



Satpuda Foundation

(Activity Report 2006-2007)

EDUCATION, WORKSHOPS, KFT ACTIVITIES

Workshop At Tadoba

A workshop was organized for Ashokitos (kids of Ashoka fellows) from May 25 to 28. Around 20 children of Ashoka fellows from seven states were participated in the workshop. The workshop was jointly organized by Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), Satpuda Foundation and Ashoka.

Workshop For Kids for Tigers Co-ordinators

Sanctuary Asia and Satpuda Foundation organized a three-day workshop at Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve from May 28 to May 30. City co-ordinators from Jabalpur, Indore, Amravati, Nagpur, Akola, Patna, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata participated in the workshop to discuss about the “Kids for Tigers” programme, its modules and evaluation criteria.

Training For IT Professionals At Melghat Tiger Reserve

A two-day training programme was arranged on June 17-18 for the staff of Harrier Infosys Ltd, a leading software firm from Nagpur. Mr. Kishor Rithe introduced them to the Melghat Tiger Reserve. The participants went on wildlife safari, a bird-watching trail and a trek to village Keli. The participants learnt a lot from their interaction with the villagers of Keli.

KFT Teacher’s Worksop Held At Nagpur

“Kids for Tigers is a purely environment education programme which is becoming a movement for protecting our future” said Kishor Rithe while speaking at the teachers workshop at Van-Sabhagruh at Nagpur in July 2006. The workshop was organized by Satpuda Foundation Nagpur for the teachers and principals of 25 schools in Nagpur under the Complan-sponsored “The Sanctuary Kids for Tigers Programme”

Around 28 teachers and principals participated in the workshop. “The Sanctuary Kids for Tigers Programme” was observing its sixth year in Nagpur. The programme is being conducted in more that 500 schools in 14 Indian cities. Miss Renuka Kulkarni, Kids for Tigers Co-ordinator for Nagpur gave a presentation on the previous year’s performance while wildlife conservationists Kishor Rithe gave a talk about the national issues on environment and forest protection and the role of forest and wildlife in the development of our country.

Mr.Kishor Mishrikotkar, a Tiger Link Award winning Range officer explained how Tigers live in the reserves and what is needed to protect them. He made an appeal to all the teachers to look at the issue very seriously and see how best it could be communicated to children.

KFT Teachers' Workshop Held At Akola

“Kids for Tigers is a national programme which has now come to Akola. Let's use this programme for nurturing our kids and moulding their minds to the task of protecting their environment”, said Kishor Rithe while speaking at the teachers workshop at Tilak Hall in New English school, Akola.

The workshop was organized by Satpuda Foundation's Akola Unit for the teachers and principals of 10 selected schools in Akola under the Complian-sponsored “The Sanctuary Kids for Tigers Programme”

Around 15 teachers and Principals participated in the workshop. “The Sanctuary Kids for Tigers Programme” was observing its first year in Akola city.

Bird Watching At Telangkhedi Lake At Nagpur

Satpuda Foundation and Kids For Tigers organised a bird-watching session at Nagpur to inaugurate the Wildlife Week. The session was held at Satpuda Botanic Garden, Telangkhedi.

Participants included school children and general public.

Film Festival At Nagpur During Wildlife Week.

The “Kids For Tigers” Film Festival at Nagpur drew enthusiastic response from the public with over 300 people attending the film shows over the two-day programme on October 5 and 6. The film Festival was organized at Victoria Technical Institute (VTI) Hall at College of Agriculture Nagpur.

Petition scrolls were displayed for gathering support of the public for tiger conservation. We got as many as 139 signatures on the scrolls while the petition sheets circulated among the audience got 158 signatures.

Photo Exhibition At Akola

A wildlife photo exhibition was organized at Kalidas Kala Dalan on October 1-4. Around 200 KFT students visited the exhibition and viewed the pictures taken by local wildlife photographers.

The exhibition “Call of Wildlife” was inaugurated by doctor-cum-photographer in Akola, Dr. Milind Chaudhari. Mr. Manohar Saindane, Dy. CF (Wildlife), Mr. Deepak Joshi, Hon. wildlife warden of Akola district and Mr. Nanasaheb Khelkar were present as Guests.

Mr. Amol Sawant, District KFT Co-ordinator and District head of SF Akola spoke on this occasion and introduced the Guests and nature lovers to the event and the “Kids For Tigers” programme.

SF Nagpur Impresses Kids At Bal-Utsav

The Satpuda Foundation stall at Bal-Vividha drew enthusiastic response from visitors to the three-day programme and led to a lot of inter-action with students and adults alike.

The stall had an impressive display of photographs ranging from wildlife to flora of the Satpudas. It also had educational models made of wax such as “Jalchakra”, or water-cycle, which explained to viewers how the earth gets its water supply. Other models included “Jungle nadi ki maa hai” which showed the importance of forests in ensuring water sources.

There were also educational posters and banners at the stall which aimed to spread awareness of wildlife and nature. These included a list of tiger species and pug marks of various wild animals.

Bal-Vividha was a festival organized by YMCA Nagpur and Comet Media Foundation, Mumbai between November 12 and November 14 at Swagat Lawns, Nagpur. The festival drew together NGOs, schools, educational institutions with the aim of showcasing alternative and innovative methods of education. The festival has been held by Comet Media Foundation for the past eight years.

Rush Of School Kids For Film Show

Around 4,000 school children attended the film shows held by Satpuda Foundation Nagpur under the increasingly popular “Kids for Tigers” Sanctuary Tiger programme in November among different schools in Nagpur.

The objective of the film shows was to raise awareness about wildlife and nature through the audio-visual medium. The programme also aimed to encourage children to observe nature and translate those observations into creative efforts at conservation.

The film shows brought awareness among the children about wildlife species, their habitats and forests. It got them close to nature and wildlife and explained the threats to wildlife from poaching and destruction of their habitats. The shows helped the children understand how these animals live in their habitats, how they survive in the forest, what they eat and how they hunt for food. It also showed the importance of forests to humans and how forests fight threats to the environment like pollution.

Nearly 16,000 Kids Enjoy Slide Shows On Tiger Conservation At Nagpur

The “Kids for Tigers” Sanctuary programme sponsored by Complan reached out to 15,915 students in Nagpur through its slide shows on tiger conservation. Renuka

Kulkarni, KFT Co-ordinator Nagpur and Education officer of Satpuda Foundation conducted the slide shows in 25 schools of the Orange City.

The theme for the slide show was “Tiger destiny: now or never”. The aim was to drill the message of saving tigers into children at a young and impressionable age so that they are in a position to make a difference.

Satpuda Foundation Nagpur Holds Workshop For Zilla Parishad Teachers

More than 30 teachers attended a one-day workshop on nature education held by Satpuda Foundation on November 30 at Fetri Zilla Parishad Middle School just outside Nagpur.

The workshop included slide shows, demonstrated nature games and displayed educational models on nature. The aim of the workshop was to promote awareness and knowledge of wildlife and nature to teachers as they are a key medium to communicate a message to a wider audience. The teachers responded enthusiastically and there was a lively inter-active session with Renuka Kulkarni, Education Officer, Satpuda Foundation.

Nagpur School Kids Go Bird Watching

More than 50 school children attended a bird-watching session organized by Satpuda Foundation Nagpur under “Kids For Tigers” programme at the Seminary Hills in Nagpur on December 9. The nature walk drew enthusiastic response from the school children who assembled by 7 a.m., braving the early morning winter chill. School teachers also joined in the activity with great interest.

KFT Signature Campaign Kicks Off In Nagpur

Satpuda Foundation launched a campaign in December 2006 to gather 12,500 signatures from school children in Nagpur to save the tiger.

The annual campaign, run under the Complan-sponsored “Kids for Tigers Sanctuary programme”, has the theme “Now or Never” for the current year. Petition scrolls have been distributed among 25 schools and school teachers and children have promised to make the campaign a resounding success.

The signature campaign is part of a country-wide move to save our national animal. Once the scrolls have been signed, they will be sent to the Prime Minister to highlight the interest that the younger generation has in saving tigers. The aim is to goad the government into greater effort to save the few remaining tigers in the wild.

Tiger Fest Draws Record Response At Nagpur

Nearly 500 students participated at Tiger Fest 2007, organized by Satpuda Foundation under the Sanctuary-Complan Kids for Tigers Programme. As many as nine schools put up stalls at the Fest while a total of 15 schools participated in the events which included face-painting, nature quiz, fancy dress, dance and drama, slogan-composing and stall

decoration. The participation was a record at Nagpur, where the KFT programme is in its fifth year.

Nearly 2000 students and adults visited the event which was held at Railwaymen's High School, Ajni on February 10.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Nandkishore, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife). Other prominent people to attend the event included Shri B Majumdar, PCCF (Wildlife), Maharashtra, Shri Shyam Dhond, noted freelance journalist and Shri Vijayrao Thackre, Secretary of the Railwaymen's Marathi Education Society. Kishor Rithe, Secretary, Satpuda Foundation, was also present and assisted the organizers with his suggestions and experience.

Resounding Success Of KFT Signature Scroll Campaign

The KFT scroll campaign drew overwhelming response from schools this year, with a total of 27 scrolls with more than 9,500 signatures collected from 21 schools.

Satpuda Foundation reaches out to village kids

As part of the foundation's objective to involve local communities in conservation work, field assistants started a series of lectures in village schools where they talk about wildlife and nature and the need to conserve both. The campaign was launched in February 2007.

Schools have responded enthusiastically and have asked for more lectures. Our field assistants have covered a total of 15 schools between them. Besides lectures, our field assistants have also distributed wildlife posters, badges and bookmarks from the Sanctuary-Complan KFT programme. Schools have given letters of appreciation to our field assistants and welcomed the programme. Forest department staff have also shown appreciation for the same.

CONSERVATION WORK/FIELD ACTIVITIES/REPORTS

Resettlement Report Released.

The report "Bridging the gaps" on resettlement work in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) was submitted to the office of Field Director Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in June 2006. The report is an outcome of the Foundation's study on villages to be shifted from TATR.

Kishor Rithe Interviewed By Indianngos.com

Indianngos.com, a reputed Web Site, interviewed Kishor Rithe, Founder of Satpuda Foundation. The interview helped SF to reach to larger audience with its vision, mission and goals of conservation of natural resources and sustainable development.

SF Team Spots White-Backed Vultures

The vulture population has declined by more than 95% in the last decade in India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The annual rate of decline continues to rise. The species of vulture in south

Asia like white backed vulture and Slender billed vulture are in great danger of global extinction. IUCN also lists these three vulture species, all from the Gyps genera, as critically endangered.

Satpuda Foundation is gathering data on these species in the central Indian highlands i.e. the Satpuras. Recently two teams of SF were successful in locating vultures. The team reported White Backed Vultures on Nagpur-Amravati National Highway No. 6 between Karanja and Kondhali. The sighting was recorded on September 2, 2006.

Another team of SF had traveled to Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve on September 2 and 3 along with the Mobile Health Unit. They saw a flock of 12 vultures sitting on trees on Turiya- Karmazari road.

Use of anti-inflammatory drug Dichlophenac in veterinary medication is said to be the main reason for the decline of vulture population.

SF Akola Pioneers Use Of Paper Leaves On Dashara

Dashara festival is celebrated widely in Maharashtra state. People use leaves of the Kanchan tree on a massive scale to greet friends and relatives, leading to severe exploitation of these trees for this single festival. To educate people to celebrate Dashara in an eco-friendly way, SF Akola unit ran an innovative campaign at Akola.

They discovered paper leaves of Kanchan trees. The paper used was from waste. The green leaf, leaving white space to write eco-friendly message, was prepared with a simple message in Marathi "Zade-Zudupe deti shuddha hava, sonyasathi tyancha hatta ka hava? Vrukshatod thambawa!" (The trees and shrubs give us pure air to breathe. Why do you then hurt trees by extracting every leaf to offer them on Dashara festival? Save trees) was the message given on the paper kanchan leaf.

SF Akola unit prepared 12,000 paper leaves for this festival and distributed them to 250 children in 10 schools in Akola. The programme was conducted under "Kids for Tigers" Sanctuary Tiger programme.

ED Visits Five Tiger Reserves

Mr. Giri Venkatesan, newly-joined Executive Director of Satpuda Foundation undertook a visit in September 2006 to all Tiger Reserves in central India where SF is actively working. He visited Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve, Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve, Satpura Tiger Reserve at Pachmarhi and Melghat Tiger Reserve.

Mr. Giri met Field Directors of TATR, Pench Tiger Reserve and Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve along with their field officers and took a stock of the present situation. He also went to some of the sensitive villages in TATR, Pench T.R. and Priyadarshini Pench

TR and spoke to the villagers to understand their problems and the conservation initiatives.

Mr. Giri visited the resettlement site of three villages to be shifted from TATR and also met with Conservator of Forest Mr. Shribhagwan and Mr. Arun Tikhe, RFO looking after resettlement work. Before that, he visited all six villages to be shifted from TATR and discussed the resettlement work.

He visited Melghat Tiger Reserve and met with community officers of NCSA who are working on conservation in the villages of MTR. Mr. Giri went to village Dhain in Satpura Tiger Reserve, Pachmarhi which was resettled two years back and whose villagers are enjoying all the facilities at new place. He also met with Mr. Bhadauriya, ACF and learnt about resettlement initiatives in the Reserve.

TATR Needs “Conservation Project” Urgently To Gather Community Support

After learning of two serious agitations in TATR, Mr. Giri tapped opportunities to visit TATR along with the Mobile Health Unit of NCSA and met several residents of villages Dewari, Kolara and Satara to judge the public opinion in TATR. He has come out with a first hand report and has decided to immediately start a “purely conservation” project in TATR to mobilize community participation in Tiger Conservation.

The first incident took place in Rantalodi village (during Summer) where villagers burnt a Forest protection camp after the arrest of one villager who was involved in illegal extraction of forest resources from TATR. The second incident was when the TATR staff had rounded up some cattle grazing near village Ashta on the border of the Reserve only to be forced to return the animals after being confronted by an unruly mob of over 300 people armed with sticks and other implements. TATR administration had informed the police in advance but apparently they were not taken seriously.

Resettlement Work Stuck Again In TATR

Mr. Giri Venkatesan, during his three visits to TATR, has pointed out that the work of resettlement of three villages from TATR is stuck after a letter from the Chief Wildlife Warden to the district authorities who were handling the work. It is learnt that the CWW asked the district authorities how they had undertaken developmental works at the resettlement site when the status of the land is still reserve forest as per the order of Supreme Court.

Mr. Giri visited the re-settlement site near Chichpalli. The houses are nearing completion and are neatly laid out like a suburban colony. The village will have a gaathan and a green belt on the outskirts. The houses could be ready for occupation by October. There was work left aplenty which could be given to the villagers themselves instead of outside contractors. The forest department is keen that the villagers form groups to undertake work such as plastering, etc...which would help them save costs while getting employment at the same time.

Mr.Giri visited Kolsa, Botezari and Palasgaon villages. He also went and inter-acted with villagers of Jamni and Navegaon.

SF To Focus On Kanha-Pench Wildlife Corridor

Besides its other activities, Satpuda Foundation is also gearing up for another major task in the Satpuda ranges – the wildlife corridor between Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserves.

The Foundation aims to focus on the corridor linking Kanha Tiger Reserve and Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve to ensure that wildlife is able to move freely between these two reserves. Both reserves are located in Madhya Pradesh. Kanha is around 270 kms slightly to the north-east of Pench. As Priyadarshini Pench TR is contiguous to Pench Maharashtra, the corridor will act as a link between three Tiger reserves.

The Foundation has a field station at Chhapri village outside Kanha National Park and this will be used as a base for its staff to operate from. At the other end, there is a field station at Turiya, just outside Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve.

The focus will be on community conservation and education programmes among the villages in the wildlife corridor and on helping the unemployed youths find sustainable employment which will reduce their dependence on the forests.

SF Team Visits Kanha, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves

A Satpuda Foundation team consisting of Secretary Kishor Rithe, Joint Secretary Nishikant Kale and Executive Director Giri Venkatesan visited Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves between November 18-20 to take stock of the situation in the two Reserves and to chalk out a plan of action for the Foundation in this region.

Both Reserves are popular with tourists, particularly foreigners, and the team found the pressure from vehicles and people to be quite heavy, particularly at the weekend. At Kanha, for example, as many as 90 vehicles were allowed into the Reserve on Saturday while the daily optimum limit set for the Reserve is 55.

The team met with Kanha's field director Khageshwar Nayak and his deputy Shubhraman Sen to discuss issues relating to the Park. Shri Nayak admitted that there was heavy pressure from tourists but added that he was not contemplating, at this stage, any measures to restrict the inflow. He felt that effective management of the tourist routes would help ease pressure and was planning to open a third gate at Bichwa. Currently there are two gates – at Kisli and Mukki.

The Field Director also said that the issue of relocation of villages from the core area was on his agenda. In the immediate future, the idea is to shift 3 out of 18 villages from the core area but this would be done only after suitable land had been identified and approved by the Field Director.

Satpuda Foundation Joins Hands With Forest Department For Bird Trail

Satpuda Foundation members joined hands with the Forest Department in the latter's move to develop new tracks for bird watching in the Seminary Hills and Japanese Garden in Nagpur in early December 2006.

SF members participated in the morning walks which aimed to identify the bird species in these areas. The Forest Department intends to put up name plates along the trails with the names of different birds.

SF Writes To MP

In December 2006, SF wrote to Mr. Vijaybabu Darda, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi about pending issues regarding the development of Melghat, Tadoba and Pench Tiger Reserves in Central India. He promised to sort out the pending problems of these three Tiger Reserves.

Satpuda Foundation Launches Clothes Collection Campaign In Nagpur

Hundreds of used clothes, dozens of pencil boxes, school bags, water bottles and toys were donated by the students of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Bhagwandas Purohit Vidya Mandir School in Nagpur in response to a campaign to collect clothes launched by Satpuda Foundation in December 2006.

Satpuda Foundation's campaign aims to collect used clothes through schools in Nagpur and donate them to the needy in the villages in and around the Tiger Reserves of central India.

The clothes and educational materials will be distributed to school children to help them pursue their studies while adults will get clothes on the basis of "shramdaan". This refers to people volunteering their labour for projects that are beneficial to the village or community.

Community Resource Centre At Kanha Getting Ready

Satpuda Foundation is getting ready a field station cum Community Resource Centre at village Chhapri, about 12 kms from the Kisli gate of Kanha National Park.

The centre is set in sylvan surroundings, next to the regular forest and is located on around six acres of prime land. Currently, it has a building which contains 2 rooms with attached bathrooms and a tenting facility. Executive Director Giri Venkatesan visited the centre in the last week of December 2006 for getting the centre ready.

Over a period of time, the centre will have community hall and some demonstrative models of sustainable living. Work will soon start on a vegetable patch and the process of de-weeding has already begun.

A conservation officer and his team will soon start working on Bandhavgarh-Kanha corridor from this field station with assistance from LifeForce Charitable Trust.

Satpuda Foundation Launches Shramdam in Pench

Satpuda Foundation has launched a shramdaan programme in Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra. Under this programme, which is part of our trust- and capacity-building exercise, villagers volunteer for community work and receive used clothes instead of daily wages. The work is selected by the village elders and is, typically, community work such as repair of school buildings, community centres, village tanks/lakes and roads.

Under the first shramdaan in Pench, 12 villagers undertook to clean up a water body at Shivkund, Wagholi village ahead of the Mahashivratri festival. The work involved cleaning up of the water body, desilting and repairing of bandara (tank bund). Besides the adults, 10-12 young children also pitched in voluntarily. Clothes were distributed on February 17. The clothes were contributed by the students of Bhavan's BP Vidya Mandir at Watoda, Nagpur.

Satpuda Foundation's Bandu Uike leads the way on Republic Day

In a rare move, West Pench RFO, Shri Naik, invited Satpuda Foundation's field assistant Bandu Uike to give a lecture to assembled students and adults at a function to mark Republic Day. Bandu spoke to the assembled gathering on snakes and explained how many of this much-feared species are harmless to humans and why they should be preserved to maintain the balance in nature's chain. Shri Bandu later took some of the children on a nature walk and explained nature to them.

New EC for Satpuda Foundation.

The Annual General Meeting of members of Satpuda Foundation was held on March 1, 2007 at Nagpur.

The AGM discussed many policy issues and also announced a new Board of Trustees. The new Board include Mr. Kishor Rithe (President), Mr. Amit Badiyani (Vice President), Mr. Manish Sawankar (Secretary), Mr. Vishal Wankhade (Jt. Secretary), Mr. Prakash Laddha (Treasurer), Mr. U. V. Bhoyar and Mr. Ashish Fernandes as Executive Members.

Mr. Giri Venkatesan would be handling the responsibility of Executive Director along with the conservation work of the organization.

SLTP Workshop Held At Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

The "Satpuda Landscape Tiger Project" an initiative funded by Born Free Foundation organized the annual workshop for 2007 in Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh. The representatives of partner agencies participated in the workshop and gave presentations on the work they have carried out so far under this project.

Mr. Giri Venkatesan gave a presentation on SF's conservation activities in Pench cluster. The field assistants were also present at the workshop.

Management Plan of TATR

Mr. Giri Venkatesan, Executive Director of Satpuda Foundation participated in the meeting called on March 13 by the Field Director of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve to take inputs for the new Management plan of TATR from the NGOs working in TATR.

Mr.Giri also submitted the suggestions for the prescriptions of Management Plan.

SF, on the basis of its past six years of experience of working in TATR on many aspects, prepared a note of suggestions and handed it over to the Field Director during the meeting.

Satpuda Foundation, Akola And NIMA Continue Health Services In Melghat

Nature Conservation Society, Amravati (NCSA) started the “Mobile health Unit” for five Tiger Reserves in central India in collaboration with other partners under “Satpura Landscape Tiger Programme”(SLTP) in 2005. It was essential for NCSA to expand the programme and increase the frequency of Health service in the Satpuda landscape. So it sought the assistance of other partners. Satpuda Foundation Akola Unit adopted a cluster of villages around Dhakna in Melghat Tiger Reserve and started providing health services in 2005.

SF, Akola in collaboration with National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA), Akola continued these services in 2006-07 and treated around 1500 patients in the year under review. SF, Akola and NIMA, Akola have conducted 11 health camps in this year and received good response.

The local forest staff of Melghat Tiger Reserve, Satpuda Foundation and NCSA are getting goodwill from villagers through these camps for wildlife conservation initiatives.

SF Launched Employment Cell For Satpuda Landscape

In November 2006, LifeForce Charitable Trust (U.K) announced its financial support to Satpuda Foundation’s project to create an “Employment Cell” for the Satpuda landscape. The aim of the Employment Cell is to promote wildlife conservation by helping unemployed village youths find sustainable employment which will lead them to reduce their dependence on the forest resources for a livelihood.

This will ease pressure on the forests, reduce human-wildlife conflict and help greatly in conservation of wildlife. There are around 58 villages in Melghat Tiger Reserve, 20 villages in and around Pench Tiger Reserve, 30 in and around Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve, 50 around Satpura Tiger Reserve and 53 villages in and around Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. The administrations of these reserves have shown great interest in working with Satpuda Foundation to address the problem of unemployment and reduce the pressure on these reserves.

Satpuda Foundation intends to do this by creating a special Employment cell which will help local NGOs and Tiger Reserve administrations in finding permanent employment to landless tribals and unemployed tribal youths. The project will involve integration with

other government agencies like the Revenue Department, Project Tiger and Tribal Development Department.

The partner NGO, Nature Conservation Society, Amravati is working in Melghat Tiger Reserve for the last 16 years. NCSA has a good network in 58 villages and has produced a database on unemployed youths in these villages.

Satpuda Foundation, Nagpur, is active in 19 villages around Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra and 27 villages around Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. It has built a database of around 300 unemployed youths from these villages. SF Nagpur now would gather information regarding unemployment from 50 villages around TATR.

LifeForce Charitable Trust, Pachmarhi, is actively working in around 50 villages of Satpura Tiger Reserve, Pachmarhi. The Trust would soon gather information about unemployment from these villages.

The project implementing team of SF would soon prepare site-specific employment packages for these five Tiger Reserves. They would also design training modules, identify agencies that would train the unemployed youths, place them in jobs and also help the villagers in finding self-employment.

The project team would also build up rapport with expert agencies and other agencies which will train these youths in production, trading, marketing and other services. The team will also assist the tribal youths in finding sustainable self-employment through self-help groups and micro-finance institutes.

Rehabilitation of Botezari village in TATR is in full swing

March 19, 2007: The rehabilitation of Botezari village from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) is in full swing and the villagers are now waiting to hold their agriculture lands at the new place.

Kishor Rithe President of SF made his visit to the Botezari village on 19th of March 07 and spoke to villagers. Villagers told that they are just waiting for the agriculture lands at the resettlement site.” The ploughing work is on and we would immediately shift at the new place once the land is ready and we receive pattas” said the villager.

He also visited the resettlement site and saw the ploughing work. He met Field Director TATR and the territorial staff at the site. The villagers of Kolasa also had come to the site to see the progress of their house construction work. ”14 houses are ready for Kolasa villagers and remaining would be completed soon” said Mr. Arun Tikhe later.

However a Nagpur based NGO had planted false news in daily Sakal about the hesitation of Botezari and Kolasa villagers. Mr. Rithe went to meet villagers and found that there was no such hesitation either from Botezari or Kolasa villagers.

Navegaon National Park needs serious attention

March 22, 2007: SF team recently visited the Navegaon National Park in Gondiya district and found the park at risk. The bamboo felling, Mahua flower collection and illegal grazing continues inside the National Park.

Hundreds of people from the peripheral villages take out head loads of green bamboo every day from the National Park. The famous Navegaon Bandha reservoir which is known as a Bharatpur of Vidarbha is also under the grab of developers. District administration has started construction inside the 100 meter area from the lake which ultimately has restricted the bird activity in the area.

The team felt that the office of Chief Wildlife Warden really needs to pay serious attention on the present situation of Navegaon National Park.

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