

Dhain village shifted from Bori Sanctuary.

Bori Sanctuary is situated in the Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR), at Pachmarhi in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. Dhain is one of the 17 forest villages of Bori sanctuary, which have shown willingness to resettle outside, as they did not have enough agriculture land inside the sanctuary for the increased population. Dhain village is resettled in the summer of 2005 at the new place and villagers are busy weaving their new life at new place. However the success story has now spread in other 16 villages and they are putting pressure on the district administration to expedite the resettlement process and complete the same in time bound manner.

Bori wildlife sanctuary consists of total reserve forest area. In the year 1990, Dhain villagers had seen the area of Protected Forest (PF) 190 (old PF 117) of Hoshangabad Territorial Division and given willingness to shift at new site as the land was fertile and water table was rich.

However it took almost ten years for the district administration to take ahead the process as some of the organizations had taken objection to the resettlement of villages. Meanwhile in these ten years villagers were facing the same problems of insufficient agriculture land for growing population, restrictions on commercial use of forest produce from the sanctuary and heavy crop depredation from wild herbivores.

Finally the staff of STR and the NGO Life Force Charitable Trust had assisted villagers in arranging a site visit to the villages, which are resettled, from Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. Dhain villagers visited Melghat on **29th October 2001** and were impressed after listening Melghat villagers. Not only this, they also invited Melghat villagers to their Bori sanctuary to explain the process to entire Dhain village. After this visit the villagers had given willingness for relocation. Later on in winter of 2002, the villagers of Melghat also visited Dhain village and there was a nice experience sharing at Dhain.

Meanwhile STR administration sent the proposal on **24th December 2001** to Govt. of India about relocation of Dhain forest village to PF-117 of Hoshangabad territorial division. The nodal officer at Bhopal has inspected the site and the proposal was finally sanctioned on 3rd February 2004 and the budget was also allotted.

However as the process was delayed by ten years due to opposition from some organizations few people from the villages near Hoshangabad encroached upon land which was selected by Dhain villagers. Hence in the orders issued on **13th October 2004**, out of 221.60 Hectare forest land of compartment PF-117 (PF-190 new) only 202.390 Hec. land was made available to Hoshangabad territorial division and rest of the land 19.670 was denied due to encroachment on the land.



New house at New Dhain constructed by villagers.

On 21 st December 2004, 85 residential plot of 5600 sq.ft. were allotted to relocated villagers of Dhain by the lottery method. Out of total 97 listed families of Dhain villagers only 12 females were unable to get plot due to their marriage.

In **February 2005**, the STR administration started cleaning of the site and preparing agriculture fields. However on 18th March 2005 the STR administration received information regarding nuisance created by encroachers of Dobejhirna during relocation process. But DFO (T) has promised that he will vacate the encroachments.

In **April 2005**, all household material of villagers of Dhain was transported to relocation village site by Government trucks.

Some of the organizations supported the encroachers and media also played their role to reach their demands to the Government. **On 24th April 2005**, Mrs. Jamuna Devi (leader of opposition) has visited the relocation site and asked forest dept. to give patta to encroachers. After the visit on the same day she had a meeting with the Chief Wildlife Warden of M.P.- Mr. P.B. Gangopadhyay. The CWLW briefed her about relocation process and policy of GOI regarding this issue. The Task Force (Revenue, Police and Forest Department) started anti encroachment drive on 6th May 2005, but not able to vacate encroachments. However later on the Task force removed the encroachments and the issue of giving lands to encroachers was also sorted out.

By the end of **May 2005**, all the houses were complete at new relocated site. The school and community center was also ready. Initially there were problems in giving ownership to 10% villagers of Dhain as there were encroachments on the land. But now about 100% families have received the ownership of agriculture plots. The electric connection has been given to each house. They got more than enough agriculture land. The person above 18 years age has been given 2 ha land. So in the joint family of four elders they got 8 ha plus equal land to family chief. So they have so much land as they can not till it on their

own. So some of the people have given their part of lands “on rent” to other villagers and getting cash for that.

The team of Satpuda Foundation found these villagers happy at new site. This happiness has now spread over other 16 villages that had shown willingness for resettlement. When the team visited Bori, Sakot and Khakrapura villages , people have requested team to help them in removing the obstacles (from some organizations, who have vested interest and also the Government who runs the entire process very slow) in resettlement process and make sure speedy and time bound resettlement.

The Mobile health Unit of Nature Conservation Society visited Dhain village twice immediately after rains and conducted free health camps. STR administration also has been providing them health facilities regularly through their vehicles.



The meadow inviting wild herbivores at Dhain in Bori sanctuary

Relocation of Forest Village Dhain Chronology of events

1990	Bori Sanctuary is consisting of total reserve forest area. Dhainl is one of the 17 forest villages of Bori sanctuary. Villagers of Dhain have seen area of PF 190 (old PF 117) of Hoshangabad Territorial Division and given willingness to shift to new site.
29-10-2001	The staff of STR has persuaded Dhain villagers about the importance and merits of rehabilitation and taken to the relocated villages of Melghat Tiger Reserve. After this visit the villagers had given willingness for relocation.
24-12-2001	Proposals were sent to Govt. of India about relocation of Dhain forest village to PF-117 of Hoshangabad territorial division.

3-2-2004	Govt. of India sanctioned relocation proposal and allotted budget.
13-10-2004	Out of 221.60 Hectare forest land of compartment PF-117 (PF-190 new) only 202.390 Hec. land was made available Hoshangabad territorial division and rest of the land 19.670 is not available due to encroachment on the land.
21-12-2004	By lottery 85 residential plot of 5600 sq.ft. are allotted to relocated villagers of Dhain. Out of total 97 listed families of Dhain villagers only 12 females are unable to get plot due to their marriage.
Feb 2005	The STR started cleaning of the site and started making agriculture fields.
18-03-2005	The STR administration received information regarding nuisance created by encroachers of Dobejhirna during relocation process. But DFO (T) has promised that he will vacate the encroachments
April 2005	All house hold material of villagers of Dhain was transported to relocation village site by Govt. trucks.
24-4-2005	Mrs. Jamuna Devi (leader of opposition) has visited the relocation site and asked forest dept. to give patta to encroachers. After the visit on the same day she had a meeting with the Chief Wildlife Warden of M.P. - Mr. P.B. Gangopadhyay. The CWLW briefed her about relocation process and policy of GOI regarding this issue.
6-5-2005	The Task Force (Revenue, Police and Forest Department) started anti encroachment drive, but not able to vacate encroachments.
June 2005	The encroachments were removed.
16 th June 2006.	The health unit of Nature Conservation Society, Amravati, conducted the health camp. The free check up, treatment and medicine was provided to 84 patients.
July-August 2005	Dhain villagers tilled their lands and started agriculture practices for the first time. They had bumper crop in first Monsoon of 2005.
September 2005.	Meadow development work started by STR administration at vacated place.
January 2006.	All the houses are complete at new relocated site. They got the school and community center. 100% families have received ownership of agriculture plots. The electric connection has been given to each house.. All the villagers are happy at new site.
January 2006.	The team from Satpuda Foundation saw a Jackal at the meadow of Dhain. Staff told us that Gaurs, Sambar and Chital also regularly visit the meadow.



Melghat villagers sharing experiences in Dhain village