

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Mrunal Ghosalkar
Project Title	Doodling the Cat (Sequel II): Using youth as a strong community connection to sensitize locals on safely sharing space with leopards to reduce conflicts
Application ID	22245-2
Grant Amount	£5000
Email Address	mrunal8ghosalkar@gmail.com
Reporting Period	August 2017 to October 2018
Date of this Report	5 th November 2018

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Establishing contacts with Forest Department				<p>1. This work was a collaborative one with the Maharashtra Forest Department, Nashik Forest Division. This facilitated us in making good contacts with relevant forest officials and ground level staff. The project was known locally as 'Janata Waghoba'- the wise big cat.</p> <p>2. In collaboration with the Forest Department, three workshops were organised for the frontline staff of East Nashik Forest Division and West Nashik Forest Division. A talk by wildlife biologist, Mr. Nikit Surve, and the project coordinator, Ms. Mrunal Ghosalkar, was organised on research on leopard biology, research, and the importance of engaging with local people and other stakeholders in awareness. This further increased our standing with the stakeholders.</p> <p>3. Our collaboration with the Forest Department also helped us to do the following: we identified the study area based on Forest Department staff's inputs. We received information on areas where a higher concentration of livestock injuries and deaths by leopards and leopard sightings and attacks on humans by leopards in the past few years occurred. This helped us to focus awareness activities exclusively in these areas.</p>
Establishing contacts with Gram panchayat				<p>1. A meeting was held by SDO/SDM (Sub Divisional Officer/ Sub Divisional Magistrate) of Niphad taluka, Nashik and DCF (Deputy Conservator of Forests) East Nashik Division. The objective of the meeting was to gather all Gram Panchayat- (A gram panchayat - village council is formalised local self-governance system in India at the village or small town level) members and Sarpanch (Village headman) of villages to introduce them to project work and get them involved in awareness work. Sub Divisional Officer,</p>

			<p>Block Divisional Officer, Forest Guards, 18 Sarpanch and other Gram panchayat members of 13 villages were present and they showed support for our awareness work. This activity helped us to conduct awareness activity in villages with Gram panchayat's support. A Sub-Divisional Magistrate is a title which is sometimes given to the head official of a district subdivision, an administrative officer that is sometimes below the level of district, depending on a country's Government structure. Each district is divided into tehsil. All subdivisions (tehsils) are under the charge of SDM (Sub Divisional Magistrate).</p> <p>2. A Sarpanch of each village was contacted before conducting any awareness activity in school and invited them for an awareness activity.</p>
Preparation of art			<p>1. One more flash card was designed and added to the set of flashcards which was made during last Rufford Small Grant https://www.rufford.org/files/18748-1%20Final%20Report.pdf. The Flashcard was designed by Aditi Deo who founded Doodle Factory. (www.facebook.com/thedoodlefactorypune/).</p> <p>The flash card illustrates what precautions one should take when one finds leopard cubs in the farm. The entire set of flash cards was given 55 to schools and 81 leopard ambassadors (children chose to represent and disseminate leopard information in their village) for use during the awareness activities. Other materials like ambassador badges, Janata Waghoba bag, and a file were also given to the ambassadors.</p> <p>2. A sketch was made by Deep Shubhra Biswas, an artist from West Bengal, India illustrating human-leopard coexistence which was used as a certificate to appreciate ambassador's work. The Certificates were given to ambassadors by Deputy Conservator of Forests, East Nashik Division, Principal of the college, and Director of the Organisation and</p>

			<p>Gram Panchayat members in a felicitation ceremony.</p> <p>3. A documentary called 'Janata Waghoba' was made to showcase the awareness work which was made by Mr. Prathmesh Ghadekar https://www.momentographers.in/videos. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG4ZVGpHuss, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_oIKFuqwns</p> <p>The documentary is supported by Mr. Ramarao - (Chief Conservator of Forest, Nashik), Dr. Siva Bala (Deputy Conservator of Forest - East Nashik Forest Division) and Ms. Beula T. Mathi (Deputy Conservator of Forest, West Nashik Forest Division) which has been released by Honorable Mr. Sudhir Mungantivar (Minister of Forest, Maharashtra) on 14th June 2018 at District Collector's office Nashik, Maharashtra, India. This documentary was useful in presenting the work to other people.</p>
Engaging with Schools			<p>1. The awareness activities conducted in Niphad taluka were targeted at involving students from standard 1st to 10th-grade schools. At the talk, the Principal, students, and teachers were present with the occasional presence of <i>Gram Panchayat</i> members as well. The talk involved a presentation on research on leopard biology, methods used for counting of leopards (camera trapping), radio-collaring of leopards, diet studies of leopards through scat examination, precautionary measures to be employed and do's and don'ts of living with leopards. Also, the basic and most necessary information was given to students in each grade based on their understanding capacity. This was followed by an interactive session with the students to clear their doubts about leopards. All the information was communicated to students using a projector. In rural areas with no electricity, flash cards were distributed among the audience and questions were asked on common measures to be employed when conducting daily activities such as walking home from schools, livestock shed guarding, garbage management, trapping, and relocation etc.</p>

			<p>2. A kit of flash cards and “Waghobachya Goshti” (Leopard Stories in the local language) booklets were given to the school for library use. The booklet is a collection of true stories written by a local farmer based on his experience working with leopards.</p> <p>3. We organised the above two activities in 55 schools including <i>Zilha Parishad</i> Schools in 37 villages.</p> <p>4. Once the talk was concluded, students were chosen based on personal interest shown during the talk or based on the teacher's suggestions. A session was then conducted in which the chosen students were taught how to use the flashcards and other techniques to disseminate the knowledge of living with leopards. They were then termed as ambassadors and were given a leopard ambassador toolkit which included an ambassador badge, a bag, flash card kit, a file and a questionnaire for feedback (sponsored by Rufford Foundation). Locations were identified based on ambassadors' inputs on where their efforts can have the maximum impact based on recent attacks/sightings of leopards within their village.</p> <p>5. These ambassadors informed their parents, other family members and people in their own village about safety measures to be taken in the areas where leopards are presently based on training obtained from us.</p> <p>6. We had 16 leopard ambassadors from a school who informed their family members as well as their neighbors. An activity was organized by the <i>Sarpanch</i> of a village and Principal of a school in the village where these ambassadors informed villagers about leopard behavior and precautions to be employed to ensure safety.</p> <p>7. On the occasion of 26th January 2018 (Republic day of India), 16 leopard ambassadors from Karanjagoan School were felicitated by giving them certificates from Forest Department officers and <i>Sarpanch</i> of the village for their work.</p> <p>8. A study visit of all leopard ambassadors to Leopard rescue center, Junnar, Pune, Maharashtra and a talk by the veterinarian at</p>
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			<p>the centre could not be implemented because of college's rules and policies about taking children out of town.</p> <p>9. 1st October to 7th October is celebrated as International Wildlife Week in India. In this occasion, in the period of 1st October to 7th October 2018, we had activities in nine schools of Sangamner taluka, Ahmednagar and Dindori, Nashik. Forest Department has organised talks of Project head's talk on human-leopard interactions in schools.</p>
Engaging with Colleges			<p>1. In 2018, we had collaborations with two potential colleges in the study area but conducted activities in five colleges by the end of the project duration.</p> <p>2. A talk by wildlife biologist Mr. Nikit Surve of Wildlife Conservation Society – India was held in colleges for grade 11th to final year Graduation students. The talk was based on broad aspects of human-leopard interactions which include research done on leopards in the area and precautionary measures for human and livestock safety where leopards are present. The main objective of the activity was focused on the importance of research as it plays a crucial role in the study of human-leopard interactions in the landscape. We organised such activities in five colleges.</p> <p>3. There is a compulsory subject called 'Environmental Awareness' for 100 marks governed by Pune, Maharashtra University. Students need to prepared projects under this subject for 25 marks. In this project, leopard ambassadors were provided with ambassador kit including awareness flash cards, ambassador badge, a file, and a cloth bag. A questionnaire was also given to the students. The students were responsible to provide the information to at least five families in their own village and document their responses. We had 65 ambassadors worked in 18 villages where there is a presence of leopards. In this way, ambassadors were able to reach 365 families.</p> <p>4. Some ambassadors from college also conducted awareness activity in <i>Zilha Parishad's</i> (District Council) Primary School of their own village.</p>

			<p>5. A programme was organized by Saykheda College on 21st March 2018 – (International Forest Day) with Forest Department, where a talk by Dr. Siva Bala (Deputy Conservator of Forests – East Nashik Forest Division) was organized. The 65 ambassadors from both collages (Niphad College and Saykheda College) were praised and encouraged by giving them certificates by DCF, Principal, <i>Sarpanch</i>, and the organisation's Director (Maratha Vidya Prasarak Mandal).</p> <p>6. Project coordinator delivered a talk on human-leopard interactions as a resource person in National Biodiversity Conference organised by a college in the study area.</p> <p>7. Project coordinator delivered a small talk for college going students in National Service Scheme Unit (NSS unit) on human-leopard interactions. It was part of social work activities organised by students where villagers were also present.</p> <p>8. We could not conduct camera trapping activities with the help of college students. This was because, in the project period, there were many livestock attacks by leopards and setting up a camera trap identifies whether a leopard is present or not and in a negative atmosphere could lead to the potential targeting of the leopard so we decided not to carry out this activity.</p>
Engaging with farmers and villagers			<p>1. We could screen Waghobacha Khatala movie (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FpXZqI2DUU) in two villages.</p> <p>2. We screened Waghobacha Khatala to college going students during NSS camps of two colleges.</p> <p>3. Ambassadors were engaging villagers through awareness activities.</p>
Media workshop			<p>A workshop was organised by East Nashik Forest Division and West Nashik Forest Division for media reporters on 27th April 2018. A talk by Mr. Nikit Surve (Wildlife Biologist – WCS India) and Mr. Ranjeet Jadhav (Senior Correspondent – MID DAY newspaper) was organised on leopard biology and role of media in human-leopard interactions. Nine local reporters from different newspapers</p>

				were present at the workshop. The important suggestion received from the reporters was 'we should conduct such workshops frequently and in local areas too'. It will eventually help in reporting of human-wildlife interactions cases in the future.
Review of the work				Ambassadors were provided with a questionnaire to review the work and to receive a response from people who were informed by ambassadors. A separate talk was organised for selected ambassadors on how to approach people, what kind of information should be delivered to villagers and how to talk to people. Ambassadors reviewed 365 families.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Initially, we were planning to select leopard ambassadors from schools, get in touch with their parents and explain to them about the project goal. Following this initial introduction, ambassadors were to start working towards creating awareness in their village. The area was sensitive due to frequent attacks on livestock and fear due to lack of knowledge on leopards. Also, the landscape is a rural area where social work or awareness activities related to wildlife issues are new therefore raising their suspicion towards the work. We realised that our work needs recognition through a trusted institution in the landscape before we approached the people directly. We had discussions with the Deputy Conservator of Forest who patched us through to the SDO/SDM (Sub Divisional Officer/ Sub Divisional Magistrate) of Niphad taluka. The SDO mediated a meeting with the Sarpanch of all villages where we intended to work. This ensured that the Sarpanch of each village supported the work and hence the people were more accepting of our presence and work.

Based on the above experience, we learned that when all government agencies involved in conservation and awareness creation simultaneously, only then will it sustain for a long time.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). Engagement of potential stakeholders: Our main objective was to involve all concerned stakeholders in awareness work. Our work in Niphad engaged successfully the Forest Department officials, Education institute administration and students, Revenue Department officials and media personnel. All stakeholders actively participated in the work since awareness is very crucial in the landscape. Each stakeholder has the potential to address the situation in their own unique way. The Forest Department has been given the power to address conservation issues. The Education Department created a platform for us to interact with children for the human-leopard interactions awareness programme. The Revenue Department has

the power to direct Gram panchayat members to involve in our work. The media plays an important role in addressing human-wildlife conflict issue by addressing it in a most informative and subtle way.

b). Involvement of young generation: Janata Waghoba awareness work enabled us to reach young minds in the region. The knowledge of leopard behaviour research, various kinds of human-leopard interactions, the importance of rural landscapes for wildlife presence and the importance of stakeholder engagement in the management of conflict should be disseminated to the students.

c). Expansion of the work: The human-leopard interactions awareness work has been expanded to neighbouring taluka i.e. Sinner taluka in Nashik district, Maharashtra which comes under West Nashik Forest Division. This new region has similar conservation issues and landscape. Based on the review the audience gave of our work and our experience, we believe that the same kind of model (using art as a medium of communication) can be replicated in Sinner.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

The important and unique part of Janata Waghoba project is the involvement of students who have been known as leopard ambassadors. These ambassadors are responsible for creating awareness in their own family and village. The awareness program was on leopard behavior and precautionary measures needed to be employed in order to avoid negative human-leopard interaction in the landscape. Our aim for the Second Rufford Small Grant was to capacitate local youth to be a crucial part of awareness and provide essential information to the community.

Some of the responses to our project that we received from the people were:

- These precautionary measures are useful to us in our daily activities and we will inform others too.
- This information should reach all people in the village so that fear of leopards can be replaced with knowledge. We only have wrong and insufficient information about leopards.
- Our efforts should continue and reach more people.
- The awareness activities should be conducted in each village.
- It is very good that such projects are initiated by colleges.
- It is good to see that the youngsters of our village are working towards social service.

Also, we have received responses from student ambassadors who were part of creating awareness in their own community.

- We feel happy that we got an opportunity to create awareness in our own village as people did not know much about leopards and we also learned new things during the project. We feel satisfied for being a part of a social cause.

- All this information should be put on boards in villages where a large number of villagers gather.
- There should be at least one ambassador in each village to update and inform people.
- Some dramas/ street plays should be set to reach out to people for good communication.
- Some people die because of leopards; some leopards die because of human activities. Therefore, we need to understand both the sides.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we would like to extend the work in neighbouring areas in the district by engaging more concerned stakeholders. We are extending the work in Sinner taluka of Nashik, Maharashtra. We will continue the work in Niphad (current project site) so as to sustain the efforts and drive home the message better. Based on the work we did in Niphad taluka, the Forest Department is now supporting the expansion of the work in Sinner taluka as well.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We plan to share our results majorly in these forms:

- a) A report to the Forest Department of East Nashik Division.
- b) Popular articles in local and national media.
- c) Short talks in student conferences.
- d) The work was presented in Rufford Conference which was held in Goa during 18th to 20th September 2018.
- e) The Janata Waghoba work was shared with Forest Department of Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia, Maharashtra by conducting a workshop on human-leopard interactions for Forest Department officials. The workshop was initiated by the Forest Department.
- f) An awareness activity was organized in school which was situated near Pench Tiger Reserve, Nagpur on human-leopard interaction and project work. The activity was organized by Forest Department, Pench Tiger Reserve.
- g) A talk was given to Little Planet Foundation founders and other staff on Janata Waghoba awareness work.
- h) A Janata Waghoba awareness work was presented during a workshop organized by Wild Otters and Wildlife Conservation Society – India on human-animal co-adaptation.
<http://wildotters.com/workshops/conservation-ninja-course-on-human-animal-co-adaptation/>

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The Rufford Foundation grant was used for the 15 months from August 2017 to October 2018. The grant was used perfectly in the anticipated length of the project. The timescale which was followed was in the same order as the anticipated timescale.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Salary for coordinator	1523	2559	-1036	An additional salary for 4 months was requested to RSGF as the work activities and work periods was extended in Sinner taluka, Nashik, Maharashtra
Resource person payment	725	427	298	Necessary payments were done for required services.
Payment of Project Assistant	363	191	172	Adequate funds were used to engage people.
Travel	746	729	17	Sufficient amount of funds were used.
Art material preparation	725	286	439	We prepared an adequate quantity of awareness material. So we did not need the expected amount.
Postage	12	18	-6	A little additional fund was required to post accounts related documents to the Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore office.
Phone/communication	242	134	108	We did not require that much of amount which was expected.
Stay	423	525	-102	We required additional funds for accommodation in the project area as we extended the work period.
Per diem	60	105	-45	We required additional funds for per diem.
Miscellaneous	181	25	156	We did not require the expected amount.

Totals	5000	5000	0	No funds are remaining in RSGF account.
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9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

We feel the important steps in conservation for minimising human-leopard conflict is the extension and continuation of the current awareness work is needed. In this way, the efforts might be sustained in the future. Stakeholder's engagement should be more and needful steps to engage stakeholders will be taken. We received positive responses and the confirmation of the importance of the awareness work from the reviewers. Based on that, we will improve the awareness activities to create better understanding.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

<http://www.conservationindia.org/articles/when-humans-are-curious-to-know-the-spotted-cat>

<http://www.lokmat.com/oxygen/mrunal-ghosalkar-wildlife-enthusiast-working-awareness-nashik-wise-big-cat/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG4ZVGpHuss>

The 'Janata Waghoba' documentary is all about human-leopard interactions in the rural landscape. It is a collaboration between Maharashtra Forest Department, Rufford Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society - India and Doodle Factory. The objective of the work is to create an understanding of human-leopard interactions by creating awareness through youth as a potential connection for engagement of concerned stakeholders. The work addresses conservation issues of the species as well as the human safety so it will likely not affect the conservation of the species negatively. The effects of the work can only be seen as gradual inclusions in people's perceptions of the animal which is very difficult to judge in short term. The documentary is supported by Mr. Ramarao (Chief Conservator of Forest, Nashik), Dr. Siva Bala (Deputy Conservator of Forest - East Nashik Forest Division) and Ms. Beula T. Mathi (Deputy Conservator of Forest, West Nashik Forest Division) which has been released by Honorable Mr. Sudhir Mungantivar (Minister of Forest, Maharashtra) on 14th June 2018 at District Collector's office Nashik. The Janata Waghoba project would like to thank all Forest Department officers and frontline staff, educational institutes, Gram panchayats, and media for their tremendous support towards the awareness work.

<http://www.lokmat.com/editorial/janta-vaghoba/>

<http://www.lokmat.com/nashik/steps-knowrative-waghoba-section-against-human-leopard-struggle-jangaragruti-campaign-niphad/>

<http://www.lokmat.com/nashik/jagnta-vaghoba-now-sinnar/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG4ZVGpHuss&t=18s>

Lokmat Times

Leopards and humans must learn to co-exist

■ Says Mrunal Ghosalkar who is part of the Janata Waghoba programme with the Forest department in Niphad taluka

SHIVANI GANESH
 NASHIK, APR 24

Mrunal Ghosalkar is just 27 years old and yet she finds nothing strange about living alone in Niphad, teaching locals in the district about how to live with the leopards in a time and place ridden with man-animal conflict.

"It is my passion and I like working with people," says this young worker of the Bengaluru-based NGO Wildlife Conservation Society. The Janata Waghoba programme is being conducted jointly with the Forest department. "I get full support and officials always accompany me when I go on field work."

The programme began in 2016 in Junnar and Sangamner talukas and she moved to Niphad in August 2017. She has been pretty busy as she has imparted awareness about the spotted big cat in 54 schools, 34 villages and five colleges. "People like to listen to local youngsters so our strategy has been to appoint Leopard Ambassadors from two colleges, in Saikheda and Niphad. As of now, there are 65 Leopard Ambassadors and each one is, in turn, teaching village children to change the behaviour of parents and neighbours."

The teachings are based on scientific research of leopard behaviour observed by senior scientist Dr. Vidya Athreya who collared four leopards and studied them over a period of time. They also use the indigenous knowledge of tribals who know how to interact with the big cat. "We learnt many things from them, like using thorny bushes at the



Leopard ambassadors from Saikheda college and Niphad college get certificates from forest department.



Mrunal Ghosalkar interacting with school children and farm workers.



entrances of homes which the leopards avoid."

Ghosalkar says leopards, despite their notoriety, are quite shy and will avoid human contact. She uses flashcards to teach the villagers about Dos and Don'ts, red cards for what to avoid and green cards for

what must be done. "For instance, we tell children to travel in groups and avoid going to school alone. If they are alone they must talk loudly or play music on their mobile phones or carry a stick which has bells at the end which they must sound aloud," she

says. Cleanliness is an issue because trash attracts dogs and pigs which in turn attract leopards. Leopard cubs found in fields must be left strictly alone as people tend to take them home or steal them and this is known to make leopards aggressive.

"What we have been able to do is engage all the stakeholders like the education department, revenue department, block development officers and sarpanchs because the issue is quite complex and needs everybody's cooperation," she says.

It is possible for man and animals to co-exist, she asserts. "We cannot approach the problem only from the angle of wildlife because people are also involved," she says. The Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai is a case in point where 41 leopards are living within an area of 102 sq km and the incidents of man-animal conflict have reduced drastically today. With the success of the programme in Niphad, she is hoping the project will be expanded to Sinnar and Dindori which are becoming flash points of conflict as well.

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रापासून दूर राहून काम करायचं, ते काम काय तर लोकांना वन्यजीवांची माहिती घायची, त्याविषयी जनजागृती करायची, आणि तेही एका मुलीनं.

हे सारं ऐकून अनेकांचे कान टवकारतात. मृणाल घोसाळकरला हे सारं नव्हं. ती आपलं काम मनापासून शांतपणे करतांना दिसते. नाशिक जिल्ह्यातल्या निफाड तालुक्यात सेंटर फॉर वाइल्डलाइफ स्टडीज आहे. तिचं जाणता वाघोबा प्रकल्पासाठी सध्या मृणाल काम करते आहे.

मुंबई विद्यापीठात पर्यावरणशास्त्रामध्ये तिनं पदव्युत्तर पदवी घेतली. मग सुरु झाला नोकरीसाठी शोध; पण एका जागी बसून काम करण्याच्या नोकरीऐवजी काहीतरी नवं, साहसी करण्याचं तिनं ठरवलं. तरी संधी मिळाली म्हणून ती नेचर कॉन्झर्वेशन फाउंडेशनतर्फेहॉर्नबिल पक्ष्याच्या अभ्यासासाठी ईशान्य भारतात जाऊ लागली. त्यानंतर अरुणाचल प्रदेशात पाके च्याघ्र प्रकल्पामध्ये तिनं काम केलं. तिथल्या स्थानिक निरीक्षकांशी जोडून, त्यांच्या समस्या जाणून घेऊन त्यावर अहवाल तयार करण्याचं हे काम होतं. पुन्हा महाराष्ट्रात आल्यावर पुणे जिल्ह्यातल्या सुपे तालुक्यातील मयूरेश्वर अभयारण्यात तिनं काम सुरुकेलं. येथे पावसाळ्याच्या चार महिन्यांमध्ये धनगर आपल्या बकऱ्या, मेंढ्या, कुत्रे घेऊन राहायला येतात. कधी कधी अभयारण्यातील गवताक



लिटल प्लॅनेट

वाईल्ड लाइफ आणि पर्यावरण या जगात काम करणाऱ्या भन्नाट दोस्तांना आणि प्रयत्नांना भेटवणारं एक रोमांचक जग

प्रदेशातही त्यांचं जाणं होतं. त्यामुळे तयार होणाऱ्या समस्या शोधणं आणि त्यावर उपाय सुचवण्यासाठी तिनं थेट तिचं अभ्यासाला जायचं ठरवलं. तिथल्या एका मेंढीपालक कुटुंबात सलग तीन महिने राहण्याचा निर्णय घेतला. त्यांची राहणी, काम याचा जवळून अभ्यास केला.

अरुणाचल प्रदेशामध्ये निरीक्षकांसोबत आणि नंतर सुप्यामध्ये धनगर समुदायाबरोबर काम केल्यानंतर स्थानिक लोक आणि वन्यजीव यासंदर्भातले प्रश्न, अडचणी याची तिला जाणीव झाली. जंगलं, अभयारण्यं यांच्या जवळच्या प्रदेशात राहणाऱ्या लोकांवर होणारे वन्यप्राण्यांचे हल्ले, त्या प्राण्यांच्याही जिवाला होणारा धोका असा परस्पर सहजीवनाचा संघर्ष कसा सोडवायचा, याबाबतीतील माहिती ती अनुभवातून जोडत होती. यातूनच पुढे ती सेंटर फॉर वाइल्डलाइफ स्टडीजच्या जाणता वाघोबा या प्रकल्पात काम करू लागली. गेली अनेक वर्षे बिबट्या मानवी वस्तीत येणं किंवा शेतामध्ये, येण्या-जाण्याच्या वाटेवरती येण्याच्या घटना घडत आहेत. त्यामुळे चारंवार बिबट्या दिसण्याच्या प्रदेशात तिनं काम करायचं ठरवलं. पुणे जिल्ह्यात जूनमध्ये त्यानंतर अहमदनगर जिल्ह्यातील संगमनेर तालुक्यात आणि आता नाशिकच्या निफाड तालुक्यात तिचं काम सुरु आहे.

एखाद्या वस्तीमध्ये बिबट्या घुसला की त्याची मोठी बातमी होते, त्यानं जनावरांवर हल्ला केला तर त्याच्या मोठ्या बातम्या प्रसिद्ध होतात. त्यामुळे तेथील लोकांच्या बाबतीत हा प्रश्न मोठा संवेदनशील होतो. अशा प्रदेशातील लोकांच्या भावना समजून घेऊन त्यांच्याबरोबर काम करणं अत्यंत आव्हानात्मक असतं. खरं तर बिबट्या हा प्राणी माणसाला धाबरणारा आहे. त्याचा एका ठरावीक क्षेत्रात वावर असतो. बिबट्याच्या मादीबरोबर

माहिती देऊन प्रशिक्षित करण्यात आलं आहे. ही मुलं चित्रांच्या आणि माहितीच्या माध्यमातून गावातील प्रत्येक घरात जाऊन बिबट्याबद्दल लोकांना साक्षर करतात. त्यामुळे स्थानिकांना बिबट्याच्या सवयी कळतात. त्याचे हल्ले होऊ नयेत यासाठी खबरदारी घेण्याची माहिती मिळते. काही मुलांनी कॉलेजमधला पर्यावरण प्रकल्प म्हणूनसुद्धा बिबट्यादूत होण्याचं काम केलं. अशा प्रकारचं लोकशिक्षण देण्यासाठी तिला वनजात्यातर्फे

ती पर्यावरणशास्त्र शिकली आणि थेट जंगलात आणि जंगलालगतच्या माणसांत कामासाठी निघून गेली.

माणसं आणि वन्यप्राणी यांचं

भांडण न होता, दोस्ती करी होईल,

यासाठी ती सध्या काम करते आहे.



जाणत्या वाघोबाची दोस्त

त्याची पिलं एक-दोन वर्षे राहतात आणि ती पिलं नवा प्रदेशा शोधेपर्यंत मादी नव्या पिलाना जन्म देत नाही. माणसांवर झालेले हल्ले हे अनवधानाने किंवा कोणीतरी त्रास दिल्यामुळे होतात अशी माहिती ती निफाडच्या गावागावांत जाऊन देते. लहान मुलांनी शाळेत जाताना, शेतात जाताना, संध्याकाळी फिरताना काय काळजी घ्यावी, रात्री शेतात मोटर सुरु करण्यास जाताना कोणती खबरदारी घेतली पाहिजे याबाबत ती लोकांना सूचना देते. 'जेथे कयरा तेथे कुत्रा आणि कुत्रा तेथे बिबट्या' असं समीकरण असल्यामुळे लोकांना आजूबाजूचे प्रदेश स्वच्छ ठेवण्यासाठी ती सांगते. हे सगळं काम गावागावांतील ग्रामपंचायती आणि शाळांमध्ये जाऊन केलं जातं. काही गावांमध्ये कॉलेजमध्ये जाणाऱ्या मुलांना नियतून त्यांच्यामध्ये बिबट्यादूत तयार करण्यात आले. त्यांना बिबट्याची सर्व

सहाकार्यही मिळतं. बिबट्याच्या समस्येवर स्थानिक उपाय लोकच काढू शकतात, असा तिला विश्वास वाटतो.

मृणाल म्हणते, शहरी भागात बिबट्या आल्या की त्याच्या मोठ्या बातम्या होतात. अशा बातम्यांनी लोकांमध्ये चुकीचा संदेश जाऊ शकतो. बिबट्या वस्तीत का आला किंवा त्यानं हल्ला का केला, या कारणांचा शोध घेतला तर हे प्रश्न अधिक लवकर सुटतील आणि माणसाचा त्रास कमी होईल.'

ऑंकार करंबेळकर

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लोकमत

परिसंवादातून उमटला सूर : जीवशास्त्राविषयी जनजागृती काळाची गरज

मानव-बिबट्या संघर्षावर पिंजऱ्याद्वारे मात अशक्य

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नाशिक : बिबट्या भयंकर अशा मनुष्यप्राण्यासोबत जगण्यास शिकला; मात्र मनुष्यप्राणी त्याच्यासोबत जगणे शिकलेला नाही. पिंजरे लावून बिबट्या आणि मानवामधील संघर्ष सुटणार नाही, तर तो अधिक वाढत जाणार आहे. बिबट्याच्या जीवशास्त्राबाबत जनजागृती होणे काळाची गरज आहे, असा सूर परिसंवादातून उमटला.

वनविभाग पूर्व-पश्चिम विभागाच्या वतीने आयोजित 'मानव-बिबट्या यांच्यातील परस्पर संबंध' या विषयावर परिसंवादाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. उंटवाडी रस्त्यावरील वन निरीक्षण कुटीमधील सभागृहात झालेल्या या परिसंवादात वाइल्ड लाइफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटीचे वन्यजीव जीवशास्त्रज्ञ निकीत सुर्वे, पत्रकार रंजित जाधव यांनी प्रामुख्याने भाग घेतला. यावेळी प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून उपवनसंरक्षक टी.



संग्रहित छायाचित्र

ब्यूला एलिल मती, डॉ. शिवाबाला एस., सहायक वनसंरक्षक राजन गायकवाड, राजेंद्र कापसे, वनपरिक्षेत्र अधिकारी प्रशांत खैरनार, सुनील वाडेकर, संजय भंडारी यांसह शहरातील विविध वन्यजीव अभ्यासक, पत्रकार, वनरक्षक उपस्थित होते. जनसामान्यांमध्ये बिबट्याविषयी असलेले समज-गैरसमज अज्ञानामुळे आहे. जोपर्यंत ते दूर होणार नाही, तोपर्यंत मानव-बिबट्या संघर्ष संपुष्टात येणे अशक्य आहे. बिबट्याच्या जीवशास्त्राविषयी

प्रसारमाध्यमांची अधिक जबाबदारी

◆ बिबट्या-मानव संघर्ष रोखण्यासाठी प्रसारमाध्यमांनी जबाबदारी ओळखणे तितकेच गरजेचे आहे. कारण प्रसारमाध्यमातून बिबट्याविषयी येणारे वृत्त हे अत्यंत भडक व अतिरंजीत असता कामा नये. बिबट्याचा मूळ अधिवास नष्ट होणे व नागरी वस्तीत त्याचा शिरकाव यामागील कारणे शोधून बिबट्याबाबत माहितीपूर्ण वृत्त देण्याची गरज आहे, असे रंजीत जाधव म्हणाले.

जनजागृती व्हावी, या उद्देशाने परिसंवादाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. यावेळी सुर्वे म्हणाले, बिबट्या या वन्यप्राण्याचा खरा तर जगण्याशी संघर्ष सुरु आहे. नैसर्गिक अधिवास काळानुरूप संपल्याने बिबट्या अनेकदा मानवी वसाहतीजवळही दिसून येतो. भूक भागविण्यासाठी बिबट्याची शेकडो किलोमीटरची भटकंती होत आहे. मानवी वस्तीजवळ असलेल्या अधिवासाशी जुळून घेत बिबट्या जवळपास राहण्यास पटाईत आहे.

मानवी वस्तीत आलेल्या बिबट्याला जेरबंद करण्यासाठी पिंजऱ्याचा वापर करण्याशिवाय दुसरे पर्याय नसतो; मात्र मानवी वस्तीजवळ असलेल्या थोड्याफार जंगलाच्या भागातही पिंजरे लावण्याची मागणी जेव्हा होते तेव्हा अशी मागणी मानव बिबट्या संघर्ष अधिक वाढविणारी असते. कारण पिंजऱ्यात एक बिबट्या जेरबंद जरी झाला तरी त्याच कॉरिडोरचा ताबा दुसरा बिबट्या घेत असतो, हे संशोधनातून पुढे आले आहे असे सुर्वे म्हणाले.



मृगाल घोसालकर

बटवा! सोनेरी रंगार जुगबुजावा पायलासोबती (Pantem) दिवाचे काळे वळणे दिवेक अजूनच एक पुढे विहार मानवशास्त्री प्रगती परिचितानी खुब खुबतर वेगवेगळी आणि संकटाने भवती बदलतीच जेवढे बदलतात तेवढे हा मानव प्रजातीत प्रगती Pantem pradis fuscus इतर जनावरांसारखेच बिबट्यासुद्धा मानवासारखेच बदलतात प्रगती आहे. अजूनपर्यंतच आपण जेवढे ज्ञान आहे की, बिबट्या हा उंची, वेगळे ते त्याच्या आकृष्येकडे बसवते हीट, सोबर असे प्रगती झाले आहेत. International Union for Conservation of Nature' नादीमुनर बिबट्या हा 'vulnerable' म्हणजेच असुरक्षित मानले जाते.

मौखिकता आहे. या भागातील लोकं या मानव कुळातील मोठ्या मानवमिश्र पिढ्यांपिढ्या सहवास नसल्यामुळे त्यांना बिबट्यांच्या संवर्धनात प्रगती मिळते. या हाताने असलेल्या प्राण्यांमध्ये अनुभूती असलेली महिती लोकांच्या मनात मोठी निर्माण करते. या मोतीमुळे 'हा प्राण्यांना फक्त दूर सोडू नका.'

वेगवेगळा प्रयत्न करतात. ३. एखादा बिबट्या एखादा ठिकाणातून दुरीकरे सोडल्यास परिसरामितीला गोंगळ येण्यामुळे मानवासारखी हाचिहात करत राहते. प्राणीगत मानव जिवे या प्रत्येका वावर आहे. असा भागात संशोधनाचे मोठ्या प्रमाणावर अपाव दिवतू येते. बिबट्याच्या जीवासाखबदल, मानव-बिबट्या

सुरक्षेकरी. लोकांमध्ये जागरूकता निर्माण करण्यासाठी काही सामने बनविण्यात आली, ज्यात बिबट्याचे जीवासाख आणि सुरक्षिततेचे उपाय रेखाटण्यात आले आहेत. लोकांची आणि मुलांची प्रगतीचे संकेत साधण्यासाठी 'कला' या माध्यमाच्या उपायां करण्याच्या उद्देशाने ही सामने बनविण्यात आली. बिबट्याच्या वावर असलेल्या भागात स्वतःची आणि स्वतःच्या पशुधनानी काळजी घेण्यात कोणत्या गोष्टी करण्यात आली कोणत्या गोष्टी करू नयेत असा संकेतच ही महिती मांडली आहे. ही सर्व महिती संशोधन आणि जे सध्या या भागात कुळातील प्रगतीमिश्रित एकत्र अविद्यमान राहतात त्यांच्याकडून मिळालेल्या महितीवर आधारित आहे. यालासुद्धा वेगळे वेगळे, गीत, व्हॉडिये वॉडी आणि टाऊन असे काही समूह आहेत जे बिबट्या या प्राण्यासोबत पिढ्यापिढ्या परिचितियेच्या राहतात. त्यामुळे त्यांना बिबट्याच्या स्वामी आणि अजूनच पशुधनानी काळजी करू लागली आहे. याचे संकेतच झन झन आहे. हे समूह वाघाचा अर्थच बिबट्याच्या 'बायोबा' च्या समात पुढेजातसुद्धा! ज्याप्रमाणे वाघाच्या वेगवेगळ्या महितीची मुली असते, त्याचप्रमाणे काही ठिकाणी वाघाच्या काही काळात वेगवेगळे देखावे पाहू येतात. वाघाची ही एखादी मुलीची असू शकते अथवा दादाच्या स्वरूपातही असू शकते. लोकांची श्रद्धा अशी आहे की, वाघाची गावाची रक्षा करते, त्याच्यापुढे वाघाचे जंतूतले रक्षण करते आणि वाघ बिबट्या आनण्या पशुधनाने हल्ला करत नाही. या बायोबाची पूजा वाघासोबतच केली जाते आणि त्याला नैवेद्य दाखविले जाते. नासिकमध्येच निफाड तालुका हा मोठ्याने नदीच्या काठार वसलेला असून सुधीक महान् ओळखला जातो. जन्मजातीसाठी बिबट्याचा वावर असलेल्या गावातील हाका आणि महितीपर्यायामध्ये मानव-बिबट्या परस्पर संबंध वावर वाघाच्या आधारेच बिबट्यात येते. पडेली ते दादाच्या पिढ्यापिढ्यासाठी त्यांच्या समाजामध्ये पात्रतेनुसार महिती देण्यात येते. या व्याख्यानसत्र मुलांची सर्वां कथावताने आले आणि मुलांच्या प्रश्ने विरसन करण्यात येते. व्याख्यान आयोजित करण्याच्या आघोर गावाच्या सरपंचाची सर्वा कथावताने येते. मुळाखालावतही भेट घेऊन काळ्याचे निवेदन करण्यात येते. १५ ही ते ५० वी च्या महितीपर्यायामध्ये विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी क्वचित अजूनपर्यंतचे व्याख्यान आयोजित करण्यात येते. या व्याख्यानमध्ये संशोधन आणि माहिती देण्यात येते. प्रगती भागातील महितीपर्यायामध्ये संशोधन कथासादरीदेखील संधी उपलब्ध असतात, असा बाबी खुब कमी प्रमाणात मिळत असल्यात. विद्यार्थ्यांना योग्य ते मार्गदर्शन कथासा

दावित याच भागातील हे विद्यार्थी मेरे होऊन संशोधन करण्यात सुरु करतात. या पुढेचा कोणता कथासादरी गोष्टी आहे, असा मुलांना निवडते आहे आणि असे विद्यार्थी 'बिबट्यादूत' म्हणून ओळखले जातात. या मुलांची ही जबाबदारी असते की, अजूनच गावातील लोकांना बिबट्याच्या संवर्धन, स्वतःची आणि आपल्या पशुधनानी काही काळजी घ्यायची याबाबत महिती देणे. या मुलांना लोकांना महिती देण्यासाठी पत्रके, 'बिबट्यादूत' असल्याचे ओळखून आणि एक काळजी मिळवी अशी सातते पुढेची जबाबदारी. पुढा हाकातील मुलांची एक प्रेरणा उपेकच मानण्यात घ्यायलायलायली आहे. वाघाचे संवर्धन आणि बायोबा प्रकल्पामध्ये ही महिती देण्यात येते. या मुलांनी गावातील विद्यार्थ्यांनी 'पाठिंब्या जागरूकता' या विद्यार्थ्यांच्या आयोजक असलेल्या विद्यार्थ्यांत २५ मुलांसाठी प्रत्येक सत्र आहे. निफाडमध्येच दोन महितीपर्यायामध्ये ६५ बिबट्यादूतांनी क्वचित कमी पात्र कुटुंबात ही महिती देण्यात येते. हा प्रकल्प वाघाच्या बायोबासाठी महितीपर्यायामध्ये प्राणवाची खुब मोठ्या प्रमाणात होत आहे. जेवढे या तरण विद्यार्थ्यांनी कुटुंबी लोकांच्या महिती देण्यात येतात, तेवढे असे दिवले आहे की, लोक अजूनच गावातील मुलांकडून ही महिती देण्यात येण्यात उरतसुद्धा होत आहे. मानव आणि बिबट्या याबाबतही संवर्धनप्रकल्प घडता घडता असल्यात तरी लोकांनी बिबट्यादूत म्हणून व्याख्यान पत्रके देण्यात येत आहे. या बिबट्यादूतांना लोकांकडून अनेक प्रश्नांच्या प्रतिक्रिया मिळतात. याचात सारकेचच ठिकाणी अशी महिती देण्याची प्रिती लोकांची केली. स्वामीक महितीपर्यायांकडून असे प्रकल्प चालविले जात आहेत. त्याचप्रमाणेच या व्याख्यानमध्ये निवेदन झालेले कथावताने आहे. लोकांच्या अर्थच बिबट्यादूतांनी आपल्या घरात महिती देण्यात येत आहे. 'बिबट्यादूत'ची खुबदा अजूनच काही कथावताने आणि प्रतिक्रिया आपल्या प्रकल्पामध्ये मिळण्याचा प्रयत्न केला. जरी की, प्रत्येक गावात एक 'बिबट्यादूत' असाच जेणेकरून ते लोकांना अजूनच महिती देणारे राहिले. ही महिती मोठ्या प्रकल्पामध्ये घडतूत गावात वेगवेगळ्या ठिकाणी लोकांची, जेणेकरून ही जातरीच जातरे लोकांच्या लोकांची महिती देणाने मानवाच्या कथावताने संधी मिळाली. आमच्यात या बिबट्यादूत खुब कमी आणि महिती देण्यात येते. त्यामुळे लोकांना आणि घराब्यांना योग्य महिती देण्यामध्ये हे काम कायवात खुब पन्ना आली. असे आपणही प्रकल्प (पान ६ वर)

माणूस आणि बिबट्या : समज आणि गैरसमज



माणूस आणि बिबट्या यांच्यातील परस्पर संबंधामध्ये प्रश्न सोडविण्यासाठी बिबट्या या प्राण्यावर जास्त लक्ष देण्यापेक्षा माणसावरच जास्त लक्ष देणे, ही काळाची गरज

असे गावाचे लोकांकडून हाकाचिच खाण्याकडे पाहिले जाते पण प्रत्येक संशोधनानुसार पुढील गोष्टी दिवतू येतात. १. प्रत्येक बिबट्याचे स्वतःचे एक क्षेत्र (territory) असते. एखाद्या भागातून एक बिबट्या काढून तरी ती ज्या ठिकाणी राहते नाही. ती ज्या ठिकाणी बिबट्याकडून घेतली जाते. त्या भागात राहतात मुलतय च्याच, पण ही आणि लयाच्या जगा हे पुरेसे उपलब्ध असल्यास एकमेक जास्त बिबटें तिथे राहू शकतात. त्यामुळे बिबटें फक्तून दुसऱेकडे सोडल्यास त्यांची संख्या कमी तर होत नाही पण वाढते.

परस्पर संबंध यांची योग्य ती महिती लोकांमध्ये पोहोचविण्यासाठी आणि लोकांमध्ये 'मिठी कमी होऊन त्यांना हा विषय जास्तच जास्त समजावा यासाठी 'जाणता वाघोबा' नावाचा एक प्रकल्प सुरु करण्यात आलेला आहे. जूनवारी २०१६ साली हा प्रकल्प सुरु आणि संपन्नर येथे सुरु करण्यात आला आणि ऑगस्ट २०१७ साली नासिकमध्ये हे काम सुरु करण्यात आले. 'जाणता वाघोबा' हा प्रकल्प महान् वनीभामा, फक्त पत्रकेतून, वाईटवॉर्डकडे कॅम्बरेलून सोसायटी- इंडिया आणि इतर वेगवेगळी वाघा संकुल विद्यार्थी सुरु करण्यात आले आहे. क्वचितगावातील अधिकाऱी, कर्मचारी, शास्त्र, अजूनपर्यंत, कलाकार, शिक्षक या समाजाची एकत्र येऊन ही महिती

पण घडतसुद्धा खुब. अजूनपर्यंत, संपन्नर, नासिक, अकोले, औरंगाबाद यांच्या पशुधनानी परिसरात बदलत्या आहेत. खुब, संपन्नर आणि नासिक येथे मोठ्या प्रमाणावर होत आहे जेवढे ज्ञान हे मनुष्येचे नादी चीस घेतले जाते आणि त्याचप्रमाणे फक्तभाष्याची लयाचे वेळी जाते. झेलीचा जोडहातून पशुधनानी वेळे जाते. आपल्याकडे एक समज आहे की, क्वचित ही एक कोळारच राहतात. पण, मोतीपर्याय असलेल्या आणि मानवाची भिडवट करी असलेल्या या भागात बिबट्या, बोले, रानमनर, उद, मानर, बाघी आणि बिबट्या या प्राण्यांचा वावरसुद्धा आढळते. संशोधित जलाच्या हद्दी या लोकांनी स्वतःसाठी बनविलेल्या आहेत. पण प्राण्यांना या हद्दी कसा कळवाय? ६०-७० वर्षांची असली इतरकडून जमीन, ही जेवढा या भागात आहे, काळेबाळे वेळीसुद्धा खुबच बनविल्या सुवातात झाली. लोकां लोकां ससलेले असणे फाड आणि होतंय मळे हे लयाच्या जगा, पण ही आणि खड्याला खाऊ पुरवित असल्यात या प्राण्यांचा अधिवास बनने आहेत. बिबट्याकडून पशुधनानी हानी आणि काही वेळा होतात काम काल असल्यात सोसायट्याच्या वेळी अजूनच हनी च्याच घने होत घडता राहतात घडतात. बिबट्याकडून मुलांच्या झाल्याच्या घडतया खुब कमी

लोकमत



गोदाकाठचे भय होतंय कमी...

निफाड तालुक्यात बिबट्याच्या हल्ल्यात जनावरे, माणसे खणी होण्याच्या घटना सातत्याने जरी घडत असल्या तरी या घटनांचे प्रमाण आता कमी होण्यास मदत होत आहे. गोदाकाठवरील सायबेड्यापासून पुढे पंचक्रोशीतील विविध शाळा-महाविद्यालयांमध्ये शिक्षकांच्या विद्यार्थ्यांपैकी ६५ महाविद्यालयीन व १६ शाळेच्या विद्यार्थी 'बिबट्यादूत'ची भूमिका चोखपणे जबाबदारी दिसत आहे. प्रत्येक वांधावर जाऊन गायकऱ्यांना 'बिबट्यादूत' बिबट्याविषयीची महिती व त्याचे जीवशास्त्र पटवून देण्याचा प्रयत्न करत आहेत. पिंजरे लावून येथील समस्या कायमस्वरुपी सुटणार तर नाहीच; मात्र ती अधिक भोमर होणार आहे, त्यामुळे नागरिकांमध्येच बिबट्याविषयीची जागरूकता निर्माण कथाच्या उद्देशाने २०१७ साली नोव्हेंबर महिन्यात 'जाणता वाघोबा' हे अभियान नासिक वनीभामा पुरव्या घरीने हाती घेण्यात आले. या अभियानात स्वामीक लोकांकडून चांगला प्रतिसाद मिळाला. वर्षभरात या अभियानात गोदाकाठवरील विविध शाळा-महाविद्यालयांमध्ये जाऊन विद्यार्थ्यांची संवाद साधत लक्ष केंद्रित करण्यात आले. या भागात मविप्र संस्थेच्या शाळा-महाविद्यालयांची संख्या अधिक आहे. या संस्थेकडूनही वनीभामा आणि वाईटवॉर्डकडे कॉम्बिनेशन सोसायटीच्या स्वयंसेवकांना सहकार्य मिळाले. यामुळे या भागात 'जाणता वाघोबा' यशस्वी ठरल्याचे उपवनसंरक्षक डॉ. शिवाबाळा. एस यांनी सांगितले.

'जाणता वाघोबा'चे यश : ८१ विद्यार्थी पटवून देताहेत बिबट्याचे जीवशास्त्र 'बिबट्यादूत' दारोदारी

अन्नहर रोष, | लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क
नासिक : 'भय इथले संपत नाही...' असे निफाड तालुक्यातील गोदाकाठबाबतही बोलले जात असले तरी बिबट्याच्या दहशतीने थरारणारा गोदाकाठ येत्या काही दिवसांतच शांत होण्यास मदत होणार आहे. कारण बिबट्या या वन्यप्राण्याचे जीवशास्त्र आता लोकांपर्यंत पोहोचविले जात आहे, त्यामुळे सायबेड्या ते थेट तारु खेडलेपर्यंत रहिवाशांमध्ये जागरूकता निर्माण होऊ लागली आहे. जनप्रबोधन करणारे कुठल्याही अन्य शहरातून आलेले नाही, तर तेदेखील गोदाकाठवरील पुत्र असून, 'बिबट्यादूत'च्या भूमिकेतून ते दारोदारी पोहोचत आहे.



गोदाकाठवरील पंचक्रोशीत घरोघरी 'बिबट्यादूत' प्राम्गम्यांना महिती देत आहेत.



गोदाकाठवरील पंचक्रोशीत घरोघरी 'बिबट्यादूत' प्राम्गम्यांना महिती देत आहेत.

सहा महिन्यांनंतर निवड
सुरुवातीचे सहा महिने विद्यार्थ्यांना संबंधित वन्यजीव संस्था, स्वामीक वनरक्षकांनी बिबट्याचे जीवशास्त्र समजावून देण्याचा पुरेपर प्रयत्न केला. यानंतर विद्यार्थ्यांमधूनच 'बिबट्यादूत' निवडण्यात आले. या दुतांना बिबट्याविषयीचे समज-गैरसमज लक्षात आणून देणारी महितीपुस्तिका, सचित्र महितीपत्रके, ओळखपत्र आदी जनजागृतीपर साहित्य पुरविण्यात आले. विद्यार्थ्यांनी आपापल्या भागात जाऊन जनप्रबोधनाला सुरुवात केली. प्रत्येक बिबट्यादूतांना प्रारंभी किमान पाच कुटुंबांच्या घरी भेट दिली.

पिंजऱ्याने समस्या बतते भोमर
पिंजरा लावून बिबट्याच्या समस्येवर मात करावे, असा जरी सार्वसामान्यांचा समज असला तरी शास्त्रीयवदुच्या संशोधनातून अभ्यासकांनी हा गैरसमज असल्याचे सिद्ध केले आहे. कारण पिंजरा लावून एखादा बिबट्या जेवढेच वेगवेगळे केला तर तासुद्धा प्रलपत प्रलपत असून जरी निकाली निघाला असा दिलासा नारीला देतसुद्धा मिळतो; मात्र काही दिवसांतच त्या बिबट्याची जगाण दुसरे बिबटें घेतत आणि समस्या सुटण्यापेक्षा भोमर बनते. ज्या बिबट्याला जेवढेच वेळे आहे, त्याला जेवढे जंगलात सोडले जाते तेवढे तो विचरतो आणि तेवढी बिबट्याकडून त्याला थोका संवत्तो, त्यामुळे तो नवीनच्या नाराजी भागात शिरकाव करतो.

कृषिप्रदान भागात वन्यजिवांचे वास्तव्य
वन्यजीव जंगलात असतात, असे शालेय जीवनापासून आपण ऐकत आलो आहे. मात्र रानमांजर, कोहळा, बिबट्या, तरस असे वन्यजीव कृषिप्रदान भागात वास्तव्यास असतात; मात्र याबाबत अनेकदा दुर्लक्ष केले जाते. त्यामुळे मानव-वन्यजिवांचा संघर्ष निर्माण होतो.
गोदाकाठवरील असेच काही घडले. ही परिस्थिती बदलवण्यासाठी वर्षभरापूर्वी जणता वाघोबा अभियान हाती घेतले गेले. या माध्यमातून सध्या ८१ 'बिबट्यादूत' या भागात जनजागृती करत बिबट्याविषयीची शास्त्रीय महिती रहिवासांपर्यंत पोहोचवत आहे.



शालेय बिबट्यादूतांच्या घमू.

लोकमत विशेष
Hello Nashik
Page No. 7 Jul 25, 2018
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शास्त्र, रीतावर ज्ञानात व्याख्याची काळजी, शेतात काम करतांना क्वती सावधानी घ्यायची, पशुधनान्यात क्वती काळजी घ्यावी आदी महिती विद्यार्थी सातत आहेत.

लोकमत

सुशिक्षित
SCHOOL INITIATIVE




बिबट्यांची मैत्रीण

बिबटे जर गावात येणारच असतील, तर त्यांच्यासोबत माणूस नीट वागू शकतो का, असा प्रयत्न करणाऱ्या मृणालताईची आयडिया : 'जाणता वाघोबा'

अता नाशिकच्या निफाड तालुक्यात तिचं काम सुरु आहे. या सगळ्या प्रकल्पाचं नावच आहे 'जाणता वाघोबा'.

एखाद्या वस्तीमध्ये बिबट्या घुसला की त्याची मोठी घातमी होते, त्यानं जनावरांवर हल्ला केला तर त्याच्या मोठ्या घातम्या प्रसिद्ध होतात. त्यामुळे तेथील लोकांच्या बाबतीत हा प्रश्न मोठा संवेदनशील होतो. अशा प्रदेशातील लोकांच्या भावना समजून घेऊन त्यांच्याबरोबर काम करणं अत्यंत आव्हानात्मक असतं. बिबट्या हा प्राणी माणसाला घाबरणारा आहे. त्याचा एका ठावीक क्षेत्रात वावर असतो. तो कोणत्याही परिस्थितीत स्वतःमध्ये बदल करून जगू शकतो. बिबट्याच्या मादीबरोबर त्याची पिलं एक-दोन वर्षे राहतात आणि ती पिलं नवा प्रदेश शोधेपर्यंत मादी नव्या पिलाना जन्म देत नाही. माणसांवर झालेले हल्ले हे

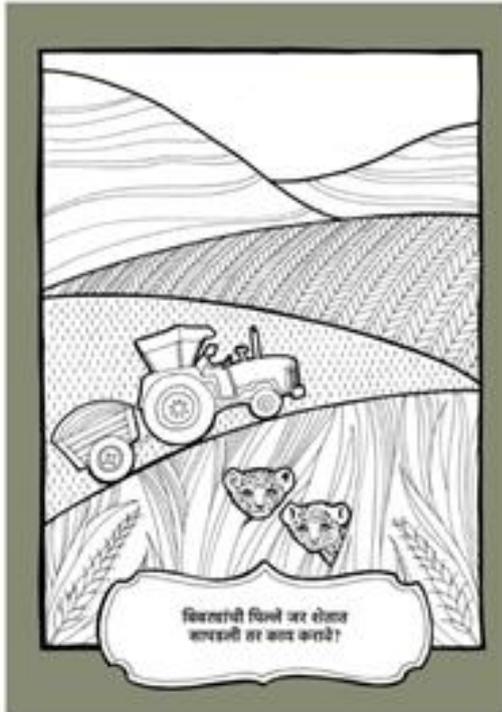
अनवधानाने क्विया कोणी तरी त्रास दिल्यामुळे होतात, ही सगळी माहिती गावागावात जाऊन देणं हे मृणालताईचं काम आहे.

लहान मुलांनी शाळेत जाताना, शेतात जाताना, संध्याकाळी फिरताना काय काळजी घ्यावी, रात्री शेतात मोटर सुरु करण्यास जाताना कोणती खबरदारी घेतली पाहिजे याबाबत मृणालताई लोकांना सूचना देते. जेथे कचरा तेथे कुत्रा आणि कुत्रा तेथे बिबट्या असं समीकरण असल्यामुळे लोकांना आजूबाजूचे प्रदेश स्वच्छ ठेवण्यासही ती सांगते.

हे सगळं काम गावागावांतील ग्रामपंचायती आणि शाळांमध्ये जाऊन केलं जातं. काही गावांमध्ये कॉलेजमध्ये जाणाऱ्या मुलांना नियतून त्यांच्यामध्ये बिबट्याबद्दल तयार करण्यात आले आहेत. त्यांना बिबट्याची सर्व माहिती देऊन प्रशिक्षित करण्यात आलं आहे. ही मुलं चित्रांच्या आणि माहितीच्या माध्यमातून गावातील प्रत्येक घरात जाऊन बिबट्याबद्दल लोकांना साक्षर करतात. यामुळे अल्पावधीतच गावातील लोकांना बिबट्याच्या सवयी तसेच हल्ले होऊ नयेत यासाठी खबरदारी घेण्याची माहिती मिळते. काही मुलांनी कॉलेजमधला पर्यावरण प्रकल्प म्हणून सुद्धा बिबट्याबद्दल होण्याचं काम केलं. काही ठिकाणी उसाच्या शेतांमध्ये बिबट्याची पिलं मिळतात, त्यांची आईपासून ताटातून झाल्यानंतर तिच्याकडून चवताळून हल्ले होण्याच्या घटना घडलेल्या आहेत.

मृणालताईच्या कामामुळे अनेकदा पिलं आणि आई यांची पुनर्भेट झालेली आहे. अशाप्रकारचं लोकशिक्षण देण्यासाठी तिला यशस्वीपणे सहकार्याची मिळते. बिबट्याच्या समस्येवर उपाय लोकच काढू शकतात, असा तिला विश्वास वाटतो.

Mumbai Main
Page No. 10 Aug 13, 2018
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बिबट्यांची पिलं जर शेतात कापडणी तर काय करावे?

बिबट्यांचा शेतात आल्या शेतात बिबट्यांची पिलं कापडण घेतात. यांचे काम चकक्यात शेतातून काढून घ्यायला पाहिजे. त्यांचे काम जे पशूंना घात करू शकते.

अशावेळी आपण जसा अजिबात काय करू नको.
शेतकरी आपल्या शेतकरी शेतात काढून घ्यावे.
शेतकरी/शेतकरी शेतकरी काढून घ्यावे.

अशावेळी काय करावे? आपण जसा अजिबात काय करू नको. शेतकरी आपल्या शेतकरी शेतात काढून घ्यावे. शेतकरी/शेतकरी शेतकरी काढून घ्यावे.

अशावेळी तुम्ही अजिबात काय करू नको. शेतकरी आपल्या शेतकरी शेतात काढून घ्यावे. शेतकरी/शेतकरी शेतकरी काढून घ्यावे.

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Rufford

Forest dept shifts focus from conflict to co-existence

■ **Trapping leopards and their translocations do not work according to latest research**

SHEVANI GANESH
 NASHIK, APR 29

The leopard-human conflict is a complex and burning conservation issue - that of sharing space with our wild cat neighbours. Nashik has some hot spots like Niphad where this conflict is rampant wherewith a loss of forest cover sugarcane fields provide safe havens for breeding leopards and dogs and cattle provide easy prey. According to deputy conservator of forests Dr S Shiva Bala they have a rapid action force stationed there which gets at least two to three calls everyday. There have been human casualties and the conventional wisdom was to tranquilise the leopards, or trap them in cages and drop them off in places like Mahshejghat or Bhamardara but the animals just kept coming back. A study on a leopard the researchers named Ajoba revealed that the leopard travelled across mountains, swam across a creek, crossed a railway track to come back to where it was trapped in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. During a workshop held by the forest depart-



Workshop on leopards by forest department.

ment along with Wildlife Trust of India participants included many officials of the forest department were told about the nature of the problem of how man should co-exist with the big cat. The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is an Indian nature conservation organisation to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals. With scientific research to back its findings researcher Nikit Surve presented the key findings about the study. "When the forest department traps a leopard people look at it as if a naxalite or some big criminal has been trapped. We should stop using the word man-animal conflict and start talking about coexistence," said senior wildlife expert from Nashik, NB Bhure. The examples from SGNP have proved that this can be done. Through scientific research, capacity building, partnership with NGOs and engaging the public and getting their co-operation Nashik district can live peacefully with this shy animal.

Lessons learnt from SGNP

The Sanjay Gandhi National Park has done some pioneering research with senior scientists like Vidya Athreya who used a micro-chip collared some leopards.

Nikit Surve conducted the first-ever official, scientific census of leopards in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, as a part of his Master's dissertation for the Wildlife Institute of India. Surve went on to conduct the first-ever official, scientific census of leopards in the sprawling urban wilderness known as the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, as a part of his Master's dissertation for the Wildlife Institute of India. Using camera-traps to collect data, he calculated leopard-prey densities and also studied the big cat's feeding habits. Nikit then conducted similar studies in Tungabeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Vasai and in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh along with his team members. The census is quite startling. 41 leopards live in an area of 104 square kilometres in a city that has a density of 30,000 people living per square kilometre. Yet the number of killings and injuries to humans have come down dramatically.

This was done by improving infrastructure like building toilets near houses of tribals living in the forested areas, getting a school bus for kids and creating awareness on how to stay safe in the areas by adopting simple precautionary methods like carrying a torchlight or playing

loud music on the mobile when walking alone in the night. These learning are being transferred to Nashik district now.

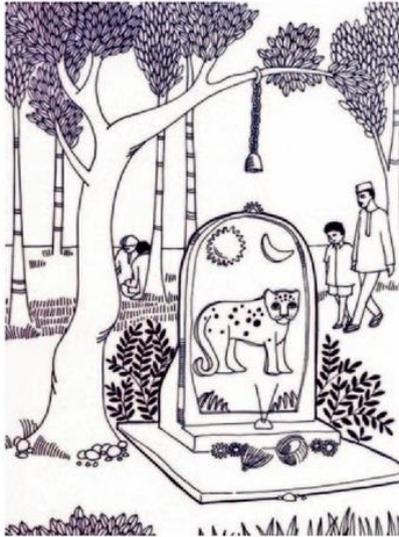
Media must not sensationalise

According to Ranjeet Jadhav who made a presentation on the positive role media can play in presenting incidents of man-animal conflict reporting must be balanced and words like killer cat or man-eater must be avoided. Himself a reporter from Mid-day who skewed the news reporting, after understanding the situation he says his reporting became more objective. What the reporters must do is actually talk to the victim or family members and find out what happened factually as things get blown out of proportion. There was the example of a motorcyclist who took a sharp bend and came across a leopard crossing the road. He skidded and fell down and it was reported as a leopard attack. In another instance a TV reporter during a leopard census said there are this many 'dangerous, ferocious' leopards in the area instead of just reporting the figures. He said there were many instances which such loaded words created a fear in the minds of the people about an animal which is essentially shy and avoids humans. Media must correct this impression. "A leopard is only waist high, but such reports have made it grow gigantic and monstrous in the public imagination. Whereas the most dangerous animal really is man," said Surve.



Lokmat Times

Dos and Donts to avoid leopard attacks



Dos

All leopards are not dangerous.

In fact they have been traditionally worshipped by tribal people who live near forests and close to the animal as Waghoba. He is said to protect the villagers.

If you find leopard cubs call the forest department

Leopard cubs may look very cute but it will make the mother aggressive if you take them home or play with them.

Tie a mosquito net if sleeping outside

Build a compound of barbed wire if you cannot avoid sleeping outside. Otherwise atleast tie a mosquito net. This will provide some protection from the leopard accidentally coming across a sleeping person.

Cattle sheds and chicken coops must be built away from the house

Doors and windows must be built on the opposite side of the sheds. So the leopard will not accidentally

Children going to school must travel in a group

A group provides safety. They must stick to the main roads and not take short cuts. Children should not travel alone.

If an adult sees a leopard do not provoke it.

Just walk away quietly.

Keep cattle and pet safely inside cages or cattle shed to prevent their being attacked.

Adults must carry torch or play music loudly.

If walking alone a torch will alert the leopard and it will avoid you. Similarly

playing loud music, talking loudly or carrying a tick will bells will keep them away.

Don'ts

Trapping a leopard and leaving it in another place

Translocation does not work as leopards are territorial and will return to the place they live in. Research has proved that they can travel back hundreds of miles.

Don't litter around your house

Keep the place around your house free of garbage. This attracts pigs, stray dogs and rats which the leopard like to prey on.

When face to face with a leopard do not threaten it

It is a shy animal which is basically scared of human beings. Do not corner it or threaten it or it will become aggressive.



Flash cards by Wildlife Conservation Society- India.



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11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Mr. Sunil Limaye – He was previously posted as Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife Division), Thane and now he is promoted as Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Nagpur, Maharashtra. He served as an important person of the project as he is a high ranking officer of the Forest Department and a key source of information.

Mr. Ramarao - He was posted as Chief Conservator of Forests, Nashik, Maharashtra. The project area comes under his charge and he was the crucial person to start the work. The permission to start the work was granted by him. Also, he encouraged the student ambassadors by signing the certificates to appreciate their participation in awareness work.

Mr. Ramanujam - He was posted as Deputy Conservator of Forests, East Nashik Forest Division. He was the key person to start the work in Niphad, Nashik, Maharashtra. He gave permission to access the information on sightings of leopards, livestock attack records and human deaths cases. He was very supportive in logistics, establishing contacts with ground staff and other activities during the work.

Mr. Siva Bala - He was newly posted as Deputy Conservator of Forests, East Nashik Forest Division. He was very supportive towards the work. He encouraged students to for their participation in Janata Waghoba project.

Aditi Deo - She is an artist and founder of Doodle Factory. She designed the flash cards which were used in awareness activities conducted in Schools and Colleges.

Nikit Surve – He is a wildlife biologist working with Wildlife Conservation Society-India. He was an important part in conducting workshops for Forest Department officers and staffs, talks in colleges as a resource person.

Forest Department ground staff - The Range Forest Officers, Round Officers, Forest Guards, and *Van Majoor*s (Forest laborers) were helpful in establishing contacts with villagers, school staffs and Gram panchayat members. They participated in awareness activities and shared their experiences too.



