

Pangolin conservation workshop-2019, Chiplun



Background

Since 25 years, AERF conserving privately owned forest in Northern Western Ghats with the help of local communities. AERF's conservation agreement, a unique idea conserved around 7000 Acres of privately owned forest land in Northern Western Ghats till now. After conservation agreement, researchers started to conduct surveys to record biodiversity of these forest lands. The results of these surveys used as indicators to determine the importance of these forest patches and its conservation.

While working in Chandreshwar, which is one of the 1st forest lands under AERF's conservation agreement and an active site for Indian ground Pangolin, we noticed that some



people chopping down surrounding forest patches which is not included in conservation agreement. After further inquiry we got to know that the owner of that particular forest land had sold his land to a wood logger. After acquiring such forest lands, these wood loggers hire people majorly belonging to one community known as “Katkari”. While talking to these communities we got to know that they were from different village. Just to fulfill their need of money these people travel across villages to villages covering several 100’s km with their families. From further investigation we got to know that all the hard work regarding forest cutting done by these people. In return, the incentive they are getting is quite less as compare to their hard work.

Also, during our survey in this region we detected some snare traps planted by these Katkari people in surrounding areas. These traps were arranged to capture wild animals which can be used as food. Overall it was very disturbing and horrifying situation. After our team meeting, we come to one conclusion that, these people don’t have any other livelihood and to fulfill their needs they tend to carried out such work.



Considering this situation, we decided to target these communities directly instead of talking to wood loggers or any third party.

ROLE OF KATKARI COMMUNITY IN CONSERVATION OF FOREST FROM NORTHERN WESTERN GHATS.

After our discussion, we planned to conduct one day workshop for these community. On 25th Oct 2019, we conducted this workshop in Chiplun, Maharashtra. Around 35 individuals belonging to Katkari community were present during this workshop. In this work shop we

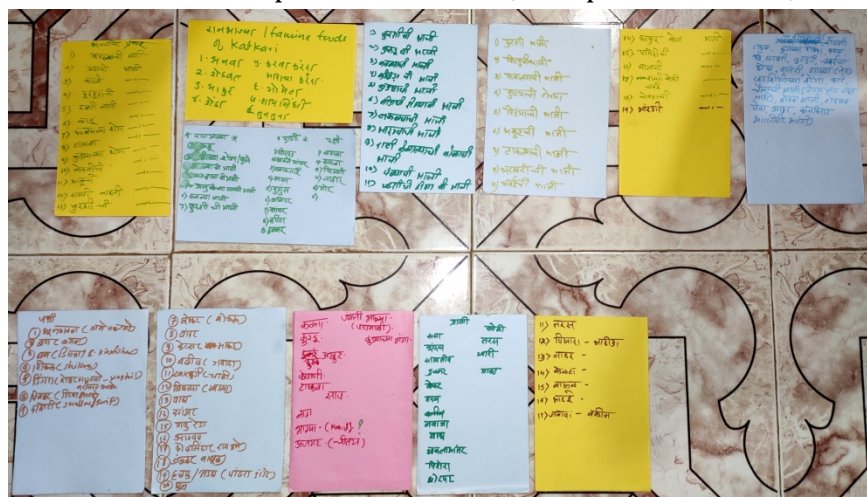
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क्र.	नाव	गाव	क्र.	नाव	गाव
1	नामचंद्र रामानिधन	आकाड (चिपलुण)	10	हरिचंद्र झेंडपवार	दहलणे
2	परशुराम केदारनिधन	विपही	11	राहुल बदनपवार	दहलणे
3	मनजय शशिचंद्र निधन	चवळणे	12	त्रिनिदु नागेश निधन	दहलणे
4	रुक्मिणी खेडपवार	चवळणे	13	बाबू मनोहरपवार	कुडावड (दहलणे)
5	राजेंद्र वल्लभ जंगनाथ	तळपनाथ	14	अमर उमेश जंगनाथ	ता. 138
6	सलोष दगड पवार	जोवही	15	पुत्रामणि जाधव	ता. 138
7	हरी जंगनाथ निधन	ता. 138	16	रश्मी चंद्रकांत जाधव	ता. 138
8	महेश हरी निधन	ता. 138	17	इश्वरी कारिचम जंगनाथ	ता. 138
9	रघुनाथ उमेश निधन	ता. 138	18	श्रीकांत जंगनाथ पवार	ता. 138
10	जंगनाथ उमेश निधन	ता. 138	19	सुखभा सुलभापवार	ता. 138
11	महेश जंगनाथ जाधव	ता. 138	20	ताला गंगाराम पवार	विमलवाडी (चवळणे)
12	रुक्मिणी वल्लभपवार	ता. 138	21	विजया उमेश निधन	चवळणे (चवळणे)
13	जय उमेश पवार	ता. 138	22	अमर शंकर जाधव	चवळणे (चवळणे)
14	राज कुंजरा निधन	शेराट (सोनी)	23	महेश जंगनाथ जाधव	चवळणे
15	बाबू रामाजी जाधव	दहलणे	24	मोहनाथ जंगनाथ जंगनाथ	चवळणे
16	इश्वरी सलोष पवार	दहलणे			
17	समीर सलोष पवार	दहलणे			

gave a brief introduction of AERF and its work in conservation. After this, member of this community started to share their experiences, problems and situations. This workshop was for community and we wanted each and every member should speak individually. But due to some reason 2-3 people only spoke individually.



To tackle this situation we come-up with an activity. In this activity we asked all the members to form a group of 8-10 people. After forming the group we asked them to write all the plant, animals, wild medicinal plants and wild vegetables familiar to them. Within 15 min collectively we managed to shortlisted some 30 species of animals, 20 species of Birds, 25 species of wild vegetables and 26 species of plants.

From this activity we got to know, that this community have a great traditional knowledge about biodiversity and its use. All they need is proper guidance to channel this knowledge in conservation.



Some of the key findings from this Workshop..

- ➡ These people don't want do such kind of work taking lot of risks. But, just to fulfill their need they had to carry out such work.
- ➡ They don't have any alternate livelihood.
- ➡ They have tremendous traditional knowledge about forest and biodiversity. And these people are ready to use this knowledge in conservation.

Further steps

- ▶ We have to come up with some other livelihood options like apiculture, silk production etc. We can train some of these people in this field. So that they can pass on their knowledge to other people and future generation to form proper setups.
- ▶ We can try to involve these people in our on-going projects like camera trapping, bee-boxing etc. Where, they can understand working of AERF in detail and also can it can help in knowledge sharing.
- ▶ We should conduct more workshops for people with different-different age group majorly focusing on young generation. So that it will be easy for us to do capacity building for each person having different mentality and mindsets.