



Wildlife Week Events - 2016

Sustaining Environment & Wildlife Assemblage (S.E.W.A.), is an organization aimed to conserve & preserve the bio-diversity as our national heritage, in its natural state by implying dynamic approaches in the Central Indian landscape. It constitutes of members with diverse experience of over 10-15 years in the field of wildlife conservation. The organization has been actively contributing in monitoring and protection of the forests and its wildlife in a pre-defined structured pyramid, incorporating organized anti-poaching activities, mass- awareness campaigns, rescue and rehabilitation of animals, reducing dependency on forest resources, studying dispersal and movement pattern of tigers, etc. in the landscape of Gondia district in Maharashtra and adjoining districts. Reducing man-animal conflict in the villages that come under the vicinity of ‘Nagzira-Nawegaon Tiger Reserve’ (NNTR), has been one of the key

aspect of the organization by serving as a bridge between the villagers and forest administration. Members of S.E.W.A. had played a pioneering role in recognition and conservation of one of the most significant asset in the biodiversity of Gondia district, i.e. Sarus crane. They started with capacity building of masses which led to fetch out some enthusiastic volunteers who ultimately became the stalwarts for protecting Sarus cranes on ground.

Wildlife week is celebrated globally on the first week of October by various agencies like forest department, NGOs and interested volunteers at their respective levels, to promote awareness between the masses about the significance of wildlife around us and their role in our ecosystem. S.E.W.A. in accordance formulated a program of activities for the entire week and targeted the villages with higher man-animal conflicts around the Nagzira & Koka wildlife sanctuary and villages coming under Sarus-scape (Sarus dominated landscape). The team explained ecological importance of the species found in their area and acquainted villagers about someone of the unknown benefits this biota serves to them, with a detailed and illustrated PowerPoint presentation. Few informative short-films based on awareness regarding wildlife were displayed on large screen, which caught the very curious attention of local villagers. These events also explained some of the parallel activities and schemes rendered by the forest administration to facilitate villagers at the cost of protecting flora and fauna around them. The program extensively focused on sensitizing the youth of our area with the aim of long term sustainability of our resources. Hence, several presentations were conducted in schools and colleges, which resulted in over-whelming response from the students with their curious questions and will to assist such activities voluntarily, in future.

The details of events conducted by S.E.W.A. are briefed below:

1st October 2016

- (i) Sensitization of around 250-300 students in 'Shahid Jamya-Timya Junior college', Goregaon, under the guidance of the principal Mr. Sanjay Akre at 9 a.m.



- (ii) Awareness program in the village 'Sarpewada' on the edge of Koka wildlife sanctuary at 6.30 p.m.



2nd October 2016

- (i) Awareness program in the village around ‘Nagzira wildlife sanctuary’, ‘Asalpani’ involving around 150-200 villagers at 6.30 p.m., with the co-operation of J.F.M.C.



- (ii) Awareness program in the key village of 'Ghattemni' for Sarus cranes involving around 300-350 villagers. Valuable assistance was received from J.F.M.C. and social workers like Mr. Sanjay Doye, Mr. Bablu Chute, Mr. Rakesh Doye.



3rd October 2016

- (i) Awareness program in ‘Anusaya Bai Pashine Junior college, Dasgaon, which included the gathering of 250-300 students in the presence of R.F.O. Mr. Anand Meshram and Principal Mr. Bisen.
- (ii) Awareness program in the village ‘Govindtola’ with the assistance from the Durga mandal Samiti and J.F.M.C., including local gathering of around 250 villagers.



4th October 2016

- (i) Awareness program in 'Shahid Mishra Junior College', Tirora, and Girjabai Mahila Jr. College & D.Ed. College, Tirora, which included a mass gathering of 500-600 students in the presence of former M.L.A. Mr. Harish More, Principal Mr. Nagpure, Professor Pardhi sir and Mr. Katre sir.



Awareness program at Shahid Mishra Jr. College, Tirora



Awareness program at Girjabai Mahila Jr. College & Adhyapak Vidyalay, Tirora

- (ii) Awareness program in Sarus village 'Zilmili' at Durga pandal including a gathering of around 200-300 villagers. Participation of J.F.M.C was appreciated.



5th October 2016

- (i) Awareness program in 'Rashtriya Vidyalay', Ekodi, in the presence of ACF Mr. Shende, RFO Mr. Anand Meshram, Principal Mr. Patle with 350-400 students.
- (ii) Awareness program in the key village of Nagzira wildlife sanctuary, 'Chorkhamara', with the co-operation of RFO Mr. Vijay Kadam, J.F.M.C. and forest guide association in the gathering of 150-200 villagers.



6th October 2016

- (i) Awareness program in 'M.B. Patel Pharma College', Gondia, in the guidance of Principal Mr. Nitin Indurwade and Mr. Sunil Choudhary involving 150-200 students in the session.



- (ii) Awareness program in the village 'Kanharpaili' located in between Nagzira-Navegaon Corridor with the assistance from team of locals including gathering of around 150-200 villagers.



7th October 2016

- (i) Awareness program in Sarus village 'Dhapewada', in Durga Pandal with the assistance from Mr. Govind Baghele, Mr. Mahendra Baghele involving a gathering of 250-300 villagers.



In the entire cycle of events for the wildlife week celebration, S.E.W.A. received valuable inputs and assistance from the Forest department territorial & wildlife and other organizations, for which the entire team of S.E.W.A. will be grateful.

From team S.E.W.A. Mr. Sawan Bahekar, Mr. Munesh Gautam, Mr. Bharat Jasani, Mr. Chetan Jasani, Mr. Dushyant Rebhe, Mr. Pintu Wanjari, Mr. Sunil Dhote, Mr. Dushyant Akre, Mr. Ankit Thakur, Mr. Shashank Ladekar, Mr. Rahul Harode, Mr. Avijit Parihar, Mr. Ashwini Patel, Mr. Abhay Kochar, Mr. Vikas Farkunde, Mr. Dhabale, Mr. Satish Nagpure, Mr. Agrawal, Mr. Bablu Chute and Mr. Rakesh Doye played an important role in making the entire event a grand success.



Team SEWA