



मुंबई तरुण भारत



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ABOUT THE EVENT:

MahaMTB, in partnership with the Vivek PARC Foundation's Wildlife Research Division, organized the 'Dhole Action Plan Meeting' at the Srujan Science & Innovation Centre in Devrukh, Ratnagiri district. The event, held on May 26, 2024, was supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society India (WCSI) and the Devrukh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal. Several organizations, including the Maharashtra Forest Department, Sahyadri Sankalpa Society, Srushtidnyan, Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra, Vanashree Foundation, Nisarga Sobati, and the Naturalist Foundation, collaborated on the event. Attendees included officials from the Maharashtra Forest Department, wildlife researchers, enthusiasts, citizen scientists, activists, media representatives, and social media influencers. The event featured presentations, talks, and group discussions centered on Dhole conservation. This report provides a comprehensive summary of the key insights documented during the event.

CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

Asiatic Wild Dog / Dhole / रानकुतरा / कोळसुंदा
Cuon alpinus
Of Raigad, Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg districts of
Maharashtra

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Dholes (*Cuon alpinus*), also known as Asiatic Wild Dogs, are locally referred to as कोळसुंदा (*kolsunda*) or कोळीसना (*kolisna*) are native to South and Southeast Asia, and in

India. They inhabit the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, Central, and parts of North and Northeast India. Dholes act as apex predators within their ecosystems, preying on large herbivores such as sambar deer, chital, and occasionally gaurs. They coexist with other top predators, including tigers and leopards, sharing the same habitats. Although dholes have a wide distribution, they are currently listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Recent sightings of dholes from northern parts of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra have given rise to interactions between them and relevant stakeholders in the region.

On May 2024, over 70 subject experts, nature enthusiasts, and officials from the Maharashtra Forest Department, representing Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts, convened at the Srujan Science and Innovation Activity Centre in Devrukh. The event, organized by MahaMTB and Vivek PARC Foundation, with support from Wildlife Conservation Society, India and Devrukh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, focused on intensive conservation planning for dholes.

During the workshop, participants collaborated to create a vision for the future of dholes and to identify and design strategies and initiatives specific to their districts. This aims of this initiative was to foster a long-term, collaborative effort to conserve dholes in the rapidly changing Kokan region of Maharashtra.

A threat analysis conducted during the workshop identified four main threats to dholes in the region: habitat loss, feral & stray dogs, human-dhole conflict, and insufficient knowledge. Discussion groups addressed these issues, establishing goals and potential strategies to mitigate them. Additionally, the groups emphasized the importance of awareness sessions in contributing to dhole conservation efforts.

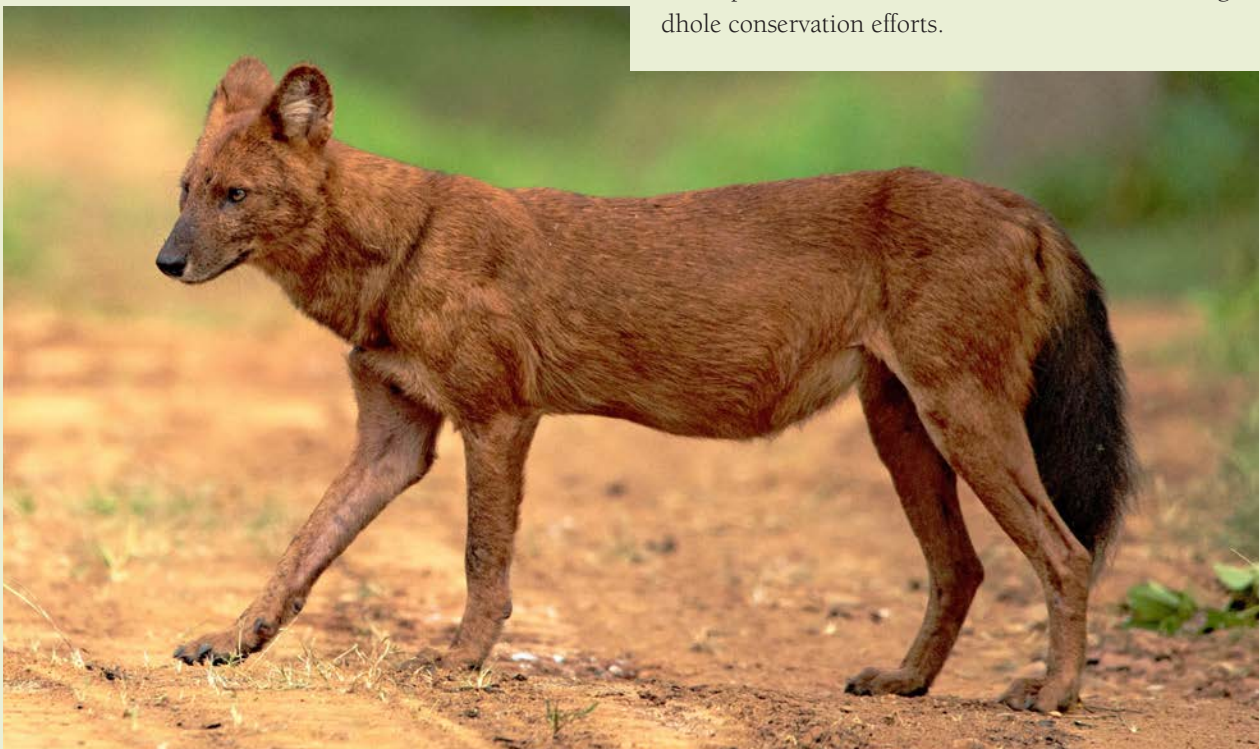


IMAGE CREDIT: ROHIT VARMA



INTRODUCTION:

A wide range of megafauna, including large carnivores like tigers (*Panthera tigris*), leopards (*Panthera pardus*), and dholes (*Cuon alpinus*), inhabit human-dominated landscapes. This is largely due to habitat loss caused by urbanization, expanding agriculture, deforestation, and increasing linear intrusions such as roadways and railways. These animals are not restricted by political boundaries, as their extensive home ranges necessitate the use of vast areas (Athreya et al., 2015). Due to their body size, geographic range limits, and extensive home ranges, large terrestrial mammalian species are often more susceptible to extinction risks than other taxonomic groups (Ceballos et al., 2005, 2017; Macdonald, 2019).

Large carnivores play a crucial ecological role by occupying important trophic niches, which helps regulate biotic community structure and dynamics (Ford & Goheen, 2015). The range reduction and local extinction of species in this guild, observed in recent times, can have significant trophic consequences across ecological systems and landscapes (Elmhagen et al., 2010; Estes et al., 2011; Wolf & Ripple, 2017). Since various species and their meta-populations exist outside protected area (PA) boundaries, it is essential to focus on their conservation in multi-use landscapes (Chanchani et al., 2015; Warrior et al., 2020). Although shared landscapes are vital for the survival of large carnivores, local extirpation remains a significant threat to their conservation (Carter & Linnell,

2016). Recognizing the importance of shared landscapes is crucial for the conservation of these carnivores.

Dholes are among the most threatened large carnivores globally (Kamler et al., 2015). These social, pack-living wild canids are distributed in 11 countries across South and Southeast Asia, with India hosting the largest population. Estimates indicate that dholes have experienced drastic range contractions of about 82% from their historic geographical range (Kamler et al., 2015). In India alone, dholes have lost nearly 60% of their former range over the last century (Srivathsa et al., 2020), exhibiting persistent patterns of local extinctions (Srivathsa et al., 2019).

Historically widespread throughout the country, dholes were considered 'vermin' and extensively bounty-hunted for much of the 20th century (Kamler et al., 2015). Today, dholes persist in small, presumably declining populations, mostly confined to forested habitats (Sillero-Zubiri et al., 2004; Karanth et al., 2009; Punjabi et al., 2017; Srivathsa et al., 2019a; b). In India, most dhole metapopulations are clustered in three primary landscapes: the Western Ghats, Central India, and Northeast India.

SPECIES PROFILE:

Taxonomy: Dholes, members of the Canidae family, fall under the subfamily Caninae, which includes all living canids and their most recent fossil relatives. According to Thenius (1945), the genus *Cuon* originated post-Pleistocene and is more closely related to extant jackals than to wolves. Initially, Mivart (1890) distinguished two species of *Cuon*: the northern dhole (*C. alpinus*) and the southern dhole (*C. javanicus*), based on differences in body size and molar structure. Later, Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1966) recognized dholes as a single species, divided into up to 11 subspecies based on coat length and color variations (Durbin et al. 2004). However, the validity of many of these subspecies is uncertain, as a genetic study found no clear distinctions (Iyengar et al. 2005). It's important to note that Iyengar et al. 's samples were only from the southern half of the dhole's range, leaving the genetic distinctiveness between northern and southern dholes unresolved.

Description: Dholes weigh between 15-20 kg, with a head-to-body length of 88-135 cm and a tail length of 32-50 cm. They have shorter legs, bushier tails, and shorter, thicker muzzles compared to wolves and jackals. Their general dorsal pelage is rusty red, with variations in shade across different regions in India. The undersides, chest, inner legs, and lips feature varying amounts of white or cream fur. The tail is russet at its base and predominantly black, a color also found on their nose (Menon, 2023).



IMAGE CREDIT: SURYA RAMCHANDRAN

Habitat: In South Asia, dholes are predominantly found in forests and dense scrub jungles (Krishnan, 1972; Davidar, 1975). Their ideal habitat consists of abundant prey, water sources, forests with grassy clearings, suitable den sites, and minimal human disturbance (Johnsingh, 1985). Despite being a forest species, dholes are frequently observed traveling or resting on forest roads, trails, dry streambeds, or open areas. They are also fond of water and are often seen cooling off in shallow waters during the hot season, especially after hunts.

Behavior: Dholes are excellent hunters who hunt in packs. The pack size of dholes varies from time to time in a given area. During a hunt, the dholes surround the prey and disembowel it a few minutes after the hunt and eat the prey clean to its bones. During a hunt, their contact call sounds like an infrasonic whistle, which can be heard very faintly (Menon, 2023).

Population trend: Kalmer et al. (2015) have assessed that the population of dholes is declining, with only about 1,000 to 2,200 mature individuals remaining within their current range. Burton (1940) noted that dhole populations tend to fluctuate sharply, with declines invariably following population peaks. While the exact cause of these declines is unclear, symptoms observed in sick dholes during these periods suggest that canine distemper may be a primary factor. Additionally, systematic killing of dholes, seen as competitors to human hunters, has contributed to their decline. The disappearance of

dholes from many forested areas in India is primarily due to habitat loss, prey depletion, disease, and human persecution (Davidar, 1975; Chaudhary, 2016).

CONSERVATION STATUS

Due to a global population decline, dholes are now listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List. In India, they receive the highest level of protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, alongside the national animal, the Tiger. Additionally, dholes, along with a few other canid species, are included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This listing subjects them to international trade regulations designed to ensure their survival is not threatened by such trade.

THREAT IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

During the workshop, participants identified several threats to the dhole populations in the Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts. They examined both the primary causes of these threats and their known or hypothesized impacts on dhole populations, such as mortality, population isolation, and limited population size. The threats were categorized into four main themes: 1) Habitat loss, 2) Human-dhole conflict, 3) Feral and stray dogs, and 4) Insufficient knowledge about dholes. These categories were recognized by participants as the primary threats to dhole populations in their areas. Table 1 provides a summary of the inputs gathered from active participant group discussions.

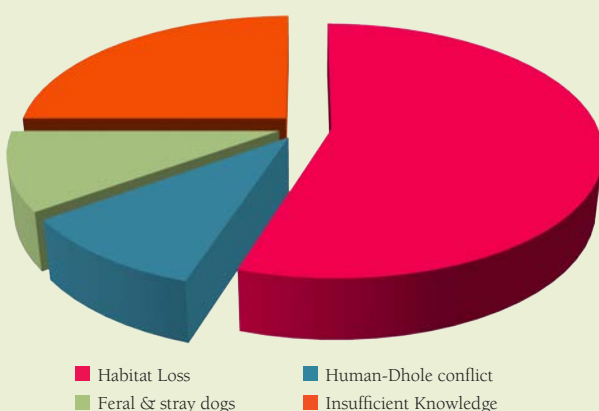


Table 1: Perception of threats listed down by participants which threaten the existence of dholes in the Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Maharashtra

Sr. No.	Threats	
1	HABITAT LOSS	
	1.1	Conversion of privately owned plots into infrastructure
	1.2	Deforestation
	1.3	Little to no management of grasslands
	1.4	Linear intrusions through habitats via roadways and railways
	1.5	Fragmentation of forest due to monoculture
	1.6	Grazing of cattle within forested areas
	1.7	Firewood and NTFP collection
	1.8	Road-kills on newly constructed roads and highways (Habitat fragmentation)
	1.9	Mining
	1.10	Forest fires
	1.11	Killing of wild herbivore prey for bush-meat leading to loss of wild prey base

HUMAN-DHOLE CONFLICT		
2	2.1	Threats to dholes from cattle owners (owing to livestock losses)
	2.2	Retaliatory attacks by humans (reasons other than livestock loss)
	2.3	Feeding on garbage waste leading to change in food preferences
	2.4	Confrontation during firewood collection
	2.5	Locals stealing wild prey hunted by dholes due to religious reasons (only in Sindhudurg)
FERAL & STRAY DOGS		
3	3.1	Risk of disease transmissions like canine distemper & rabies etc. through feral dogs
	3.2	Competition for wild prey, space & home range between dholes and feral/stray dogs
INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE		
4	4.1	Lack of empirical data on a local scale about dhole ecology, habits and behaviour in the region
	4.2	Lack of awareness about Dholes in general among lay person (especially villagers)

Threats faced by Dholes



Based on Table 1 and Figure 1, participants identified habitat loss as the greatest threat to the existence of dholes in the Kokan region of Maharashtra. Contributing factors include conversion of privately owned land into infrastructure & monoculture, deforestation and little to no management of grasslands. Additionally, linear intrusions such as new roadways and existing railway networks contribute to habitat fragmentation, with recorded instances of roadkills on existing roads. Factors such as grazing of cattle into forested habitats, firewood and NTFP collection, mining, forest fires contribute to the loss of dhole habitats. The hunting of wild herbivores for bushmeat has significantly reduced their populations. This scarcity of natural prey forces dholes to target domestic cattle instead.

Following habitat loss, human-dhole conflict was the next significant threat perceived by participants. Wildlife researcher Ms. Sonal Prabhulkar documented livestock losses caused by dholes in the Ratnagiri district, particularly near the buffer zone of the Sahyadri

Tiger Reserve. Her documentation includes cases where marginal cattle herders lost all their buffaloes to dholes. Ms. Prabhulkar and her organization have been providing support kits to these victims, as livestock is crucial for their sustenance. Such incidents can increase hostility towards dholes, leading to retaliatory killings and escalating human-dhole conflict. Sighting a carnivore near villages can trigger fear, potentially resulting in the killing of the dhole. Direct confrontations during activities such as firewood collection may also increase the risk of dholes being hunted. Furthermore, dumping waste, especially poultry remains, near human settlements can attract dholes, raising the risk of confrontations and possibly altering their food preferences. In Sindhudurg, dholes are revered as a deity known as *Devacha Kutra* (God's dog). This cultural belief leads villagers to take away the dhole's hunted prey and distribute it, further escalating conflict.

Feral and stray dogs present another significant threat to wildlife, including dholes. Both belong to the Canidae family and are susceptible to similar diseases, which can be transmitted from feral and stray dogs to dholes. Diseases such as rabies, canine distemper virus (CDV), canine parvovirus (CPV), canine coronavirus (CCV), canine adenovirus (CAV), and canine herpesvirus (CHV) pose serious risks (Costanzi et al., 2021). These diseases can be transferred from feral/stray dogs through direct contact. Additionally, feral and stray dogs compete with dholes for resources such as home range, as observed in various Indian landscapes, threatening their survival.

A major challenge for dhole conservation is the lack of empirical data from a local perspective. While there is extensive global literature on dhole conservation and research, each region presents unique challenges. There

is a significant lack of scientific data on the ecology, distribution, population status, and behavior of dholes in the Kokan region. This gap hinders conservationists and decision-makers from developing effective conservation plans. Moreover, local communities are often unaware of the dholes' existence, leading to a lack of empathy and support for their conservation.

MITIGATORY MEASURES

Based on the discussions about potential threats to dholes in the Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts, participants also proposed potential mitigation measures. The mitigation measures for each group of threats are listed below in Table 2.

Table 2: Mitigation measures suggested by the participants for each threat they enlisted during discussions

Sr. No.	Threats	Mitigation Measures
1	Habitat loss	Covering of privately owned wells to avoid falling and drowning of dholes
		Habitat restoration & management for herbivores to replenish wild prey base of dholes
		Creation of signboards for speed limit on roads passing through forests
		Creation of underpasses on highways to provide safe space for dholes to cross the roads / rails
		Diversion of newly proposed roads from contiguous habitat of dholes
		Creation of fire-lines to restrict wildfires from spreading into entire forested areas
		Restoration of abandoned mining sites & regulating mining activities
		Protection of wildlife corridors to facilitate genetic exchange among various metapopulations of dholes
		Implementation of Tree Felling Act of 1964
2	Human-dhole conflict	Proper waste management especially poultry waste
		Regulations on grazing
		Providing alternative to firewood and other creating livelihood options to reduce community's dependence on forest produce and non-timber forest produce
		Effective compensation system for the loss of livestock
		Strict law enforcement towards hunting of bushmeat to preserve the wild prey base of dholes
3	Feral & stray dogs	Vaccination programs for the stray dogs
		Capturing feral dogs
		Waste management around villages and near forest areas to reduce movement of stray dogs near dhole habitats
4	Insufficient knowledge	Collection of scientific data regarding dhole ecology for better management practices
		Conducting awareness programs in villages for dholes, factors that degrade their habitat such as preventing forest fire and regulate grazing
		Education programs for children for dholes & wildlife
		Creation of social media campaigns for, gather public support for dhole conservation & local communities



In Table 1, participants identified habitat loss as the primary threat to the dhole population in the region. To address this, they proposed several mitigation strategies. Key among these were the management and restoration of forested habitats and the recovery of the dhole's wild prey, such as Chital (*Axis axis*), Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), and Indian muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*). Strengthening law enforcement against bushmeat hunting was also emphasized to preserve the dhole's prey base. Participants highlighted the importance of enforcing the Maharashtra Tree Felling Act of 1964 to prevent large-scale tree cutting, thereby protecting dhole habitats. They also noted the risk wildfires pose to these forests during summer, endangering both dholes and other wildlife. These incidences could be attenuated by adopting collaborative and holistic approach in implementing measures creating and maintaining fire lines to control the spread of fires

Roadways and railways contribute significantly to habitat loss and fragmentation, causing global biodiversity declines. Participants observed roadkill incidents, such as one involving a dhole on the Devrukh-Sakharpa road, and proposed constructing overpasses and underpasses to facilitate safe animal movement. Additionally, they suggested installing signboards to alert drivers to wildlife presence and the need to regulate speed and traffic particularly during night time. Mining, particularly laterite mining in the region, was identified as a major cause of habitat destruction and fragmentation. Participants called for strict regulation of

new mines and proposed a program to restore habitats around abandoned mines. Finally, they stressed the need to identify and establish wildlife corridors to facilitate safe wildlife movement across the landscape.

Human-dhole conflict is an escalating issue in the region, primarily, proper disposal of waste, particularly poultry waste, is crucial to prevent attracting dholes and other wildlife near human settlements, thus avoiding changes in their dietary preferences and reducing the risk of conflict. To reduce confrontation with dholes, regulation on grazing in protected forests would be a fruitful solution. Documented cases near Sahyadri Tiger Reserve where dholes have wiped out entire herds of livestock, particularly buffaloes, belonging to marginal herders. To address this, participants suggested providing subsidies for herders to build sturdy sheds to protect their cattle. Additionally, they emphasized the need for a quick and hassle-free compensation mechanism for livestock losses caused by wildlife. Participants also highlighted the importance of offering alternative livelihoods to forest-dwelling communities and providing alternative solutions to firewood and other forest produces to reduce their dependence on forest and non-timber forest products.

Stray and feral dogs pose a global threat to various species through competition for resources, predation, and disease transmission. Since dholes and stray/feral dogs belong to the same family, they are particularly susceptible to sharing diseases, which could bring disastrous impacts on the dhole population. To counter this issue, participants proposed regular vaccination programs for stray/feral dogs and improved garbage management to prevent attracting both dogs and dholes. Capturing stray and feral dogs to control their population can also be an important solution.



IMAGE CREDIT: PHILIP ROSS





IMAGE CREDIT: SURYA RAMCHANDRA



Participants highlighted a significant lack of knowledge about dholes. To address this, they proposed several initiatives: launching scientific projects to study dhole ecology, involvement of locals as part of research study, organizing educational and awareness programs for local communities and students, and leveraging social media to raise awareness. This includes running awareness campaigns and engaging social media influencers and writers to discuss dhole-related topics.

AWARENESS

To conserve dholes in the rapidly changing Kokan region, where human activity is widespread, raising awareness among the local population is crucial. Nationwide, awareness sessions for large carnivores like leopards, tigers, and wolves have successfully fostered recognition and empathy towards these species. Typically, these sessions are initiated in response to escalating human-animal conflicts, as seen with leopard awareness programs in Nashik and Pune districts following increased human-leopard conflicts. Proactively starting awareness sessions about dholes before conflicts arise could be essential for fostering sustainable coexistence between humans and dholes. The participants proactively suggested ways to create awareness among communities towards dholes:

1. Involving locals into research
2. Organizing school awareness sessions to educate children about the ecology and ecological role of dholes.
3. Producing street plays and theater performances to raise awareness about dholes. Following the success of the musical “*Sangeet Bibat Akhyan*” in Mumbai, which aimed to create awareness about leopards and is now being performed across Maharashtra,

similar initiatives could be developed to highlight the importance of dholes.

4. Engaging in regular dialogue with local community leaders would be a proactive step towards dhole conservation, as they have the influence to effect significant changes within their communities.
5. Conducting training and awareness sessions for local stakeholders such as villagers, forest department personnel, and university students to facilitate data collection and monitoring.
6. Developing citizen science projects that involve community members from all walks of life to contribute to dhole conservation efforts.
7. Designing a dhole mascot to evoke a sense of pride among the community, fostering a commitment to conserving the species.
8. Engaging with media professionals (print, web, and television) to ensure accurate coverage and raise awareness about the species on a larger scale.
9. Collaborate with other social and environmental NGO to increase reach and awareness

ROLE OF COLLABORATIONS AND IMPORTANT DATA GAPS

The Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts collectively form the Kokan region of Maharashtra, characterized by lush green forests, the Sahyadri mountain ranges, and remote villages. This combination creates a challenging landscape for any individual or organization to work extensively. Therefore, it is crucial for multiple researchers, organizations, and communities to contribute to research focused on the ecology of dholes in this region. However, isolated efforts may not be effective in achieving broader conservation



goals. Thus, establishing a collaborative research model, developed by active researchers, is essential. This model should include training, and providing resources such as camera traps and GPS devices, to ensure the long-term success of conservation efforts.

Identifying committed local researchers dedicated to broader conservation goals and providing them with training programs for data collection, conducting awareness campaigns, and facilitating data sharing would initiate the acquisition of accurate dhole ecology data. Leveraging the mobile social media applications as a tool to stay connected with key stakeholders could enhance collaboration, enabling researchers to share data, sightings, and location information effectively. Conducting workshops focused on awareness, research methodologies, and stakeholder empowerment would further strengthen community engagement. Establishing standardized protocols for data acquisition was highlighted by participants as crucial to addressing critical data gaps in the region. Essential questions for developing effective management and conservation action plans for dhole species were as follows:

1. Movement and spatial ecology

- Understanding the distribution of dholes in the Kokan landscape as well as the adjoining non-protected areas of Sahyadris.
- Understanding the migration patterns of dholes on a seasonal scale.
- Identifying corridors used by them

2. Human-dhole interactions

- Understanding perception of people towards dholes.



Mr Uttam Sawant addressing the audience with his experience regarding research in Sahayadri Tiger Reserve



Locals filling out the map where they have Dhole sightings

- Understanding human-dhole interactions within the region.
- Documenting livestock losses & identifying mitigation measures.
- Assessing the impact of feral/stray dogs on dholes.



3. Population ecology

- a. Understanding the population status of dholes in the Kokan region.
- b. Understanding age & gender structure of Dhole packs within the region.

4. Dietary studies

- a. Understanding the status of wild prey base of dholes.
- b. Understanding the dietary preferences of dholes.

5. Behavioral studies

- a. Addressing the impact of the roadway network on dhole distribution.
- b. Understanding communication patterns among packs.
- c. Understanding the spatio-temporal movement patterns of dholes in human-dominated areas.

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रत्नागिरीसह पाच जिल्ह्यांमध्ये रानकुत्र्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी कृती आराखडा

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

रत्नागिरी : कोकण आणि पश्चिम महाराष्ट्रातील रानकुत्र्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी कृती आराखडा तयार करण्यात आला असून वन्यजीव संरक्षण-संवर्धनाच्या क्षेत्रात काम करणाऱ्या स्वयंसेवी संस्था तज्ज्ञ आणि शासनाच्या वन्य विभागाचे अधिकारी संयुक्तपणे अंमलबजावणीसाठी एकत्र आले आहेत.

वाईलडलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया, विवेक पार्क फाऊंडेशन, सृष्टी ज्ञान संस्था, वन विभागाचे ज्येष्ठ अधिकारी, रानकुत्र्यांवरील संशोधक इत्यादींची संयुक्त कार्यशाळा रविवारी देवरुख येथे आयोजित करण्यात आली. यामध्ये वन्यजीव संशोधक श्रीकर अष्टपुत्रे यांनी जोर-जांभळी संवर्धन राखीव ते भोर येथील रानकुत्र्यांच्या अधिवासाचे स्वरूप आणि त्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी आवश्यक उपाययोजनांची माहिती दिली, तर गेली सुमारे १५ वर्षे चिपळूणजवळ कुंभार्ली घाटात या विषयावर संशोधन करत असलेल्या सोनल प्रभुगावकर यांनी जंगलात रानकुत्र्यांबाबत आलेल्या अनुभवांवर आधारित छायाचित्रे, दृकश्राव्य माध्यमातून उत्कृष्ट सादरीकरण केले. तसेच या क्षेत्रात काम करताना स्थानिक ग्रामस्थांकडून मिळणाऱ्या प्रतिसादाची प्रशंसा केली. सह्याद्री व्याघ्र प्रकल्पाचे उपसंचालक उत्तम सावंत यांनी या प्रकल्पांतर्गत येणाऱ्या क्षेत्रात केवळ वाघ नव्हे तर



इतरही वन्यजीवांचा वावर प्रमाण आणि जीवनशैलीबाबत सदीप विश्लेषण केले. वन्यजीव संशोधक गिरीश पंजाबी यांनी राधानगरी ते तिलारी भूभागातील रानकुत्र्यांच्या भ्रमणमार्गाचे सविस्तर माहिती दिली. वन्यजीव निरीक्षक अक्षय खरे आणि निरज सोमण यांनी सादर केलेली गुहागर तालुक्यातील रानकुत्र्यांची निरीक्षणेही लक्षवेधी होती. प्रतीक मोरे आणि शार्दूल केळकर यांनी देवरुख आणि आसपासच्या परिसरातील रानकुत्र्यांची माहिती दिली. या सादरीकरणांच्या पार्श्वभूमीवर झालेल्या गटचर्चांमध्ये कुत्र्यांना असलेले धोके आणि त्याबाबत प्रबोधनासाठी आवश्यक उपाययोजना सुचवण्यात आल्या आहेत. रायगड, रत्नागिरी, सिंधुदुर्ग, सांगली आणि कोल्हापूर येथून

सहभागी वन्यजीव निरीक्षकांनी विविध बाबींचा ऊहापोह केला. रानकुत्रे आढळणाऱ्या ग्रामीण भागात या प्राण्याच्या स्वरूप व वर्तनाबाबत अनेक गैरसमज आहेत. ते दूर करण्यासाठी दृकश्राव्य माध्यम, पोस्टर, समाजमाध्यमे इत्यादींचा वापर करावा, जंगलांमधील नैसर्गिक किंवा मानवनिर्मित वणवे रोखण्यासाठी आवश्यक खबरदारी घेण्यात यावी, गैरसमजातून या प्राण्यांची शिकार होऊ नये याबाबत वनविभाग आणि ग्रामस्थांनीही दक्ष राहावे, गाव पातळीवर जनजागृतीपर कार्यक्रम, चर्चा, बैठका आयोजित करण्यात याव्यात इत्यादी सूचनांचा याबाबतच्या आराखड्यामध्ये समावेश आहे.

पर्यावरणविषयक पत्रकार अक्षय मांडवकर यांनी प्रबोधनपर भूमिका, तर विवेक पार्क फाऊंडेशनचे वन्यजीव संशोधक ओंकार पाटील यांनी संशोधनात्मक भूमिका स्पष्ट केली. अप्पर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक वन्यजीव-पश्चिम डॉ. बेन क्लेमेंट यांनी ऑनलाईन मार्गदर्शन केले. देवरुख शिक्षण प्रसारक मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष सदानंद भागवत, आठल्ये-सप्रे-पिन्ने महाविद्यालयाचे प्राचार्य डॉ. नरेंद्र तेंडोलकर, ज्येष्ठ वन्यजीव संशोधक भाऊ काटदरे, वन्यजीव संशोधक निकीत सुर्वे, कोल्हापूरचे मुख्य वनसंरक्षक मणिकंदन रामानुजम, उपवनसंरक्षक एस. नवकिशोर रेड्डी, रत्नागिरीच्या विभागीय वन अधिकारी गिरिजा देसाई इत्यादी मान्यवर याप्रसंगी उपस्थित होते.

Event covered by Loksatta

पाच जिल्ह्यांत होणार रानकुत्र्यांचे संवर्धन कृती आराखडा तयार ; संशोधक, वनाधिकारी, ग्रामस्थ एकवटले

रत्नागिरी, ता. २७ : कोकण आणि पश्चिम महाराष्ट्रातील रानकुत्र्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी देवरुख येथे झालेल्या बैठकीत कृती आराखडा तयार करण्यात आला आहे. त्या अहवालावर अंमलबजावणी करण्याची खाही देवरुख येथील बैठकीला उपस्थित वनधिकाऱ्यांनी दिली. त्यामुळे रत्नागिरीसह पाच जिल्ह्यांतील रानकुत्र्यांच्या संवर्धनाला बळ मिळणार आहे.

रविवारी (ता. २६) देवरुख येथे आयोजित बैठकीत विवेक पार्क फाऊंडेशन, वनाधिकारी, रानकुत्रा संशोधक, ग्रामस्थ, वन्यजीव निरीक्षक, सोशल मीडिया इन्फ्लुएन्सर उपस्थित होते. रानकुत्रा कृती आराखडा बैठकीचे उद्घाटन सहाद्री व्याघ्र प्रकल्पाचे उपसंचालक उत्तम सावंत, देवरुख शिक्षण प्रसारक मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष सदानंद भागवत, आठल्ये-सप्रे-पिन्ने महाविद्यालयाचे प्राचार्य डॉ. नरेंद्र तेंडोलकर, ज्येष्ठ वन्यजीव संशोधक भाऊ काटदरे आणि 'वाईलडलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया'चे



देवरुख : रानकुत्रे संवर्धन बैठकीला उपस्थित अधिकारी, संशोधक, प्राणीप्रेमी.

वन्यजीव संशोधक निकीत सुर्वे यांच्या उपस्थितीत झाले. याप्रसंगी पर्यावरण पत्रकार अक्षय मांडवकर यांनी प्रबोधनपर भूमिका तर विवेक पार्क फाऊंडेशनचे वन्यजीव संशोधक ओंकार पाटील यांनी संशोधनात्मक भूमिका स्पष्ट केली. अप्पर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक वन्यजीव-पश्चिम डॉ. बेन क्लेमेंट यांनी ऑनलाईन मार्गदर्शन केले. कृती अहवाल कार्यालयाला सादर केला आहे. कोल्हापूरचे मुख्य वनसंरक्षक मणिकंदन रामानुजम, उपवनसंरक्षक एस. नवकिशोर रेड्डी, रत्नागिरीच्या विभागीय वनाधिकारी गिरिजा देसाई उपस्थित होत्या.

उद्घाटनानंतर वन्यजीव संशोधक

श्रीकर अष्टपुत्रे यांचे सादरीकरण झाले. त्यांनी जोर-जांभळी संवर्धन राखीव ते भोर येथील रानकुत्र्यांच्या अधिवासाचे स्वरूप आणि त्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी आवश्यक उपाययोजनांची माहिती दिली. रानकुत्र्यांना असलेले धोके आणि त्यांच्याविषयी प्रबोधनासाठी आवश्यक गट चर्चा झाली. यामध्ये रायगड, रत्नागिरी, सिंधुदुर्ग, सांगली आणि कोल्हापूर येथून सहभागी वन्यजीव निरीक्षकांनी विविध बाबींचा उहापोह केला. सहाद्री व्याघ्र प्रकल्पाचे उपसंचालक उत्तम सावंत यांनी सविस्तरपणे व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील रानकुत्र्यांच्या अधिवासाचे सादरीकरण केले. वन्यजीव संशोधक गिरीश पंजाबी

यांनी राधानगरी ते तिलारी भूभागातील रानकुत्र्यांच्या भ्रमणमार्गाची सविस्तर माहिती दिली. यावेळी तिलारीचे तुषार देसाई, कुंभारखणीचे मंगेश सुर्वे या गावकऱ्यांनी रानकुत्र्यांविषयीची मार्गदर्शन केले, तर मुक्ता नावकर, सुनील माळी, आदी सोशल मीडिया इन्फ्लुएन्सरेदेखील रानकुत्रा प्रबोधनासाठी यापुढे सहभागी होणार असल्याची खाही दिली.

वन्यजीव निरीक्षक अक्षय खरे आणि निरज सोमण यांनी गुहागर तालुक्यातील रानकुत्र्यांची निरीक्षणे मांडली. कुंभार्ली घाटपरिसरात रानकुत्र्यांवर अभ्यास करणाऱ्या सोनल प्रभुलकर यांनी रानकुत्र्यांची निरीक्षणे मांडली.

रानकुत्रा कृती

दै. 'मुंबई तरुण भारत' आणि

मुंबई, दि. २६ : विशेष प्रतिनिधी

कोकण आणि पश्चिम महाराष्ट्रातील रानकुत्र्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी दै. 'मुंबई तरुण भारत' आणि 'विवेक पार्क फाऊंडेशन'कडून रविवार, दि. २६ मे रोजी देवरुख येथे आयोजित करण्यात आलेली कृती आराखडा बैठक फलदायी ठरली. 'सुजन सायन्स इन्वोल्व्हेशन अँड अँक्टिविटी सेंटर' येथे दिवसभर पार पडलेल्या बैठकीत वनाधिकारी, रानकुत्रा संशोधक, ग्रामस्थ, वन्यजीव निरीक्षक, सोशल मीडिया इन्फ्लुएन्सर यांची एकजूट पाहायला मिळाली. यावेळी तयार करण्यात आलेल्या कृती आराखडा अहवालावर अंमलबजावणी करण्याची खाही वनाधिकाऱ्यांनी दिली. या कार्यक्रमाला 'वाईलडलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया' आणि 'सुजन सायन्स अँड इन्वोल्व्हेशन अँक्टिविटी सेंटर- देवरुख' हे प्रायोजक म्हणून लाभले.

रविवार, दि. २६ मे रोजी सकाळी १० ते संध्याकाळी ६ वाजेपर्यंत रानकुत्रा कृती आराखडा बैठक पार पडली. कार्यक्रमाचे उद्घाटन 'सहाद्री व्याघ्र प्रकल्पा'चे उपसंचालक उत्तम सावंत,

Event covered by Pudhari



सह्याद्रीतील कोळसुंद संवर्धनाला मिळणार दिशा!

आज देवरूखात बैठक; कृती आराखड्याबाबत होणार नियोजन

■ सकाळ वृत्तसेवा

पावस, ता. २५ : सह्याद्रीतील कोळसुंद अर्थात रानकुत्र्यांसाठी संवर्धन आराखडा तयार करण्याच्या हेतूने महाएमटीबी आणि 'विवेक पार्क फाउंडेशन'कडून रानकुत्रा कृती आराखडा बैठकीचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. रविवारी (ता. २६) सकाळी १० ते ५ वाजेपर्यंत देवरूखमधील 'सृजन सायन्स अँड इनोव्हेशन अँक्टिव्हिटी सेंटर' येथे ही बैठक होणार आहे. 'वाईल्डलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया' आणि 'सृजन सायन्स अँड

इनोव्हेशन अँक्टिव्हिटी सेंटर देवरूख' हे या बैठकीचे प्रायोजक आहेत.

दरवर्षी २८ मे हा दिवस आंतरराष्ट्रीय रानकुत्रा दिवस म्हणून साजरा केला जातो. रानकुत्रा हा श्वानकुळातील प्राणी असून, त्याचा समावेश संकटग्रस्त प्रजातींच्या यादीत होतो. सध्या या संकटग्रस्त जीवाच्या अधिवासाचा विस्तार सह्याद्रीतील संरक्षित क्षेत्राबाहेर झाला आहे. प्रामुख्याने कोकणातील गावांमध्ये हा प्राणी आढळून येत आहे. त्यामुळेच या प्राण्यांच्या संवर्धनाच्या अनुषंगाने कृती आराखडा तयार करण्यासाठी महाएमटीबी आणि 'विवेक पार्क



फाउंडेशन'ने पुढाकार घेतला आहे. यासाठी बैठकीचे आयोजन करण्यात आले असून स्थानिक ग्रामस्थ, वनविभाग, संशोधक, वन्यजीव निरीक्षक, सोशल मीडिया इन्फ्लुएन्सर यांच्या सहभागात ही बैठक होईल. रानकुत्र्यांविषयी

माहिती आणि अभ्यास असलेल्या काही स्थानिक वन्यजीव निरीक्षकांशी यामध्ये सादरीकरणे पार पडतील. यामध्ये सह्याद्री व्याघ्रप्रकल्पाचे उपवनसंरक्षक उत्तम सावंत, वन्यजीव संशोधक गिरीश पंजाबी, वन्यजीव संशोधक श्रीकर अष्टपुत्रे, अक्षय खरे, निरज सोमण, अनिश परदेशी, डॉ. शार्दूल केळकर, प्रतीक मोरे आणि सोनल प्रभुलकर या वक्त्यांची सादरीकरणे असणार आहेत शिवाय रायगड, रत्नागिरी आणि सिंधुदुर्ग या तिन्ही जिल्ह्यांतील काही गावकरी या बैठकीत हजर राहणार आहेत. कार्यक्रमाला अप्पर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक वन्यजीव पश्चिम डॉ. व्ही. क्लेमेंट बेन,

कोल्हापूरचे मुख्य वनसंरक्षक मणिकंदन रामानुजम, सह्याद्री व्याघ्र प्रकल्पाचे उपवनसंरक्षक उत्तम सावंत, सिंधुदुर्गचे उपवनसंरक्षक एस. नवकिशोर रेड्डी, पुण्याचे उपवनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) तुषार चव्हाण आणि रत्नागिरीच्या विभागीय वनाधिकारी गिरिजा देसाई उपस्थित राहणार आहेत. या बैठकीमध्ये सादरीकरणांबरोबरच गटचर्चा, परिस्वादा, गावकऱ्यांसोबत संवाद, संवर्धन आराखड्याची निर्मिती आणि माहितीपटाचे प्रदर्शन अशा गोष्टींचा समावेश करण्यात आला आहे.



Event covered by Sakal



नी आराखडा बैठक ठरली फलदायी

'विवेक पार्क फाउंडेशन'कडून आयोजन; संशोधक, वनाधिकारी, ग्रामस्थांची एकजूट



(छाया : साक्षात सावंत, आलेख चाल्के)

देवरूख शिक्षण प्रसारक मंडळा'चे अध्यक्ष सदानंद मागवत, आठल्ये-सप्रे-पित्रे महाविद्यालयाचे प्राचार्य डॉ. नरेंद्र तेंडोलकर, ज्येष्ठ वन्यजीव संशोधक भाऊ काटदरे आणि 'वाईल्डलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया'चे वन्यजीव संशोधक निकीत सुर्वे यांच्या उपस्थितीत झाले. नरेंद्र तेंडोलकर, ज्येष्ठ वन्यजीव संशोधक भाऊ काटदरे आणि 'वाईल्डलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया'चे वन्यजीव संशोधक निकीत सुर्वे यांच्या उपस्थितीत झाले. नरेंद्र तेंडोलकर, ज्येष्ठ वन्यजीव संशोधक भाऊ काटदरे आणि 'वाईल्डलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया'चे वन्यजीव संशोधक निकीत सुर्वे यांच्या उपस्थितीत झाले. नरेंद्र तेंडोलकर, ज्येष्ठ वन्यजीव संशोधक भाऊ काटदरे आणि 'वाईल्डलाईफ कॉन्झर्वेशन सोसायटी-इंडिया'चे वन्यजीव संशोधक निकीत सुर्वे यांच्या उपस्थितीत झाले.



पाऊले उचलायला हवीत यादृशीने ही बैठक आयोजित करण्याचा निर्णय घेतला. आजच्या बैठकीमधून वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोन देऊन काम करणारी माणसे आणि प्रबोधनफ काम करणारी माणसे अशा दोन्ही स्तरांवरून काम व्हायला हवे," असे म्हणत डॉ. 'मुंबई तरुण भारत'चे संपादक किरण शेलार यांनी ही बैठक आयोजित करण्यामागची संस्थेची भूमिका मांडली. डॉ. 'मुंबई तरुण भारत'चे वरिष्ठ पर्यावरण प्रतिनिधि अक्षय मांडवकर यांनी बैठकीची प्रबोधनफ भूमिका, तर विवेक पार्क फाउंडेशनचे वन्यजीव संशोधक (पान ६ वर) २३

Event covered by Mumbai Tarun Bharat



रानकुत्रा कृती आराखडा बैठक ठरली फलदायी

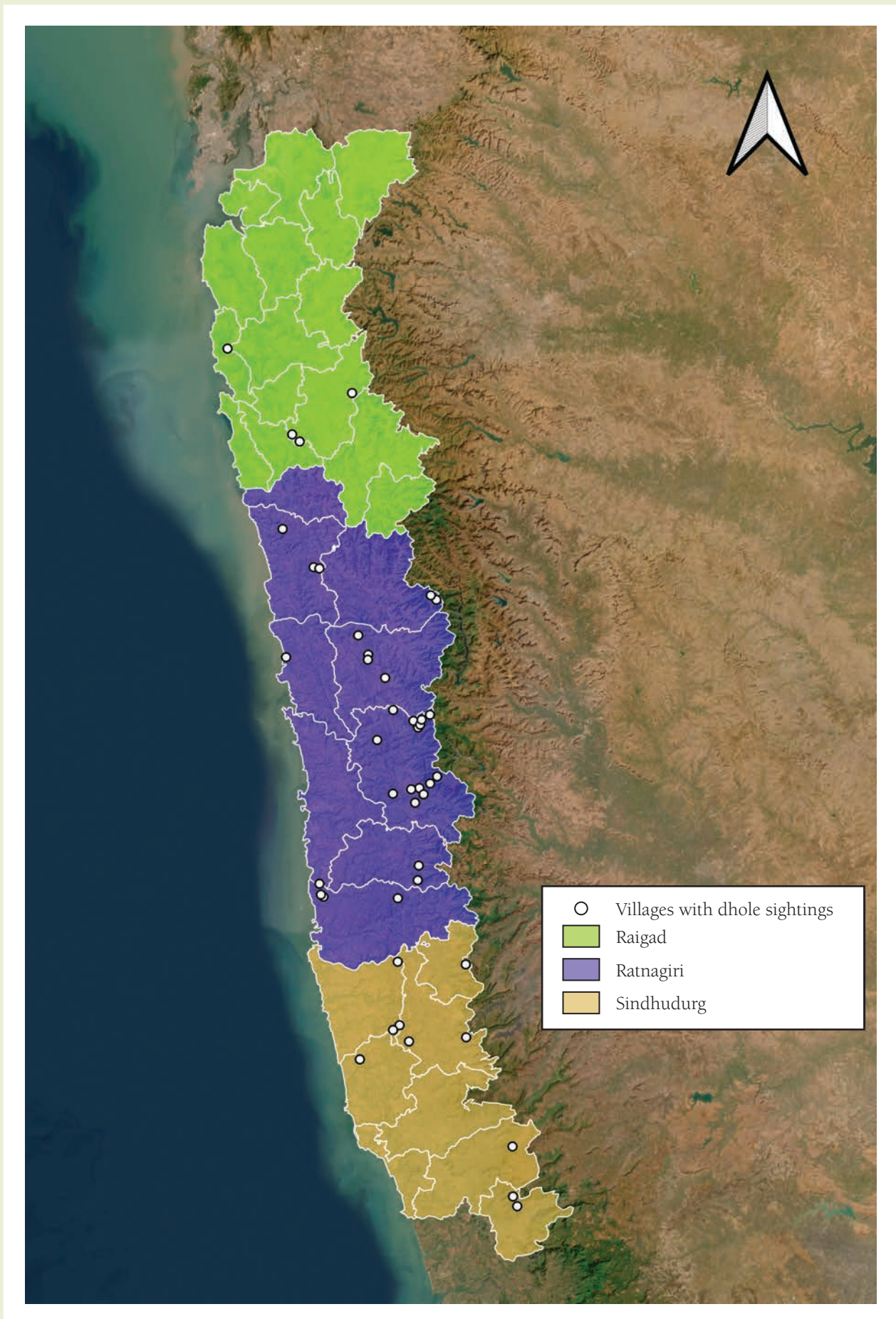
ऑकार पाटील यांनी संशोधनात्मक भूमिका स्पष्ट केली.

राज्याचे अप्पर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक वन्यजीव-पश्चिम डॉ. बेन क्लेमेंट हेदेखील ऑनलाईन स्वरूपात उपस्थित होते. यावेळी त्यांनी हा कृती अहवाल त्यांच्या कार्यालयास सादर करून त्यावर अंमलबजावणी करण्याची ग्वाही दिली. दुसऱ्या सत्रामध्ये कोल्हापूर वनवृत्ताचे मुख्य वनसंरक्षक मणिकंदन रामानुजम, सिंधुदुर्गचे उपवनसंरक्षक एस. नवकिशोर रेड्डी, रत्नागिरीच्या विभागीय वनाधिकारी गिरीजा देसाई उपस्थित होते.

यावेळी बोलताना रामानुजम म्हणाले की, "रानकुत्रा कृती आराखडा बैठकीमुळे वनाधिकारी, वन्यजीव संशोधक, ग्रामस्थ, वन्यजीव निरीक्षक यांची झालेली एकजूट कोतुकास्पद आहे."

उद्घाटनानंतर वन्यजीव संशोधक आणि वन्यजीव निरीक्षक यांच्या संवादावरून वन्यजीव निरीक्षकांनी अत्यावश्यक बाबींचा उहापोह केला. गुहागरचे स्थानिक वन्यजीव निरीक्षक अक्षय खरे आणि निरज सोमण यांनी सादर केलेली गुहागर तालुक्यातील रानकुत्र्यांची निरीक्षणे लक्षावेधी ठरली.

चिपळूण येथील कुंभार्ली घाट परिसरात रानकुत्र्यांवर अभ्यास करण्याच्या वन्यजीव संशोधक सोनल प्रभुलकर यांनी रानकुत्र्यांची आगळीवेगळी निरीक्षणे मांडली. गुंवार हल्ला करणाऱ्या रानकुत्र्यांच्या निरीक्षणांनी संशोधकांसह वनधिकाऱ्यांचे लक्ष वेधून घेतले. प्रतीक मोरे आणि शार्दूल केळकर यांनी देवरूख आणि आसपासच्या परिसरातील रानकुत्र्यांची निरीक्षणे सादर केली. 'सह्याद्री व्याघ्र प्रकल्पा'चे उपसंचालक उत्तम सावंत यांनी सविस्तरपणे व्याघ्र प्रकल्पातील रानकुत्र्यांचे अधिवासाचे सादरीकरण केले. वन्यजीव संशोधक गिरीश पंजाबी यांनी राधानगरी ते तिलारी भूभागातील रानकुत्र्यांच्या भ्रमणमार्गाचे सविस्तर सादरीकरण केले. यावेळी तिलारीचे तुषार देसाई, कुंभारखणीचे मंगेश सुर्वे या गावकऱ्यांनी रानकुत्र्यांविषयीची निरीक्षणे मांडली. तर मुक्ता नावेंकर, सुनील माळी आदी सोशल मीडिया इन्फ्लुएन्सरेदेखील रानकुत्रा प्रबोधनासाठी यापुढे सहभागी होणार असल्याची ग्वाही दिली. डॉ. 'मुंबई तरुण भारत'ची पर्यावरण प्रतिनिधि समृद्धी ढमाले हिने सूत्रसंचालन केले.



Location of villages with Dhole sightings in Raigad, Ratnagiri & Sindhudurg districts



POLICY ADVOCACY RESEARCH CENTRE

Policy Advocacy Research Centre (PARC), a unit of Vivek PARC Foundation is an independent think-tank and socio-economic development oriented implementation agency that engages in progressive impact-driven policy intervention & impact assessment. It focuses on building dialogue-for-impact with members of Central & State Governments, bureaucracy, corporates, small and medium scale enterprises, entrepreneurs, domain experts, academicians, NGOs, other concerned institutions and individuals. PARC aims to engage, structure, study, evaluate & revise policies, reforms and initiate action to positively impact society in the interest of the nation and citizens.

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