

# Pangolin Conservation Workshop

Venue: Madhav Hall, A.P. Chiplun, Dist. Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.  
20th February 2016



Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra,  
Chiplun

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Chiplun



Maharashtra Police Department  
Ratnagiri Division



Maharashtra Forest  
Department  
Ratnagiri Division

## Acknowledgments

Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra (SNM) is grateful to the Maharashtra State Forest Department, Mr. M. K. Rao, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Kolhapur division, Mr. Vikas Jagtap, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Ratnagiri division for funding and all other support to the workshop. It would also like to acknowledge Maharashtra State Police department, Dr. Sanjay Shinde Superintendent of Police, Ratnagiri, Mr. Pramod Makeswar Police Inspector, Chiplun for extending their support for the workshop.

## Introduction

Pangolin or Scaly Ant Eater is the only true scale-bearing mammal in the world. It feeds on the eggs, larvae and adults of ants and termites some of which are serious domestic and agricultural pests. Thus, Pangolin serves as natural pest control for the human society. Geographically, there are two species of Pangolins reported in India. One of them is Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*). It is found in almost all parts of India except North Eastern states and high altitude regions in the Himalayas.

As per the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), there is hardly any information available on population level of any species of pangolin. Pangolin is less studied due to its secretive, solitary, and nocturnal habits. Nevertheless, based on the volume of Pangolin body parts in the international wildlife trade, all species of Pangolin are listed in the global list of threatened animals. Pangolin scales and meat are highly valued in traditional Chinese medicine. In the red list of animals published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Indian Pangolin is listed in the Endangered (EN) category. In India, it is listed in the Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life Act 1972, signifying highest protection needed to save its natural population.

**जागतिक खवले मांजर दिवस**  
दि. २० फेब्रुवारी २०१६  
**खवले मांजर वाचवा**  
**कार्यशाळा**

**सह्याद्री निसर्ग मित्र**  
11, पुनापट्टे चार्ज, मारोही, चिपळूण.  
भाऊ कळदरे - 9373610817,  
उद्यम पंजीत - 9881575033

**महाराष्ट्र पोलीस**  
विभाग  
रत्नागिरी विभाग

**महाराष्ट्र वन विभाग**  
विभागीय वन अधिकारी  
मारोही, चिपळूण.  
फोन नं.: 02355-252804

Banner designed for the workshop

Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra (SNM) has recently taken up awareness generation and sensitization of local communities in coastal Maharashtra, on conservation of Indian Pangolin. This initiative of SNM was triggered by two recent incidents in Ratnagiri district of Konkan region. In July 2015, 44kg of Pangolin scales was confiscated near Chiplun and again in February 2016, 12 kg was confiscated near Dapoli. After these incidents, SNM has decided to initiate a systematic awareness generation on Pangolin conservation in Konkan. 'International Pangolin Day' being celebrated on the third Saturday of February was the most fitting day to start this initiative. Thus, on 20th February 2016, an orientation cum awareness generation workshop on Pangolin conservation was conducted at Chiplun. Maharashtra Forest Department and Maharashtra Police Department collaborated in organizing this workshop.

### **Workshop proceedings**

This was a first ever workshop on Indian Pangolin, in Konkan region. It was attended by 200 participants. The participants included officials of the State Forest Department, State Police Department, Police Patils (Principle village official of the Police department), Sarpanchs (village heads), Presidents of Dispute-Free Village Committee, Biodiversity Management Committee members and conservationists.

Mr. Kole, Range Forest Officer (RFO) Chiplun welcomed the guest and audience. Mr. M. K. Rao, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Kolhapur division delivered inaugural speech of this workshop. Mr. Rao said, "Pangolin is the most poached mammal in India. This workshop is a beginning of collaborative efforts of the line departments, NGO's, villagers and conservationists to reach out, educate and convert poachers into main stream conservationists". He also guided the present audience about the legal aspects of taking action against poachers. Mr. Vikas Jagtap, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Ratnagiri division stressed on creating awareness among local community, tribes and assured department level participation in the awareness programs planned in future by SNM. This speech was followed by the speech of Mr. Bhau Katdare, President of SNM. He explained the urgency to undertake conservation efforts and the role of SNM in these initiatives.

Mr. Patil, Inspector, Shirgaon and Mr. Kakade, Assistant Police Inspector, Chiplun also spoke on the occasion and assured full co-operation for pangolin conservation work. Mr. Vijay Mahabal's presentation about pangolin's life was highly appreciated. A 7 minute documentary was also screened which was an eye-opener for everyone.

A discussion session was held after this wherein many participants shared their experiences and gave a brief idea of the current scenario. Some participants expressed their views for conservation strategy. The State Forest Department officers explained the rescue operation of the species. A strategy for carrying out Pangolin conservation through community efforts was formulated through this discussion. A few steps that have been decided are:

To undertake awareness generation for local tribe communities which is as of now is the most skilled community in catching the Pangolins.

To generate new livelihood avenues for tribes to facilitate protection and conservation of Indian Pangolin.

To find out current status of Indian Pangolin in the Konkan region.

To arrange workshop for biodiversity conservation for nature lovers in Konkan.

“Awareness, additional income avenues through conservation action for the community through participatory eco-tourism, marketing of local products and services and creating a pride for the local conservation work is a three prong strategy finalized in the workshop will be adopted by SNM for pangolin conservation” stated Mr. Bhau Katdare, at the end of this session.

The village heads and Presidents of Dispute-free Village Committees assured their support to the campaign on Indian Pangolin Conservation in Konkan. A total of 132 village representatives from eight tehsils of Ratnagiri district attended the workshop. The following table shows the target audience attending the workshop.

### Category and number of participants in workshop

1. Forest Department officials - 31
2. Police Patil (Representative of police in Village) officials - 85
3. Tanta mukta Adhyaksha (Presidents of Dispute-Free Village Committee) - 36
4. Students - 5
5. Nature Lovers - 19
6. SNM volunteers - 15
7. Sarpanch (Village heads) - 2
8. Police Department officials - 5

Total number of participants -198

A mug with Indian Pangolin’s image was presented to all workshop participants as a souvenir (Image 2). At the end of the workshop, Mr. Uday Pandit, Secretary of SNM and Mr. Vikas Jagtap, DFO, Ratnagiri appealed to all participants to share the information they would come across regarding Indian Pangolin to the contact numbers: (02355) 253030, 252804 and 9373610817, 9373610802. They assured to the participants that confidentiality of the information and identity of the informers will be protected.



Mug, cloth bag presented to the workshop participants and A pamphlets designed in Marathi for distribution during the workshop



Images clicked during the workshop



प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (वन बल प्रमुख), महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांचे कार्यालय  
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विषय :- खवले मांजर (Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata*)  
संवर्धन बाबत.

क्रमांक : कक्ष 22/(8)/व.जी./प्र.क्र.821(राकिर्ण)/ 5339/2015-16  
नागपूर-440 001 दिनांक ०९ फेब्रुवारी, 2016

प्रति,

मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (प्रादेशिक)  
कोल्हापूर

संदर्भ :- श्री भाऊ काटदरे, अध्यक्ष, सहयाद्री निसर्ग मित्र संस्था, चिपळुन, जि. रत्नागिरी  
यांचेकडील पत्र क्रमांक राणिमि 309/2015-16, दिनांक 20/1/2016

संदर्भीय पत्रान्वये श्री भाऊ काटदरे, अध्यक्ष, सहयाद्री निसर्ग मित्र संस्था, चिपळुन, जि. रत्नागिरी यांनी धोक्यात असलेले खवले मांजर Indian Pangolin या प्राण्यांचे संरक्षणाबाबत त्यांचे संस्थे मार्फत जन जागृतीचे काम करित असल्याचे कळविले असून याकामी वनविभागाचे सहकार्य मिळण्याबाबत विनंती केलेली आहे. सदर पत्राची प्रत आपणासही पृष्ठांकित करण्यात आलेली आहे.

तरी, सदर प्रकरणी श्री भाऊ काटदरे, अध्यक्ष, सहयाद्री निसर्ग मित्र संस्था, चिपळुन, हे खवले मांजर संवर्धनाचे उत्तम कार्य करित असल्याने वनविभागा मार्फत त्यांना योग्य ते सर्व सहकार्य करावे.

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (वन्यजीव)  
महाराष्ट्र राज्य करीता

प्रतिलिपि :- श्री भाऊ काटदरे, अध्यक्ष, सहयाद्री निसर्ग मित्र संस्था, 11, युनायटेड पार्क, मार्कडी, चिपळुन,  
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