

Annual Report 2020-2021

Sustaining Environment & Wildlife
Assemblage (SEWA)



President message

A remarkable year again! I am happy to write a message again for the 'Annual Report 2021-2022' with full enthusiasm. We have been successful in achieving many results specifically in improving the life of corridor community, wildlife conservation and protection and also the conflict that happens between human and wildlife. Besides this the core programme has been successful.

I feel very proud when I see that corridor communities are actively participating in designing the participatory plan of sustainable development of project outcomes. Similarly thanks to the corridor communities, JFMC, FDMC and all the project stakeholders, members who are active agents of change. How would I forget my staff members who made extensive efforts to translate the vision of SEWA into realities? In the end it is my duty to give thanks to all of the trustees who have directly and indirectly supported the programs.

I hope the same cooperation and love which was given this year would be offered with same spirit and emotions in the years to come.

Thanks!
Sawan Bahekar

(President, SEWA)

Introduction

In and around Maharashtra's Gondia district, an NGO called SEWA (Sustaining Environment and Wildlife Assemblage) is helping regenerate tiger habitats, and protecting Sarus Cranes, blackbuck and wolves. Located close to the state borders of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Gondia is the gateway to Maharashtra from central and eastern India. It is in this central Indian landscape that Gondia-based NGO, Sustaining Environment and Wildlife Assemblage (SEWA), has been working for wildlife since 2014. Since wild animals do not adhere to human boundaries, SEWA works with communities and forest officials to protect forests, organize anti-poaching drives, conduct mass-awareness campaigns, rescue and rehabilitate wild animals, reduce villagers' dependency on forest resources and monitor the dispersal of tigers.

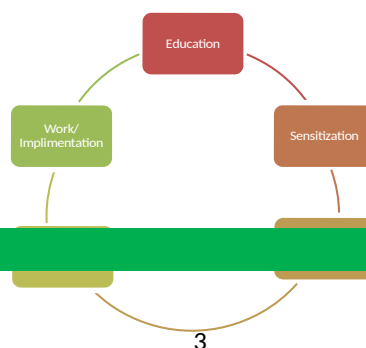
Reducing human-wildlife conflict in villages around the Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is a key intervention. "We began studying tiger dispersal in 2011 to help improve management practices and policies for the long-term survival of tigers in the landscape. We discovered that the predators move from Nagzira to Kanha-Pench towards the north and towards Umred-Karhandla in the south. Protecting these critical corridors therefore emerged as a vital priority," says Sawan Bahekar, President, and SEWA who was presented with a Sanctuary Special Maharashtra Wildlife award in 2016. He adds, "Political will and administrative resolve can turn this landscape into one of the finest tiger habitats in the country."

Our Core Values

- Social justice and equity
- Integrity and legitimacy
- Transparency and accountability
- Participatory approach in wildlife and bio-diversity conservation.
- Commitment to service of vulnerable people in the corridor villages

Our Strategic OBJECTIVES

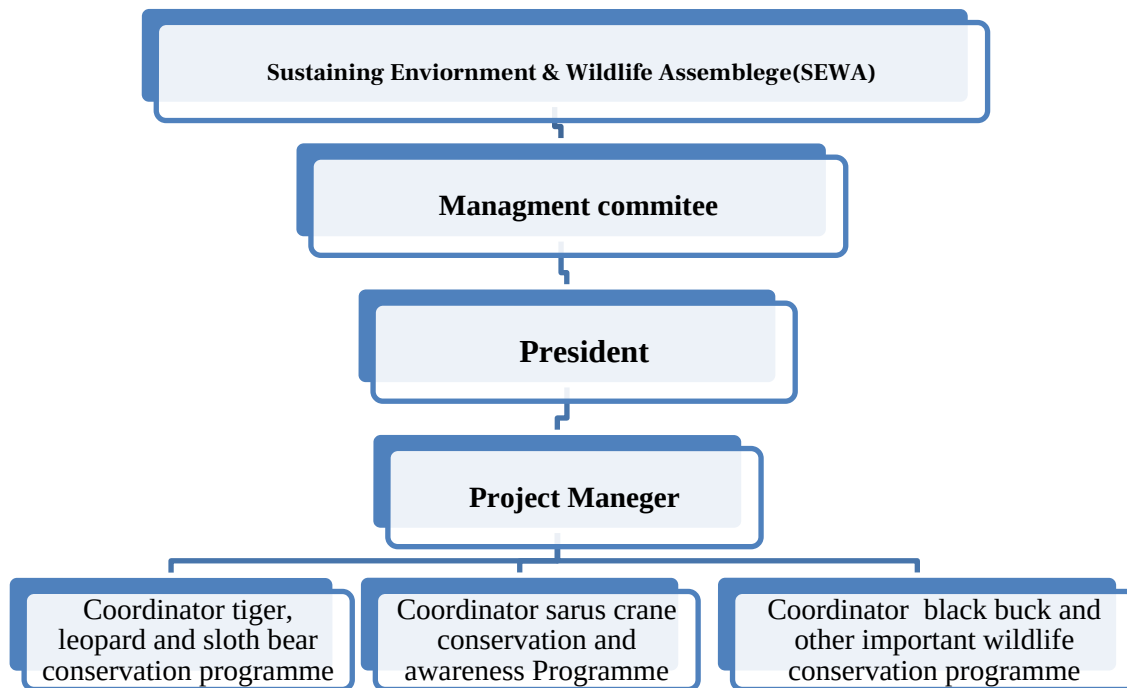
Sustaining Environment & Wildlife Assemblage (SEWA) analyses all the problems using a simple rule that "Problem is like a tree, and every tree has its roots". It assumes reasons for every problem and states that only its effects are visible, not the roots/reasons. So, the first step towards its solution is its understanding, which is done using Problem Analysis.



Governance

The responsibility to achieve the vision of the SEWA, as it appears in the bye-law of the association, rests with the 'Governing Body'. The Governing Body's monitoring role includes engagement of the chief executive, evaluate his/her performance, preparing and approving the strategic plan, review the annual activities and financial plans and approve the annual budget and financial audits. The board generally meets four times in a year.

Organogram of SEWA



Program and Initiatives

Sarus Crane survey and conservation programs

The Sarus crane is the tallest flying bird in the world standing 152-156 cm tall with a wingspan of 240cm. It has a predominantly grey plumage with a naked red head and upper neck and pale red legs. Females are smaller, growing to about 35-40kg, while the males grow bigger, up to 40-45kg. It is a social creature, found mostly in pairs or small groups of three or four. Known to mate for life with a single partner, its breeding season coincides with heavy rainfall in monsoon. Nests are constructed on water in natural wetlands or in flooded paddy fields. Usually a clutch has only one or two eggs, which are incubated by both parents for a period of 26 to 35 days. The



juveniles follow their parents from the day of birth. Sarus crane is an indicator and flagship species of the wetland ecosystem. The mere presence of breeding individuals is considered as a sign of rich bio-diversity and sound health of the wetland. The main threat to the Sarus crane in India is habitat loss and degradation due to draining the wetland and conversion of land for agriculture. The landscape of its historic range is rapidly changing due to construction of highways, housing colonies, roads, and railway lines. More recently, many deaths have been recorded in Maharashtra due to collision with power lines. Also, due to the increase in agricultural land, Sarus cranes are left with no choice but to forage in these fields, and as a result ingest pesticides, which lead to poisoning. Gondia and Balaghat this two district are most key district where most of the Sarus crane birds and species are sighted in India, and due lack of awareness and law enforcement threats are shown in the local area like - habitat destruction, people hunting for meat, egg stealing, electrocution, cattle grazing, and the agricultural use of pesticides.

Team SEWA is conducting Sarus crane census in three district of central India in a month of may we target Winganga, Bagh river of 22 ghat& 24 water body. We are arranging 22 team of 44 individuals at a time including farmers, Volunteers and forest department.

Patrolling and monitoring programs.

Visit to sensitive area for considering wildlife movement and find out threats which is harmful to wildlife. Patrolling was mainly divided into two parts 1st is day patrolling and 2nd one is night patrolling these two major way is also divided into three parts Bike/car/foot. In entire three year we had done thousands of km patrolling in surrounding area(buffer) of NNTR landscape and covered almost 90% area of corridor area which is called Navegaon-Nagzira corridor. So many times we found various threats like



Electrocution, snares, forest fire, illegal tree/bamboo felling. For make it effective we had divided the landscape in different five blocks. traps placed in the fields and trails.

- Checking indirect signs of animal presence.
- Direct sightings.
- Sharing knowledge with local informers.
- Target village center and discussion with villagers.

Camera trap& monitoring

To identify the specific landscape and biodiversity of a particular landscape it required that a proper study it depends on scientific way and traditional way. We had done various type of monitoring In NNTR landscape which is divided into three type

- 1) **Trap camera monitoring** – In entire two year time span we had done almost two trap camera monitoring in different two blocks which is corridor section of NNTR and buffer area of old Nagzhira. In this monitoring period we had installed almost 20 trap camera for 2 month in the sensitive area where we found very good wildlife movement picture.
- 2) **Kill base monitoring-** in the NNTR landscape we are doing kill base monitoring since from eight year. In entire two year we had done almost 15 kill base monitoring with forest department to find out the presence and animal behavior.
- 3) **Tiger migration monitoring-** SEWA team has been identified various migration path of tigers which is the result of Tiger migration monitoring. SEWA team successfully identified and study three to four migration from NNTR to peanch, NNTR to UKPWS, NNTR to Balaghat and Balaghat to NNTR.



Wildlife Recuse and Rehabilitation

SEWA team has always been a Nature's Guide and a Nature's friend. Keeping in mind that every species of animal be it a reptile or bird or herbivore or carnivore, it should stay in its natural habitat and that it do es not disturb the balance, our team works effortlessly in the rescue and release of mostly snakes and birds in their natural habitat with utmost care and precision. Rescuing not only birds but also snake, tiger, leopards, nilgais, black bugs, sloth bears from to poachers, our SEWA team tries with all their might to keep the species safe till they release it in their natural habitat.



Man – animal conflict

In awareness programs and workshops our main motto is to avoid Man animal conflicts situation. We discuss with people about animal movement pattern does and don't into the forest area.

• Anti-poaching activates and anti-electrocution movement

In NNTR landscape Poaching and electrocution is the biggest threat. People using electric current for killing wild animals most of the time they use electric current fencing to protect their crop from wild herbivore but unfortunately it's a big fact that not only herbivore but also carnivore animals and various time humans are also lose their life. It's a very big issue for NNTR landscape. Our team is frequently working for solving this big issue. We seized and caught various electrocution cases in this two year.

Decomposed carcasses of bear, blue bull recovered from well

■ District Correspondent
GONDIA, Feb 2

DECOMPOSED carcasses of sloth bear and blue bull are recovered from a well near village Bolunda, in Goregaon tehsil just adjacent to Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR), on Monday. The animals were reportedly electrocuted and many organs of the animals were found missing. The incident once again reveals the active presence of poachers in the region.

According to VS Kadam, Range Forest Officer (Goregaon), the incident must have happened a few days ago and the carcasses of the animals were dumped into the village well after they were electrocuted.

Honourary Wildlife Warden Sawan Bahekar informed that organs including liver, penis, etc of the bear and three legs of blue bull were found removed. There is a superstition among the villagers that animal organs are used to bring fertility to childless couple and for that purpose villagers often hunt for forest ani-



Forester lifting the carcass of sloth bear out of well.

mals, added Bahekar. Dr A K Sangad conducted the post mortem and found that the animals died due to electrocution. Forest officials are making further investigation.

It may be recalled that on January 25, a blue bull was recovered from well in Salangola village which also falls in Goregaon tehsil.

POTATO BOMBS RECOVERED: Recovery of two potato bombs from road side near Borgaon village has raised big questions over the effectiveness of forest patrolling team in the region. Confirming about the recovery of potato bombs, RFO Kadam said that these bombs explode after pressure is exerted on them.

The animals eat these bombs thinking it as potato, but as they eat, bomb explodes in their mouth. These bombs are frequently used by poachers to trap the animals.

Sloth bear poached in Gondia, body parts removed

Vijay.Pinjarkar
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: Despite loud noise about better coordination between MSDDL and forest officials, poaching of wildlife by electrocution continues unabated.

A sloth bear was electrocuted in a farm in Tilli (Mohgaon) in Goregaon forest range under Gondia division. The spot falls in the buffer zone of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR). The incident occurred two days ago but came to light on Sunday.

All the body parts including heart, teeth, gall bladder, nails, and kidney of the

MAJOR CASES IN PERIPHERY OF NAGZIRA

2009 | Tigress electrocuted in Mangezari-Govindtola (Tirora)

DEC 2, 2012 | Leopard with two cubs electrocuted in Dhamnewada (Tirora)

2012 | Sloth bear in Umarzari (Lakhni) and another two bears in Kodelohara (Tirora)

JUNE 26, 2013 | Sloth bear, herbivores, three stray dogs and a man electrocuted in



Sloth bear was electrocuted in a farm in Tilli (Mohgaon)

Dhabepaoni (Navegaon)
(Hundreds of other cases are believed to be going unreported)

bear were removed and the carcass was burnt to destroy evidence. Also in Goregaon, a bag full of animal bones was also found in a well on Monday in Palewada area.

Goregaon RFO SM Jadhav said he suspected sloth bear body parts must have been removed under belief that they have medicinal properties. "We are investiga-

ting all angles," he said.

"Poaching of sloth bear is rampant in several pockets of Vidarbha, especially around Nagzira. Its body parts are used by tantriks (black magic performers) under beliefs that they have medicinal properties," said Gondia honorary wildlife warden Sawan Bahekar.

"Forest department should also share blame for such incidents as they do not expedite crop damage compensation cases," he added.

This is not the first case in Goregaon. On February 1 last year a sloth bear was poached and its body parts removed before the carcass was

dumped in an open well. On January 25 this year, another sloth bear was electrocuted and its legs chopped off in a farm in Pandhari near Paratwada (Amravati). On January 13, a tigress and two sambar were electrocuted in a farm in Khapa range.

Tall claims of better coordination made by NTCA and forest department and various agencies at a regional level meeting on January 25 in Nagpur notwithstanding, nothing is being done on the ground. The buffer zone of Nagzira continues to remain under the control of territorial department whose priority is not wildlife management.

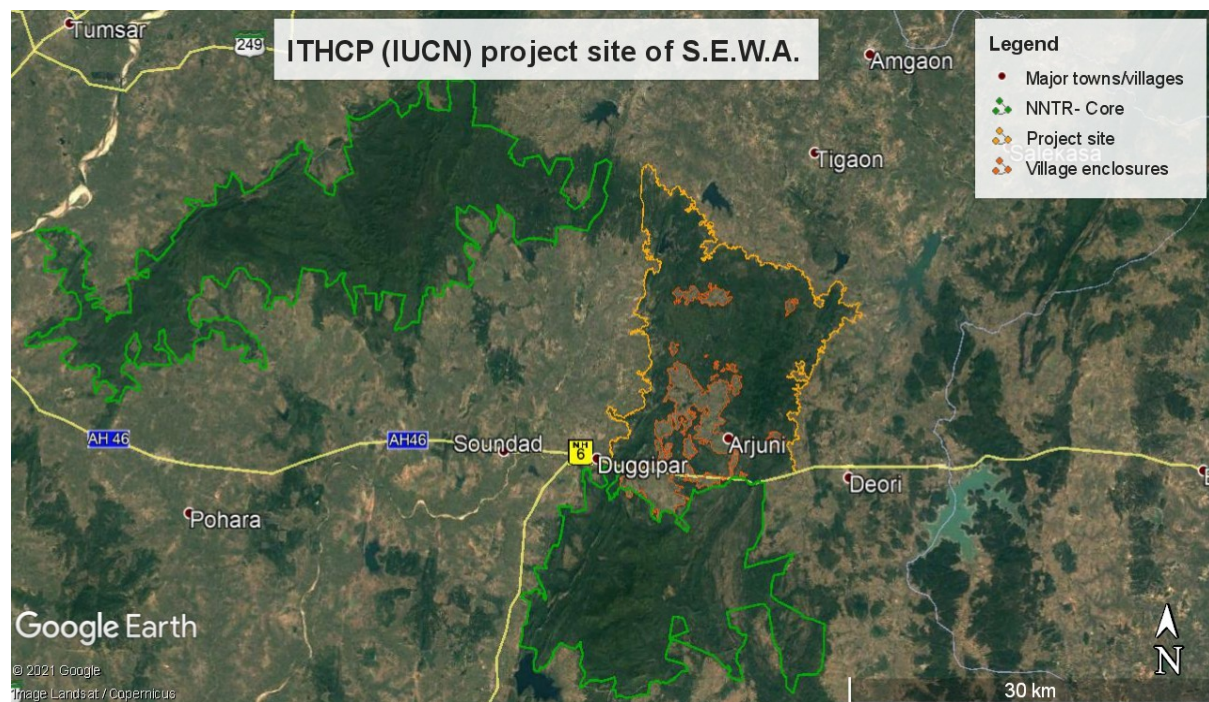
Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Working Area:

The Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) is located on the easternmost tip of Maharashtra in Gondia district. The tiger reserve has prominent connectivity with Kanha National Park (MP) in the north and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in the south. There have been multiple records of tiger migration from NNTR to Pench National Park. Hence, given the strategic geography of NNTR landscape, it becomes an active element of the metapopulation in tiger ecology.

Unlike rest of the tiger reserves, the core area of NNTR is broadly divided into two islands and is separated by a huge chunk of forest area, which in turn is densely inhabited by number of human settlements/villages. Therefore, in order of long term successful management of the tiger reserve, it is inevitable to manage the people in it.

The IUCN project aimed at sustainable eco-development in the forest corridors and hence it was required to address the factors limiting local people's involvement in conservation.



(Map showing working area of S.E.W.A. which is the buffer forest of NNTR)

SEWA in the collaboration with IUCN is making an attempt to increase Tiger conservation efforts and making it more mature and become increasingly effective through building local conservation leadership, strengthening anti-poaching committee, expanding conservation alliances and provide alternative forest resource use practice to reduce the threats to biodiversity, Human/tiger conflict and increase the awareness of the local community about different compensation programme from forest department for crop damaging and cattle killing etc. the proposed project will implemented under forest department in 13 village coming under Navegaon Nagzira tiger reserve and north east part of Nagzira wls to Nagzira- Navegaon corridor.

A.SURVEY

A detail survey was conduct in all 13 villages in the project area so as to document precise information for baseline, two different.

- Socioeconomic survey
- Man –animal conflict survey

B. Consultative meetings

Scheduled consultative meeting were organized in 11 villages include member of vital stakeholders like gram sabha, Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC), Police patil etc. To describe the objective of the project

Each meeting accounted with 40-50 peoples which different sectors which added us total numbers of 500 individuals from 11 villages that took place in the discussion

ECOTOURISM

Since SEWA is working in the project area from the decades and strongly believes that in the potential of a model eco-tourism in the corridor village, if planned and organized effectively eco-tourism can be proved as an effective mode of alternative livelihood.

We have identified two sites namely Jambhedi and murdoli that have that potential this model.



A Village Eco-Development Committee (VEDC) will establish in the village jambhedi which will be coordinating the proposed eco-tourism model.

PRT- Primary Response Team formation

The primary Response Team which will entitle with the responsibility to addressing any immediate assisting in case of rescuing, animal attack, accidental situation has been formulating in all 13 project village. Each PRT consist of 10-15 members which eventually add up to 120-150 individual members which trend to assist to assist while forming a organised net work.

Consultative meetings:

S.E.W.A. initiated to conduct consultative meetings with the local stakeholders of all 13 project villages. This included a meeting at 'Gram panchayat' with the members of gram sabha (the local elected body), JFMC, EDC along with an open invitation to all the villagers to participate. Members of S.E.W.A. conducted the meeting by introducing them with the ITHCP project, its objectives and modus operandi. By interactive discussions with local villagers regarding the forest and wildlife in their vicinity, we noted specific areas to focus for participatory management. This gave us insights about activities we need to incorporate in order to achieve sustainable eco-development. With the advent of project, S.E.W.A. conducted further consultative meetings stating and discussing specific activities like Self Help Groups (SHG) formation for providing alternate livelihood opportunities, efficient agro-fencing, working of micro-enterprises, etc.

A total of consultative meetings were conducted throughout the project, which was attended by an average of 35 beneficiaries each. Interactive sessions in these consultative meetings rendered an opportunity for us to decide about the nature of work/business the local stakeholders are interested in opting for.



(Consultative meeting conducted by Mr. Sawan Bahekar at Jambhedi regarding project objectives)



(Consultative meeting conducted by Mr. Shashank ladekar at Nimba regarding Human-animal conflict)



(Consultative meeting at Tilli regarding formation and working of SHGs)



(Members of Gram sabha, JFMC & EDC gather for consultative meeting at Dodke.)

Awareness Program

An organizing structured awareness programme describing significant of its nature and component has been conducted in 7 villages till now. Which include the several documentaries of wildlife shown, a mass gathering and discussion with coordinators?

We understand and expecting outcome with such single program any village that won't bring a mass awareness so we want to replicate the same experience in phases during the project.

Each programme in a village accounted gathering around 150-200 villagers, which replicate the 1200-1300 who were the part of this drive.





Wall paintings

Are the prominent sites in the villages are done with the aims to bring in relatives to the Colanes in the heart among to discuss with the local people. As per observation wall painting depicting of environment has a long term impact on the local resident.



Alternative livelihood



A high proportion of the people still depend on forest resources for everyday use and livelihoods. Living in tiger habitats have opportunity costs, especially due to livestock depredation, and limited or constrained access to forests and forest resources.



Compensation in the forms of alternative income generation, insurance for depredation, conservation payments, etc. to elicit support for biodiversity conservation and community stewardship can help local livelihoods and gain support for biodiversity conservation. People live in protected areas and corridors; thus, forest resource use and other activities (e.g., livestock grazing, can contribute towards forest degradation and disturbance

Since the project villages is coming under the vanity of forest and its wildlife SEWA initiated measure with the vision of reducing forest dependency of local villagers including various things that practice that can use to practice of alternative livelihood. Till now we have register 15 SHGs with the company for trade. One stand SHGs comprise of 7-10 members which is term around of 130-150 members each coming from different family benefited from this scheme and can boost their economic condition. SEWA then went to discuss the same criteria with the farmers and Goods Company named “chirag patil” and established and can link up to the SHGs and company for batter stretched market. The farmed producer company linked with SHGs link and has got a mobile vending cart which is permitted by the state government which can be reach through-out any place of the state, thus the SHGs has got an assistance as well.

Also this was to discuss over all the potential modes of the trades that can be brought under the functioning the SHGs. This led us to deduce the following sectors that will be targeted in next phase of the project.

- ‘Katani’ the second producer company(Since the area is cultivated once in a year) that include legume and pulse etc.
- ‘Goan upaj” is the non timber forest product (NTFR)
- ‘Shedi palan’ goat farming
- Processed non- timber forest product like mahua, flower, of which pickle, jam, enargy drink, juice can be manufactured.

Youth Skill Training Development Programs

We have initiated in a new approach in term of sensitizing people not only for forest dependence but also to assist standard of living and can give a hand to the family economic condition as well. Under the youth skill development training we would distribute structured forms to the youth of the village that alternate several modern option that can operate to their own need and interest

V

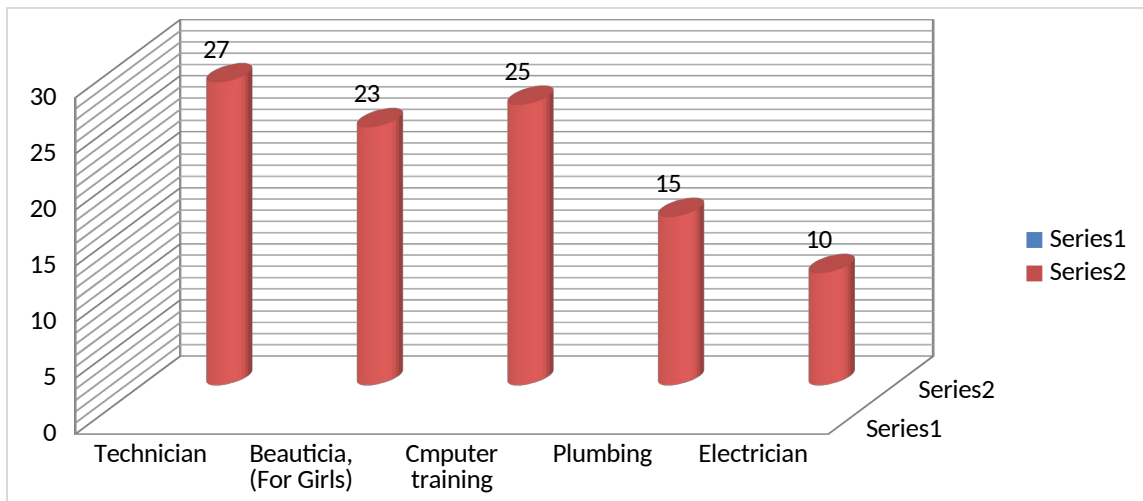


PHOTO GALARY





NEWS Clips



Man-made m राज्यात वन वणव्याच्या दोन महिन्यांत दीड हजार घटना
spreads over प्रतिनिधी, नागपूर

प्रतिनिधी, नागपूर

[illegible]

- सञ्जय चौधरी, मन्त्री मानद कुसुमीव शर्मा गौडिया

अभ्युपनिषद् समुपे दोन हजार ४००
अर्थीय घटन नीरीणपणत आल्या
आहेत. घटा अर्थात सम्यक्तादयेरुपे
तुलने केवलास घटन तुलने
महासागरीय वज्रवज्र ११ टक्के
घटनेची दर घटन २०४ टक्के
घटनेची दर घटन १०२३ टक्केच्या घटन
आहेत. महासागरीय वज्रवज्र ६४
६३२, छत्रसेरुपे ६४०५ आर्थीय
घटनेची दर घटन आहे. रेवला दोन वारा
सिद्धर सुई ऑफ इंडिया
अर्थवत्तलनी आर्गिया घटनेची
वज्रवज्र गेवला दोन महान्वयनी
अर्थवत्तलनी घटनेची दर घटन
आहे. वज्रवज्रपणती ही
अर्थीय क्रीडाकालास आहे, कारण
वज्रवज्र नैसर्गिक आर्गिया
वज्रवज्रपणती विहरतास आहे, व
वज्रवज्र अतास घटन गिहलवत
वज्रवज्र संकटानु मानवी कतीकी
घटन घेतल. परिणामी, मानवी
वज्रवज्र संघर्षाच्या घटनांमधे
वज्र वज्र.

[illegible]

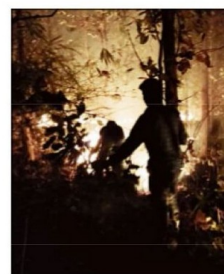
निमित्ततः प्रेषणार्थं अधिकार्यं क्षेत्रस्य
आग लावतात. वषट्पञ्चरात्रीं ही आग
कारणीभूत इत्येते.

यावत्पौर्णमासी जंगलानां लागणान्तरं
आग्नेय्य घटनानामेव लक्षणीयं यत्
झाडी आहे. २०१७च्या तुलनेत
यावत्पौर्णमासी ४० टक्क्यांपेक्षा अधिक

its
den
und
fore
all t

re: लोकसत्ता

Fri, 06 April 2018
epaper.loksatta.com//c/27651063



Hectic efforts being made to control the Navegaonbandh -Nagzira.

■ **District Correspondent**
GONDIA, Mar 23

GONDIA district has a forest cover it can boast of. It has 53% of

Another carcass of bison found

■ **District Correspondent**
GONDIA, Apr 28

IN A series of bison deaths under Jambdi forest of Sadak Arjuni forest range, yet another carcass of the full-grown bison was found on Saturday morning in Compartment-515. With this, the total number of bison found dead within 35 days in same range has gone up to 6.

As per details, the Sustainable



The carcass of bison.

ratory report of the bison that was found dead on April 21 to ascer-

Similarly, following the deficient rains most of the water resources in the core of forest had got dried, as a result the animals are not getting sufficient water and they have to wander near human habitat for water where there is human disturbance during the day hours, he said. Importantly, on April 27, a meeting of top forest officials joined

SEWA, Forest Department hold wildlife monitoring

■ District Correspondent
GONDIA, May 8

A VARIETY of wild species was recorded during the one-day water hole census 'Nisarga Ambubach' conducted by team SEWA (Sustaining Environment and Wildlife Assemblage) in co-operation with Forest Department and FDCM. The census was conducted on full moon day between 30 April and May 1 in parts of the five forest ranges of Jumbdi-1, Jumbdi-2, North Deoni, Sadak Arjuni, and Goregaon. Around 20 volunteers and equal number of forest staffers participated in the monitoring. Importantly, no charges was taken from any of the volunteer.

It may be mentioned that SEWA is active in carrying environment and wildlife protection activities for past many years and is instrumental in initiating and assisting forest authorities in conducting water hole monitoring in the parts of buffer and corridors for last three years.



Officials during the one day monitoring in Gondia

Species like leopard, bison, blue-bull, wildboar, sloth bear, langur, mongoose, spotted deer, barking deer, Chausingha, wildcat, peacock, variety of birds and other species were also recorded.

under the buffer of NNTB (Navegaonbandh Nagzira Tiger Reserve) and topographically it is a part of corridor connecting Nagzira WLS with Navegaonbandh National Park having frequent movement of wild habitats. Importantly, the movement of tiger is also recorded in trap camera, though during the one-day monitoring tiger was not sighted.

According to SEWA President Sawan Bahekar ecologically the landscape is very crucial for the long term survival of wildlife in reserved areas and provide buffer which also help genetic exchange between different gene pools.

*Notably, mostly the people are interested in participating the monitoring or census process in park or reserve areas but the buffers

and corridors are much crucial in view of sustaining the wildlife and such monitoring results in bringing fore the things which are to be monitored later," Bahekar told.

Deputy Conservator of Forest S Yuvraj (Territorial) Divisional Manager P G Nougarkar (FDCM), RPO Shinde (Jambdi), Govardhan Rathore (Sadak Arjuni), Suresh Jadhav (Goregaon), Marbate (Deori), SEWA President Sanan Bahekar made effort towards the success of the event.

Ajviyet Parihaar, Shashank Ladekar, Dushyant Akre, Vilas Farkunde, Pawan Soyyam, Naadeem Khan, Gaurav Matala, Lokesh Bhojraj, Dillesh Kusam, Rahul Hatver, Gop Naamgiri, Round Office Pardhi (Shenda), Fule, Beat Guards DSP Pardhi More, Gajanan Mohiture and others participated.

SEWA is working on integrated habitat conservation and eco development in Vidarbha's Tiger Landscape activities under IUCN's project.

Another carcass of bison found

■ **District Correspondent**
GONDIA, Apr 28

IN A series of bison deaths under Jambdi forest of Sadak Arjuni forest range, yet another carcass of the full-grown bison was found on Saturday morning in Compartment-515. With this, the total number of bison found dead within 35 days in same range has gone up to 6.



The carcass of bison

ratory report of the bison that was found dead on April 21 to ascertain the cause of death. Meanwhile, it is suspected that death might be caused as a result of either thirst, sunstroke or some kind of contagious disease. Importantly, there is high pressure of grazing in the area and villagers frequently torch their cattle for grazing inside the forest. The carcass was consigned to flames after conducting spot *panchama* and completing the formalities. FDCM Range Forest Officer K Shinde, SEWA Secretary K. S. Shinde, Shikhar Kulkarni, Ashwini Patel, Vikas Farkande and others were present.

Sawan Bahekar, who is also a former Honorary Wildlife Warden and renowned wildlifer, has opined that the man-made and artificial fire that allegedly ignited by people associated to tendu traders and

contractors has eaten up most of the green cover resulting heavy damage to forest assets.

damage to forest assets. The forest department is the deficient rains most of the water resources in the core of the forest had got dried, and the forest staff had to dig wells to get sufficient water and they have to wander near human habitat for drinking water. The forest staff has to be disturbed during the day hours, he said. Importantly, on April 27, a meeting of the Forest Conservation Committee (FCC) was held in the forest, by NGO representatives and wildlife officers. The meeting was chaired by the forest officer. The discussion on taking mitigation steps to check the repeated deaths of animals in the forest was discussed. The FNTF Field Director and Conservator of Forest RM Ramanujam (Wildlife), FDM R. Sankaranarayanan (Forest), FDO ACF Sheldi, Honorary Wildlife Warden Mukund Dhurve, SENSA Wildlife Conservation Officer (Wildlife Assembly) Secretary Sowam Babekar, WTI Wildlife Trust representative and forest staff, Nimbhar and others attended the meeting. Ramanujam stressed that all staff of the forest department to work in coordination to stop the untimely and

