

## Project Update: April 2015

The study commenced from January 2015 with the first phase of data collection involving a secondary data-based occupancy survey. This consists of interviews with the forest department ground staff (forest guards and watchers) for information on their most recent sightings of wolves in their area of jurisdiction. They are also interviewed for an attitude survey where the aim is to understand how they perceive human-carnivore interactions or damage due to carnivores, as a manager responsible for wildlife protection. The three districts of Ahmednagar, Solapur and Satara have been covered totally under the first phase and the remaining two districts of Nashik and Pune will be completed at the end of May 2015. Data from the occupancy survey will be analysed from June 2015 onwards along with the next phase of data collection which involves understanding responses of shepherds to the presence of wolves.



*A photo with the staff of Ahmednagar range office.*

Our team presented a poster explaining the study at a workshop organized by the Bombay Natural History Society and National Thermal Power Corporation at Solapur, Maharashtra. Our work was introduced to a larger audience comprising of nature enthusiasts, Forest department officials, field biologists and activists. (<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/environment/developmental-issues/workshop-highlights-conservation-issues-on-deccan-plateau/articleshow/46518573.cms>)



*Explaining the study at the Solapur workshop.*