

Environmental awareness camp in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve



The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Bombay Natural History Society jointly conducted residential environmental awareness camps for school students from the buffer areas at a scenic camp site created by the Reserve at the Nature Interpretation Centre in Agarzari village. As many as 363 students and 32 teachers from 12 schools participated in the camps that were conducted between January 6 to February 3, 2019. The camps were geared towards creating awareness among students about the importance of peripheral biodiversity, tiger reserve, human-animal conflict and the role of the Tiger in the forest.

The participating students hailed from the periphery of the Reserve and their families depend on the forest for their daily needs. Hence sensitizing them about the need to protect and conserve the tiger reserve around them assumes significance.

The camp sessions included indoor and outdoor activities. The indoor activities comprised lectures, presentations and discussions on the designated topics pertaining to the reserve, its riches and the need to conserve the reserve.

Forest officers joined the BNHS staff to address the students on topics like human-animal conflict and each individual's role in protecting the forest and nature. Discussions were also held about the electrocution problem in the peripheral villages of the Protected Areas and how solar fencing could

be a viable option to solve this problem. A poster exhibition was also organized to highlight the issue.

Games were held for the camp participants, which focused on various issues related to the local community and the forest. Outdoor programmes involved nature walks and visits to the park and butterfly garden. Students enjoyed park rides in gypsies and encountered the tiger, leopard, wild dogs and various birds. Through nature trails, they got to know many bird species and peripheral plants.

Mr N.R. Pravin, Field Director of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, along with the other forest officials visited the camps and addressed the students on various subjects.

These camps were conducted by Prafulla Sawarkar and Saurabh Dande, with the help of Suraj Ghogare.





