

Nisarganubhav camps in Bor Tiger Reserve and Umred-Karhandla-Pawani Wildlife Sanctuary



The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Pench Tiger Reserve Foundation jointly organized environmental awareness camps for the students living in fringe villages of Bor Tiger Reserve and Umred-Pawani-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary.

In the Vidarbha region, as the villagers residing in the fringe areas of the tiger reserves are dependent on the forests for their livelihood and sustenance, there is anthropogenic pressure on the reserves. As they live adjacent to the forests, their crops are damaged by wild boars and other herbivores, which is the source of many conflicts between the villagers and the forest department. Electrocutation too has been a serious issue in the fringe villages. As many as seven tigers have been reported to be killed by electrocution. Given the conflicts between the locals and the forest department and unfortunate tiger deaths, it was essential to address these issues through awareness and sensitization programmes. Working with students seemed a viable option as the conservation message would then percolate to the entire family and community. The awareness programmes were made interesting through the use of various teaching tools.



Bor Tiger Reserve

In Bor Tiger Reserve, 12 camps were conducted from December 12 to 26, 2018 in which 464 students along with 32 teachers participated. The camps were conducted by BNHS Assistant Director Sanjay Karkare and Sampada Karkare with the help of Education Assistants Suraj Ghogare and Charandas Shende.

The camp schedule was from 10 am to 6 pm. Indoor activities were carried out in the morning schedule and in the afternoon, park safaris were conducted for the students. In every camp about 40 students with 2 teachers from one school participated.



Sanjay Karkare started each inaugural session by explaining to the students the objectives of the camp. Various subjects were covered through lectures, slideshow, nature games and discussions. A presentation was made on the biodiversity of Bor Tiger Reserve. Slideshow emphasized the importance of the tiger reserve for the community, and the issues and problems that arise due to anthropogenic pressure. Nature

games that followed these sessions included many issues related to the villagers and they struck a chord with the students and teachers. An exhibition on electrocution was also held at the camp site, which focused on the disadvantages of electrocution and the need to not resort to such extreme means to keep away the wild animals. The most important part of this session was discussion on human-animal conflict and how it could be minimized. Sampada Karkare focused on the ways in which every student and teacher could participate in minimizing the conflict problem and conserving wildlife.

After lunch, MEEU organized a park safari for the participating students and teachers. It provided an opportunity for the students to learn from field experience and enrich their knowledge while exploring the beauty of nature.

These camps were conducted under the guidance of Sanjay Karkare the help of Saurabh Dande and BNHS staff. Mr. Gavai, DFO, visited in one of the camps. The ACF and RFO too extended their support to the camps. The feedback from teachers and students showed that they enjoyed and benefitted from the camps.



Umred-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary

In this sanctuary, 14 camps were conducted in which 496 students and 39 teachers from the peripheral schools participated. The camps were conducted by Prafulla Sawarkar and Education Assistant Suraj Ghogare. The Additional Principal Conservator of Forest, Mr. Sunil Limaye along with RFOs and other staff visited the camps and communicated with the students.



Sample programme schedule:

Programme	Nisarganubhav nature camp
Park	Bor Tiger Reserve Duration: 12/12/18 to 26/12/2018
Students & Teachers	Students - 464 Teachers – 32
Activities & topic	1) Slideshow- 1. Importance of Bor Tiger Reserve 2. Issues and Problems of Tiger Reserve 3. Human-animal conflict

2. Poster Exhibition

Electrocution threats

3. Discussion on Human-Animal Conflict and our duty to save forests

4. Park Safari



Programme	Nisarganubhav nature camp
Park	Umred-Pawani-Karhandla Sanctuary Duration: 20/12/18 to 4/1/2018
Students & Teachers	Students -496 Teachers -39
Activities & topic	<p>1.Slideshow-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of Umred-Pawani-Karhandla Sanctuary 2. Why save the forest 3. Human-animal conflict <p>2.Film Show-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tiger & Me 2. documentaries <p>3. Poster Exhibition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Electrocutation threats <p>3. Park Safari</p>