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THIS STORY IS FROM JUNE 10, 2020

Goa: Waterholes in Mollem forest curb man-animal conflicts

Nida Sayed (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Nida-Sayed-479202698.cms) / TNN / Updated: Jun 10, 2020, 15:59 IST

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panajl: The timely initiative of building artificial waterholes in forest areas to prevent incidents of wild animals straying into human habitations in search of water has helped forest officials avoid man-animal conflict in Mollem.

Animals require food, water and cover to occupy a habitat. While food and cover are generally available, water is often short supply, especially as the seasons move towards summer.



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Bhagwant Mann, 48, is a two-time MP from Sangrur and is the party's state unit chief.

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“The whole idea is to provide the animals with water inside the forest itself so that they don’t stray out into the settlement areas. This is because, once the herbivores stray out, the carnivores also follow them. We’re preventing that,” a forest official said.

This year, the range forest at the Bhagwan Mahavir wildlife sanctuary and national park has developed three rainwater structures. One of these is about 50x4 sqmts wide, two metres deep and has four nullahs connected to it.

“These nullahs will feed the area with water which will be utilised by the animals. This water will also help in recharging the groundwater,” officials said.

In one of the dry areas of the forest, one artificial waterhole was built for the animals to quench their thirst. In addition to this, there are some perennial water holes as well. Unlike the man-made water holes which require to be refilled with tanker water, the natural water holes are naturally replenished by forest springs.

Last year, the forest department had created three artificial waterholes in the area. A rain water harvesting unit was also constructed which would convert into a waterhole post-monsoon.

“We laid out a camera trap to capture the sights. We managed to capture images of a sloth bear and her cubs, and a bison with her calves. This was only possible because our intervention has been very scientific,” officials said.

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As of today, there are a total of five rainwater harvest structures cum water holes, seven natural or perennial water holes and four man-made water holes. There are also about eleven old water holes that are being maintained by the department.



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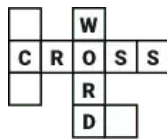


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