) Wadala - Cattle being stall fed in cattle shed constructed under our livestock management programme

In Kanargaon, a corridor village, we provided training in cultivation of mushrooms and identified a location for cultivation. A total of 17 members of women's SHG attended. The villagers had asked for this programme after they learnt of the success of a mushroom cultivation programme that we had organised in Moharli.



Kanargaon – Training programme on cultivation of mushrooms

We also organized several meetings focusing on alternate livelihood options. Women's SHG Ramabai Mahila Bachat Gat participated in a candle making workshop where they made 8 dozen colorful candles, which will be sold at souvenir shops at Tadoba's buffer and core tourism gates.



(Left) Mudholi - Members of women's SHG attend an awareness session on alternative livelihood options



(Right) Dewada - Ajay gives a demonstration how to make candles



Dewada - Candle making workshop

Mobile Health Service

During January, we organized free health camps in 6 villages - Khutwanda, Katwal, Kondegaon, Sitarampeth, Bhamdeli and Moharli. A total of 243 patients were treated in these camps.



(Left) Bhamdeli- Dr. Khode examines an elderly patient at our camp



(Right) Khutwanda- Medicines being dispensed as per doctor's prescription

Mobile Health Service

Sr. No.	Date	Village	No. of patients
1	13/01/2020	Khutwanda	75
2	13/01/2020	Katwal	69
3	14/01/2020	Kondegaon	37
4	14/01/2020	Sitarampeth	14
5	15/01/2020	Bhamdeli	35
6	15/01/2020	Moharli	13
		Total	243