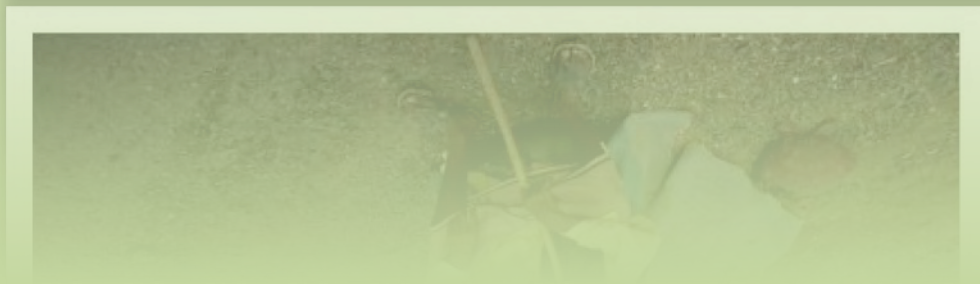




Dialogue on Ecological Impact of Floods

Friends of Indus Forum

26th October 2010, Hyderabad



Content

Background	03
Proceedings	03
Welcome Remarks & Objectives of Dialogue	03
Impacts of Floods on Wildlife	05
Impacts of Floods on Forests	06
Discussion	07
Recommendation	08
Annex -1 Programme	09
Annex-II List of Participants	10
Annex-III Press Clippings	13



Background

The Friends of Indus Forum organized dialogue to discuss the ecological impacts of 2010 flood. The objective of the dialogue was to take stock of the situation, discuss specific impacts of flood on forest and wildlife and suggest possible remedies.

Proceedings

Proceeding started with the recitation of holy Quran and introduction of participants.

Welcome Remarks & Objectives of Dialogue

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, General Secretary of Friends of Indus Forum welcomed to all participants and said that the flood brought unforgettable miseries in human's life in terms of financial and human destruction and creates ecological impacts on biodiversity and natural resources. He added that we can call it century's biggest disaster, which not only destructed human life but affected the wildlife, fresh water resources and forests of our country.



He said that sea intrusion and salinity in coastal areas of Sindh increased by unavailability and shortage of fresh water in Indus River. Whereas, water table also decreased and fresh water bodies converted in brackish water and finally those factors affected the biodiversity, and environmental richness of our society he added.

Sharing the information regarding formation of Friends of Indus forum Mr. Nasir said that WWF-P supported to establishing Friends of Indus Forum (FIF) and helped to conduct its first meeting in 2008, the first official body of FIF was also formed in 2008, the main purpose behind formation of the forum was that the concerned citizens, environmentalist and intellectuals should come forward to ensure the flow of fresh water in Indus delta and preserve heritage through lobbying and networking and collective wisdom.



Discussing on the charter of the Forum he said that the forum will work as a policy advisory on provincial and national level to sensitize them on sustainable environmental resources. It will also provide strategic guidance to governmental and non governmental institutions for working on environmental conservation he informed. Moreover, he said Friends of Indus Forum will mobilize the communities to support in nature conservation, document and disseminate conservational success stories. Sharing the example he said that one of our friends belongs to Goth Sudhar Sangat demonstrated Indigo plant in their area which was completely vanished in Sindh since two decade and now with the support of Indus for All Programme-Partnership Fund, they grown that plant in Pai Forest area and created a successful model plot of Indigo plant.

Further he added that the forum will promote effective natural resource governance, because governance is the basic issue behind any problem related to nature. He said we have very sound laws and policies but the basic issue is implementation which always seems missing here. Forum will raise voice for revival of lost habitats, those habitats or species that either vanished or are in danger. The forum will also prepare young generation as they are the real custodians of nature. Talking on the principles of Friends of Indus Forum Mr. Nasir said the forum is working voluntarily bases and those who have passion, concerns and belief in community rights, equality and respect are eligible to work with this forum.

Talking on the theme of dialogue, Mr. Nasir said today we will sit together to discuss on the impacts of flood on ecology and will focus on the ecological damages brought by heavy flood. Because several reports have indicated that the number of wildlife has been displaced and died due to such natural disaster, even experts especially in Sindh have highlighted that there is need to take immediate action to protect wildlife of Sindh.

Impacts of Floods on Wildlife

Mr. Ghulam Rasool Jamail, Deputy Conservator Wildlife Govt. of Sindh shared the details of impacts of floods on wildlife; he said that just after the warnings issued by MET office regarding the flood in the river Indus in the last week of August 2010, all the field Wildlife Staff was put on high alert. He added that Mr. Daya Ram Essrani, Minister for Wildlife, passed especial instructions and directed conservator Wildlife to constitute special teams to monitor the flood situation and watch and ward over the expected displacement of reverine belt wildlife particularly Hog deer and Partridges. Talking on the Wildlife displacement Mr. Rasool said that according to updated information about 700 Hog deers, 1500 Wild Boars and 12000 Partridges are displaced from their original habitat and have taken shelter at safer place/islands in the Kacha area or have moved outside the Kacha area in the nearby crops and wilder areas.

Further he added that according to the collected information the owners of Private Katie's have rescued 287 Hog deers from different places from Guddu to

Thatta, which are kept in rehabilitation centres at Hyderabad and Sukkur Wildlife offices and New Jatoi. He also informed to participants that Wildlife staff has registered 14 cases of illegal hunting of Hog deer in Naushehro Feroz, Dadu, Benazirabad, Matiari and Hyderabad districts and 15 dead bodies of Hog deers killed by dogs or other predators are collected from these areas and about 150 Hog deers have naturally died in the flood water. Moreover, the loss of other mammals and reptiles not yet been assessed due to lack of information. He added that near about 12 thousand black and grey partridges are expectedly lost due to no longer flights and behavior of remaining in the same range, so they most probably died and may have been trapped or killed by the local people. Talking on the expected mortality ratio he replied that more than 80% reptiles have definitely died due to water inundation and standing into their burrows for long time and near about 60% Jungle Cats, Jacals, Porcupies, Hedge hogs, Mongoose, rats, mousse and sherews population is expectedly wiped out and will never recover. Among reptiles Monitor Lizards, Snakes, Geckos, and Uromastix are also wiped out from the Kacha area. Talking on the Blind Dolphin Mr. Jamali shared that near about 100 Blind Dolphins are displaced, stranded down streams and into canals and about 25% stranded Dolphin population will be under great threat if not rescued or reached to safer places.

At the end he shared that Sindh Wildlife Department have chalked out a plan for the flood damage ecological assessment about the losses to the wildlife and its habitat in reverine area throughout Sindh. He said that this assessment will give the actual picture of flood losses and will subsequently help in preparing the recovery plan of the lost wildlife.

Impacts of Floods on Forests

Mr. Riaz Shahis Siddique, Divisional Forest Officer Govt. of Sindh said that forest play an important role in the economy of the country, besides, forests protect and improve the environment. Therefore existence of forests in the country/provinces is of paramount importance and a basic need.

Further he said that according to the forest experts, every country must have 25% area out of its total area under forests and unfortunately in Pakistan, the area under forests is hardly 4-5% which is therefore much less than the required parameters. He provided information regarding the forest cover in Sindh and said that, in Sindh province having a population of about 29.99 million, occupies land area of 14.09 million hectares. An area of 1.125 million hectares (28 million acres) is under the control of Sindh Forest Department which is 8% of the total area of the province. He further added that out of this area, reverine forests and irrigated plantations which are categorized as Productive Forests come only 2.29%, clearly indicating that the province is deficient in forestry resources. Whereas, the remaining area consists of Mangroves Forests and Range Lands classified as protective forests.

Talking on the above said topic he said that, I will prefer to speak on the reverine forests of Sindh as the existence of these forests has been wholly and solely dependent on flooding by the river Indus and these forests are mainstay of

forestry in Sindh. He said that these are Kacho forests and located along both the banks of river Indus in Kandhkot/Kashmore, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Larkana, Khairpur, Naushehro Feroz, shaheed Benazirabad, Dadu, Hyderabad and Thatta districts and are declared as Reserved Forests. He said that these forests are the most productive forests producing wood material for cosmetic and commercial purpose along with providing meat, milk, butter and honey, in a greater quality in the past when there were regular floods and these forests are also grazing grounds for local livestock. Further he added that unfortunately with the construction of dams and barrages, there are very negligible floods resulting in change of scenario of these forests. He insisted that proper flooding every year in therefore needed to bring these forests in their original position.

Talking on the topic of impacts of floods on forests he said that, it is worthwhile to mention here that the annual inundation of the riverine areas during the monsoon season acts as a life blood for existence and flourishing of the riverine forests. He said that it is pertinent to point out here that not only riverine forests but Mangrove forests covering an area of 600,000 hectares being an important ecosystem in the coastal deltaic region formed by the river Indus have also been seriously affected due to no/ negligible floods. At the end he said that the upshot of the above discussion is that main factors responsible for degradation of riverine forests and mangrove forests are due to serve reduction in flow of fresh water in Indus through flood, therefore, ecologically floods are an important input for the rehabilitation and development of riverine forests and mangroves forests.

Discussion

Mr. Nazir Memon, Agriculturist and member of Friends of Indus Forum said that before construction of three barrages, the kutch area of Sindh used to ensure food security as it was producer of wheat, fish, meat, milk and honey. He said that declining forest covers means people are losing oxygen and added that urban area of interior Sindh don't have drainage system and wastewater is being released in water channels and the Indus River. He apprehended spread of dengue fever if stagnant flood water was not drained out.

Prof. Qalander Shah Lakiari, Renowned Intellectual and Educationalist, opposed the government's plan to award 90 years lease of forest land and said every section of society should oppose it. He said that lease granted on political basis should be withdrawn by the government. He appealed to intelligentsia of Sindh to come forward and guide people how to cope with the situation. Further he said that we are not prepared to cope such situations due to lack of coordination and commitment, he shares his fear that if such disaster would occur in 2011 than how we can face to it and what would be the rate of survival.

Mr. Lala Fazal Belai a senior forester said that the disaster occurred due to cutting of trees from embankments and forests beside river Indus, they can reduce risk of disaster if those trees would not been cut downed. He remembering the old days and said that 30 years back the then Chief Minister of Sindh Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Qazi and senior irrigation Minister Mr. Raheem Bux

Soomro approved a proposal to planting trees beside embankment of river Indus, but now we even don't have such kind of sincere and committed persons. Criticizing on forest department he said that now days our department hiring engineers and technical persons from Holland, China and America and requesting them for help in forest management. Moreover he also criticized on 90 year lease of forest land and appealed for its removal.

Mr. Ishaque Mangrio, General Secretary Press Club Hyderabad said that during the flood when thousands of people were sitting on roads with their families than where were government's officials and DMA's representatives? He criticized the role of Hyderabad district government and said this flood has revived the life of Manchhar Lake through fresh and sweat water but district government appointed a fake researcher who sits in Sehwan and spreading disinformation regarding the Manchhar. He emphasized on participants that we should raise our voice for the discharge of Machhar in Indus river, because would be the only way to revive ecology of that wonderful lake.

Mr. Muhram Keerio, President Goth Sudhar Sangat said that the representative of forest department has told In his presentation that they have planted 54 thousand trees in different forests during inundation, but I am blogging the area which is surrounded by four forests like Nasri Forest, Mari Forest, Lakhat Forest and Mehrabpur Forest and no any single tree planted in those forests. Talking on the lease policy he said that in policy it is clearly mentioned that lease owner will ensure 20% trees in leased area but I can say confidently before the forum that no one following that commitment, even forest officials are not going to visit them.

Zain Daudpoto, President Indus Development Organization said forest lease policy 2004 initiated due to shortage of water and forest department tried to get insurance from lease owner that they will plant tree which they never fulfilled. But flood has brought lot of water and now this policy should be withdrawn. He suggests that forest department should initiate a community forestry policy and should involve communities to revive forest cover. Further he said that forest department should declare the 6 lac and 45 thousand acres of riverine forests as protected zone, this will not only give them economic benefit but forest area will be protected by communities.

Recommendation

- Rehabilitation and protection of displaced wildlife should be ensured by the relevant departments in collaboration with the stakeholders
- Promote forest coverage across Sindh to avert disaster on such scale
- Opportunity should be tapped to grow forests along the river in Sindh through aerial seeding or through boats.
- Legislation on use of underground water should be made

- Lease of forest land should be stopped
- Inquiry into non-filling of Chotiari dam during flood should be initiated
Protection of Manchhar Lake from further damages should be ensured.
- Ban should be imposed on hunting of migratory and local birds
- Department of settlement and Rehabilitation should be formed to provide relief to millions of flood affected people.

Annex -1 Programme



Dialogue on Ecological Impacts of Floods

Hotel Indus Hyderabad

26-Oct-10

Programme

11:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Registration	Mr. Majeed Taheem
11:15 AM to 11:20 AM	Recitation	
11:20 AM to 11:30 AM	Welcome Remarks & Objectives of Dialogue	Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar General Secretary, Friends of Indus Forum
11:30 AM to 11:45 AM	Impacts of Floods on Wildlife	Mr. Hussain Bux Bhagat, Conservator Wildlife Sindh
11:45 AM to 12:00 PM	Impacts of Floods on Forests	Mr. Mir Nadir Talpur Chief Conservator of Forests Sindh
12:00 PM to 12:15 PM	Impacts of Floods on Water Resources	Mr. Muhammad Khan Mari, Director, DRIP Tando Jam
12:15 PM to 01:30 PM	General Discussion & Way Forward	
01:30 PM	Lunch	

Annex-II List of Participants

List of Participants

S#	Name	Ins:/Org:/Dept:
1	Mr. Mahram Keerio	PFAN
2	Mr. Ali Anwar Solangi	IIRE
3	Mr. Faheem Qureshi	Agriculture Ext.
4	Mr. Mustafa Nagraj	Writer
5	Mr. Abdul Jabbar Bhatti	IIRE
6	Mr. Rasool Bux Dars	Writer
7	Mr. Shabir Nizamani	Journalist
8	Mr. Aftab Qazi	Journalist
9	Mr. Lala Fazal Ahmed Belae	Forester
10	Mr. Majeed Mangrio	SDF
11	Mr. Nazeer Ahmed Memon	Water Expert
12	Mr. Jan Khaskheli	Journalist
13	Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Jamali	Deputy Conservator Wildlife Dept:
14	Dr. Subhan Ali Sehto	Sindh university
15	Dr. Khalid Hussain Lashari	Sindh University
16	Prof. Qalander Shah	CEAD
17	Mr. Aziz Ranjhani	Freelance
18	Mr. Nawaz Kumbhar	Journalist
19	Mr. Saleem Mallah	KTN
20	Mr. Mohammad Ali Rind	KTN
21	Mr. Abdul Karim Gabol	UNDP

22	Dr. Mohammad Bux	WHO
23	Dr. Yameen Memon	MDC
24	Mr. Zain Daudpoto	IDO
25	Mr. Ishaque Mangrio	Journalist
26	Mr. Abdul Malik Soomro	Divisional Forest Officer
27	Mr. Sajid Soomro	Engineer
28	Ms. Kalsoom Suprio	SRSP
29	Ms. Farzana Soomro	SRSP
30	Mr. Marvi Khan	ActionAid
31	Mr. Ismail Kumbhar	Sindh Agriculture University
32	Mr. Riaz Shahid Siddiqui	Sindh Forest Department
33	Mr. Abdul Qayum	ActionAid
34	Mr. Mujeeb-u-Rehman	EPA
35	Mr. Saeed Akhtar Baloch	Forest Department
36	Mr. Sattar Malik	Journalist
37	Mr. Ehsan Aziz Junejo	EPA
38	Mr. Hussain Khan	DAWN
39	Mr. Niaz	ATV
40	Mr. Mustafa Baloch	SPO
41	Mr. Aijaz Ali	GRDO
42	Mr. Ali Mohammad Shaikh	SPO
43	Mr. Salah Mangrio	WWF-P
44	Mr. Amer Leghari	Writer
45	Mr. Tariq Ahmed Memon	

46	Mr. Ahmed Bux Shaikh	
47	Mr. Naz Sehto	KTN
48	Mr. Ali Hassan Mallah	
49	Mr. Nasir Pahwar	G.S. FiF
50	Mr. Majeed Thahim	O.S. FiF
51	Mr. Saleem Shaikh	WWF-P

Daily Awami Awaz Nov. 9, 2010

موسمي تبديلين کي روڪڻ لاءِ پيداو وڌائڻ تي زور

ماحولياتي ماهرن فرينڊس آف انڊس فورور پاران ٻوڏ جي ماحولياتي وڌندا. فرينڊس آف انڊس فوروم جي جنرل سيڪريٽري ناصر پنهور چيو ته جيتوڻيڪ ٻوڏ جا ماحول تي تمام گهرا ٻوڏ ڪري رهيا آهن، پر انهن سان گڏوگڏ ڪيترائي ناڪاري اثر پڻ ٿيندا. ناصر پنهور اهو پڻ چيو ته صحافين کي ٻوڏ جي ماحولياتي اثرن بابت ڄاڻ وڌائڻ جي تمام گهڻي ضرورت آهي، ته جيئن اهي اهڙن مسئلن کي مڪمل طور اجاگر ڪري سگهن. هن ٻوڏ جي ڪري تباھ ٿيل جهنگلي جيوت، پھيلن وغيره تي ٽئين سر سروي جي ضرورت تي پڻ زور ڏنو. يونيورسٽي واري تحريڪ جي حوالي سان زرعي ماهرن ڊاڪٽر ميمڻ چيو ته ٻوڏ جي ڪري زرعي فصلن کي تمام گهڻو نقصان رسيو آهي ۽ زرعي زمينون پڻ تباھ ٿيون آهن. جيڪي ملڪي کاڌ ۽ خوراڪ جون ضرورتون پوريون ڪنديون هيون.



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هن انهن تباھ ٿيل زمين کي جلد بحال ڪرڻ جي گهر ڪئي ته جيئن ملڪ وٽ کاڌ ۽ خوراڪ جي موجوده ڪوت تي ڪي منهن ڏئي سگهجي. ان موقعي تي پروفيسر قلندر شاھ لڪياري حڪومت جي پيٽن جي زمين جي 90 سالن لاءِ ليزي سخت تنقيد ڪئي ۽ چيو ته سماج جي هر فرد کي اهڙي حڪومتي پاليسي جي مخالفت ڪرڻ کپي. پروفيسر قلندر شاھ لڪياري وڌيڪ چيو ته حڪومت جي اهڙي پاليسي اسان جي پيٽن لاءِ تباھي جو سبب بڻجي رهي آهي. آخر و اها گهر ڪئي وئي ته زمين هيٺ پاڻي تي قانون سازي ڪئي وڃي، پيٽن جي ليز ختم ڪئي وڃي، چوتري ڊيم کي نه پوڻ وري عمل و ملوث حڪومتي عملدارن خلاف انڪوائري ڪئي وڃي ۽ منچر کي وڌيڪ تباھي کان بچايو وڃي. سيمينار کي ڊي آف او جهنگلات سعيد بلوچ، زئين دائود پوٽو، علي محمد شيخ، عزيز وانجهائي، مجيد لھير، اسماعيل ڪمڀر، ڊاڪٽر يامين ميمڻ، پروفيسر گلشن آرا سهتو، اسحاق منگريو، ڪريم گبول، شبير نظاماڻي، ماروي خان ۽ ٻين پڻ خطاب ڪيو.

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Daily Ibrat
7 Nov. 2010



ٻوڏ جا ماحولياتي اثر جي موضوع تي ڊائلاگ

ماحولياتي ماهرن فرينڊس آف انڊس فورم پاران ٻوڏ جي ماحولياتي اثرن جي موضوع تي ڪراچي ڊائلاگ ڪئي. خطاب ڪندي ٻوڏ جي نتيجي ۾ متاثر ٿيندڙ جهنگلي جيوت، بيلن ۽ پاڻي وسيلن جي بحالي تي زور ڏيندي چيو آهي ته سنڌ کي مستقبل ۾ ٻوڏ جي خطرن کان بچائڻ ۽ موسمي تبديلين کي روڪڻ لاءِ وڏو ٻيلا پوکيا وڃن. اهو ٻيڻ چيو ويو ته تازي ٻوڏ دريائي بيلن وارن علائقن ۾ هڪ نئين زندگي آندي آهي، جتي سج چٽي نون دريائي بيلن جي پوکي کي هٿي ورتائي سگهجي ٿي. مقرر سان لاڳاپيل مختلف هاڪاري ۽ ناڪاري پهلون ۽ ان جا جهنگلي جيوت، اٻي جيوت، بيلن ۽ پاڻي جهڙن مسئلن جي اثرن تي بحث ڪيو. مقرر ٻوڏ جي ناڪاري هاڪاري ماحولياتي ۽ پاڻي تي اثرن، ان جي نتيجي ۾ متاثر ٿيندڙ جهنگلي جيوت ۽ جهنگلات جهڙن مسئلن جي نامناسب رپورٽنگ تي پڻ افسوس جو اظهار ڪيو. انهن جو چوڻ هو ته ٻوڏ جا بيلن تي تمام گهڻا مثبت اثر پوندا، پر ان جي لاءِ حڪومتي سطح تي عملي قدم کڻڻ جي ضرورت آهي. ان سان گڏوگڏ زير زمين پاڻي جي سطح ۾ پڻ واڌارو ايندو.

پروفيسر جي تحقيق جي حوالي سان زرعي ماهر نعيم ميمڻ چيو ته ٻوڏ جي زرعي فصلن کي نقصان پهچي رهيو آهي ۽ زرعي زمينون پڻ تباه ٿيون آهن. جيڪي ملڪي گاڏا ۽ خوراڪ جون ضرورتون پوريون ڪنديون هيون هن انهن تباه ٿيل زمين کي جلد بحال ڪرڻ جي گهر ڪئي ته جيئن ملڪ ۾ گاڏا ۽ خوراڪ جي موجوده کوٽ کي منهن ڏئي سگهجي.



پروفيسر قلندر شاه لڪياري حڪومت جي بيلن جي زمين جي 90 سالن لاءِ ليڊ ڊين تي سخت تنقيد ڪئي ۽ چيو ته سماج جي هر فرد کي اهڙي حڪومتي پاليسي جي مخالفت ڪرڻ کپي. پروفيسر قلندر شاه لڪياري جو خيال هو ته حڪومت جي اهڙي پاليسي اسان جي بيلن لاءِ تباهي جو سبب بڻجي رهي آهي. آخر ۾ ڊائلاگ ۾ اها گهر ڪئي وئي ته زير زمين پاڻي تي قانون سازي ڪئي وڃي، بيلن جي ليڊ ختم ڪئي وڃي، چوٽياري ڊيم جي نه پرڻ ۾ ملوث حڪومتي عملدارن خلاف انڪوائري ڪئي وڃي ۽ منچر کي وڌيڪ تباهي کان بچايو وڃي. سعيد بلوچ، زئين دائود پٽو، علي محمد شيخ، عزيز رانجهائي، مجيد ٽيهر، اسماعيل ڪميڙ، ڊاڪٽر يامين ميمڻ، پروفيسر گلشن آرا سهتو، اسحاق منگريو، ڪريمر گبول، شبير نظاماڻي، ماروي خان ۽ ٻيا به مخاطب ٿيا.

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Call to protect ecology in flood-hit areas

OUR STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI - Speakers at the 'Dialogue on Ecological Impacts of Floods' on Tuesday underlined urgent need for efforts to rehabilitate and protect the displaced wildlife, reduce severe ecological impacts and promote forest coverage across the province to avert such catastrophic effects of floods in future.

The Dialogue was arranged here at a local hotel by the Friends of Indus Forum to discuss ecological impacts the recent flood and come out with recommendations to reduce the damaging effects on every aspect of life including wildlife, forests, vegetations, aquatic life and sub-soil or ground water.

Speaker noted that the recent floods caused destructive effects on ecology, but unfortunately it was not reported, as it was needed. "While different sorts of effects of the del-

uge were discussed at different forums, print and electronic media, the ecological aspects remained under-discussed," they remarked.

There is no second opinion that impact of the recent destructive floods on ecology is as widespread and severe as on any other socio-economic domains.

They pointed out that there would be some positive impacts of the floods on the ecology. For instance, the inundation of riverine areas on either side of the River Indus would result in mass scale revival of riverine forests and the ground water quality would improve.

Riaz Shahid Siddiqui, DFO Hyderabad, said that the riverine forests are entirely dependent on flooding by the Indus River, these are expected to grow massively.

He remarked that there has been large scale degradation due to severe decrease in flow

of fresh water down stream Kotri barrage and continuous fall in quantum of floods due to construction of reservoirs in upper part of the country, which is a major reason behind the depleting riverine as well as mangrove forests.

Ghulam Sarwar Jamali Deputy Conservator of the Sindh Wildlife Department, said that 600-700 hog deers, 1200-1500 wild boars and 10,000-12,000 partridges were displaced from their original habitats and have taken shelter at safer places or islands in the Kacha areas or moved outside the kacha areas to nearby croplands.

He also informed the gathering that so far wildlife field teams and owners of private Katies have rescued 287 hog deers from different places from Guddu to Thatta, which are kept in rehabilitation centres at Hyderabad and Sukkur wildlife offices and New Jatoi.

Earlier, General Secretary Friends of Indus Forum that

Nasir Ali Panhwar said that flood has seriously affected ecology but it has not received due attention.

"It has been indicated that flooding has displaced or killed wildlife that used to thrive in affected districts. In Sindh, efforts are not made to protect wildlife like hog deers, wild boars, black bucks and jackals their species could be pushed towards extinction," he remarked.

Nazeer Memon, renowned environmentalist, said that the floodwater has brought new silt, which has enriched farmlands and help increase productivity level of the lands.

Prof Qalandar Shah also said that the government distributed forest land on condition that 25 per cent of the granted land would be brought forest trees by the grantees. But the relevant department failed to ensure this, because of which reports of anomalies have already surfaced.

Daily Koshish 27 Oct, 2010

ٻوڏ متاثرن جي آبادڪاري لاءِ سيٽلمينٽ کاتو قائم ڪيو وڃي

حيدرآباد ۾ فرينڊز آف انڊس فورم جو ڊائلاگ پروگرام

پبليڪيٽي جون زمينون ليز تي ڏيڻ واري پاليسي واپس ورتي وڃي: ٺهراءُ

نواب شاھ ۾ نير جي پوک پيهر شروع ڪئي ويئي آهي: ناصر پنهور

ٻوڏ واري علائقي ۾ ريزيوم پائيندڙ 80 سيڪڙو جانور خنڀر ٿي ويا: سرور جمالي

ٻوڏ جي ڪري پبلن جي واڌ ويجهه لاءِ سونهري موقعو مليو آهي: رياض صديقي

حيدرآباد (اسٽاف رپورٽر) فرينڊز آف انڊس فورم جي ڊائلاگ پروگرام ۾ مطالبو ڪيو ويو

اهي ٻوڏ متاثرن جي آبادڪاري لاءِ ڏسو صفحو 2 ڪالمر 6



حيدرآباد ۾ ٻوڏ جا ماحولي اثر جي عنوان سان ٿيل سيمينار جو ڏيک

فرينڊز آف انڊس

سيٽلمينٽ ۽ ري هيلپيٽين کاتو قائم ڪيو وڃي. اهو مطالبو هتي حيدرآباد ۾ ٻوڏ جا ماحولي اثر جي سري هيٺ ڊائلاگ پروگرام جي پهتائيءَ تي منظور ڪيل ٺهراءُ ۾ ڪيو ويو. پروگرام ۾ اهو به مطالبو ڪيو ويو ته پبليڪيٽي جون زمينون ليز تي ڏيڻ واري پاليسي واپس ورتي وڃي. سنڌ ۾ پڪين ۽ جانورن جي شڪار تي پابندي وڌي وڃي. ڪنڇي ۾ هوائي چٽ ڏيهي بچ پوکيا وڃن. پروگرام ۾ ڳالهائيندي فرينڊز آف انڊس فورم جي سيڪريٽري جنرل ناصر پنهور ٻڌايو ته نواب شاھ ۾ نير جي پوک پيهر شروع ڪئي ويئي آهي. سنڌ ۾ سوين ورهين کانپوءِ ان جي پوک ڪئي ويئي آهي. ڊائلاگ ۾ ڳالهائيندي ڊپٽي ڪنزرويوٽر وايٽلڊ لائف غلام سرور جمالي چيو ته ٻوڏ سبب جهنگلي جيوت کي وڏو نقصان ٿيو آهي. 180 ڦاڙها مري ويا. گهوڙن جو به وڏو نقصان ٿيو آهي. 10 کان 15 هزار تتر مري ويا آهن. ريزيوم پائيندڙ 80 سيڪڙو جانور خنڀر ٿي ويا آهن ۽ 100 جي لڳ ڀڳ انڊس ڊولمن ڪوٽڙي کان هيٺ نڪري آيون ۽ ڪيتريون واهن ۾ به اچي ويون آهن. جن جي بحالي لاءِ پلان جوڙي رهيا آهيون. پبليڪيٽي جي ڊي اين آر رياض شاھ صديقي چيو ته سنڌ ۾ صرف 2 سيڪڙو زمين تي پبلن آهي. درياھ ۾ پاڻي نه اچڻ ڪري پبلن تباھ ٿيو آهي. سمنڊ ڪناري 8 قسمن جا وڻ هئا. باقي وڃي تهر بچيو آهي. اهو به تباهي هيٺ آهي. ٻوڏ جي ڪري پبلن جي واڌ ويجهه لاءِ سونهري موقعو مليو آهي. اسان سنڌ ۾ 54 هزار ايڪڙن تي پهر ۽ ڪنڊي جي بچ جي چٽ ڪئي آهي. پروگرام ۾ ندير ميجڻ، قلندر شاھ لڪياري، زين دائود پوٽي ۽ ٻين پنهنجي بيان جو اظهار ڪيو. پروگرام ۾ ان ڳالهه جي به نشاندھي ڪئي ويئي ته ڪيترائي پبلن ۾ ڦاڙهن جو شڪار ٿي رهيو آهي.

Need stressed for rehabilitation of displaced wildlife

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Oct 26: Speakers at a seminar on "Ecological impact of floods" have underlined the need for rehabilitation and protection of displaced wildlife, reduce severe ecological impact and promote forest coverage across Sindh to avert disaster on such scale as a result of flood in future.

They said that floods have thrown an opportunity to grow forests along the river in Sindh through aerial seeding or through boats.

The seminar was held at a local hotel on Tuesday under the aegis of the Friends of Indus Forum to discuss issues relating to ecology and reduction of damaging effects on every sphere of life like wildlife, forests, vegetations, aquatic life and sub-soil or ground water.

The speakers mentioned effects on ecology which have remained under reported though media and discussed different aspects of floods. They said that flood had massive impacts on ecology, including positive ones, like inundation of riverine belt on either side of the Indus that would lead to growth of forests on a big scale and improvement in quality of ground water.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Hyderabad Riaz Shahid Siddiqui said that riverine forests are dependent on floods. He admitted that forest cover had decline due to reduced inflows in Indus and it continues to drop on account of construction of water reservoirs up-country. It affected mangroves also, he said and added that floods are bound to improve forests and mangrove cover too.

About floods' impact on wildlife, Ghulam Sarwar Jamali, the deputy conservator Sindh Wildlife Department said that 600-700 hog deer, 1200-1500 wild boars and 10,000-12,000 partridges had been displaced from their habitat and took shelter at safe places or islands in kutchra areas and even moved to cropping area.

So far wildlife field teams and owners of private ketis (large landholdings) had rescued 287 hog deer. They were

kept in rehabilitation centres in Hyderabad and Sukkur wildlife offices and New Jatoi.

He said this displaced wildlife would be released in their habitat once floodwater recedes. He called for proper rehabilitation of displaced wildlife in their habitat. Despite limited resources, rehabilitative measures are being taken to protect flood-hit wildlife. He said reports of slaughtering of hog deer in parts of Sindh during floods had also been received.

General Secretary Friends of Indus Forum Nasir Ali Panhwar said while flood affected ecology badly, it didn't get proper media coverage. "Floods displaced/killed wildlife but efforts could not be made to protect hog deer, wild boars, black bucks and jackals.

"There is strong need for sensitising journalists about floods' ecological impacts", he said and called for a survey to assess such impacts on wildlife, forests, etc.

Agriculturist Nazeer Memon said that before construction of three barrages, the kutchra area of Sindh used to ensure food security as it was producer of wheat, fish, meat, milk and honey.

He said that the declining forest covers means people are losing oxygen and added that urban areas (of interior Sindh) don't have drainage system and wastewater is being released in water channels and the Indus River. He apprehended spread of dengue fever if stagnant flood water was not drained out.

Prof Qalandar Shah Lakiyari opposed government's plans to award 90-year lease of forest land and said every section of society should oppose it. He said that lease granted on political basis should be withdrawn by the government.

He appealed to intelligentsia of Sindh to come forward and guide people how to cope with the situation.

The recommendations of the seminar demanded legislation on use of underground water, end to lease of forest land, inquiry into non-filling of Chotiari dam and protection of Manchhar Lake from further damages.