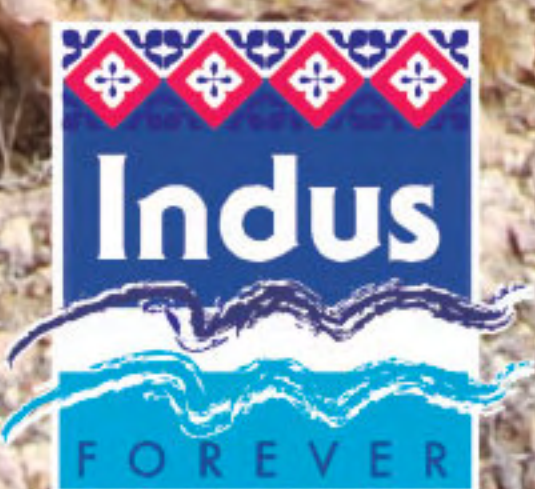




Indus for All Programme WWF - Pakistan Overview



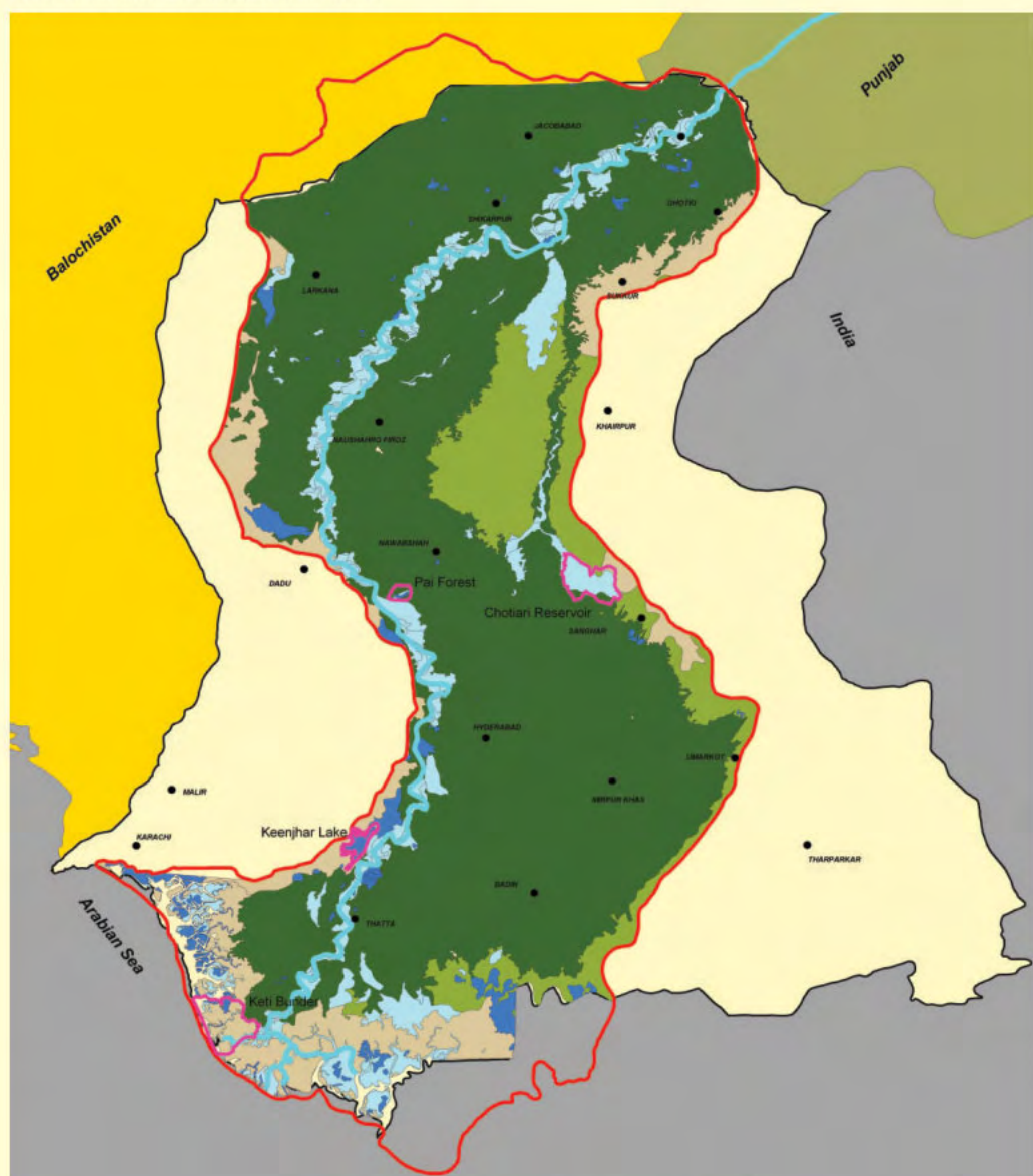
About Us

The Indus for All Programme is the first 6-year (July 2006-June 2012) phase of a 50 year vision of the Indus Ecoregion Programme, which stems out of the Ecoregion conservation initiative undertaken internationally by WWF as part of the Global 200 Ecoregions. Funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pakistan, the Programme is implemented by WWF Pakistan in close collaboration with Government of Sindh, selected civil society organizations and local communities.

The Indus for All Programme aims to conserve the rich biological diversity of the Indus Ecoregion through participatory natural resource management and livelihoods improvement of the local communities. The Programme has the following objectives:

- Improved community-based Natural Resource Management in four priority areas (Keti Bunder, Keenjhar Lake, Pai Forest and Chotiari Reservoir);
- Improved natural resources and livelihoods through mainstreaming of poverty-environment linkages at policy, planning and decision-making levels;
- Improved institutional capacity and awareness for sustainable environmental management at various levels; and
- Improved alignment and collaboration for stakeholder interventions.

During this first phase of implementation, four critical ecosystems in three districts have been selected for interventions. These include Keti Bunder (coastal ecosystem) and Keenjhar Lake (freshwater wetlands ecosystem) in District Thatta, Chotiari Reservoir (desert-wetlands ecosystem) in Sanghar district and Pai Forest (forest ecosystem) in district Shaheed Benazirabad.



Map of Indus Ecoregion

Empowering Communities

"The Programme not only prides itself for forming partnerships with local community organizations, but also for creating a strong sense of ownership for natural resources among those living at the priority sites."



Community Based Organizations

Over forty Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been established and strengthened for sustainable development and conservation initiatives.



Capacity-building in decision making

Capacity has been built of CBOs through organizational management, proposal development, advocacy methods, monitoring of natural resources and exposure visits.

Natural Resource-based Enterprises



"The Programme has initiated Natural Resource-based enterprises in order to diversify livelihood opportunities to the local communities without increasing their dependency on natural resources."



Aquaculture

At Keenjhar Lake the Programme has introduced pen-culturing of fish to revitalize fisher communities' income generation from fish. The aquaculture based enterprise is managed by a local CBO and the profits are invested into additional aquaculture ventures.



Vegetable marketing

In the desert areas of Chotiari Reservoir the Programme has installed numerous pitcher irrigation units allowing the residents of this arid and dry habitat to grow vegetables which are then sold in the local market. A cooperative society is also being formed to facilitate this enterprise.



Boat engine repair shop

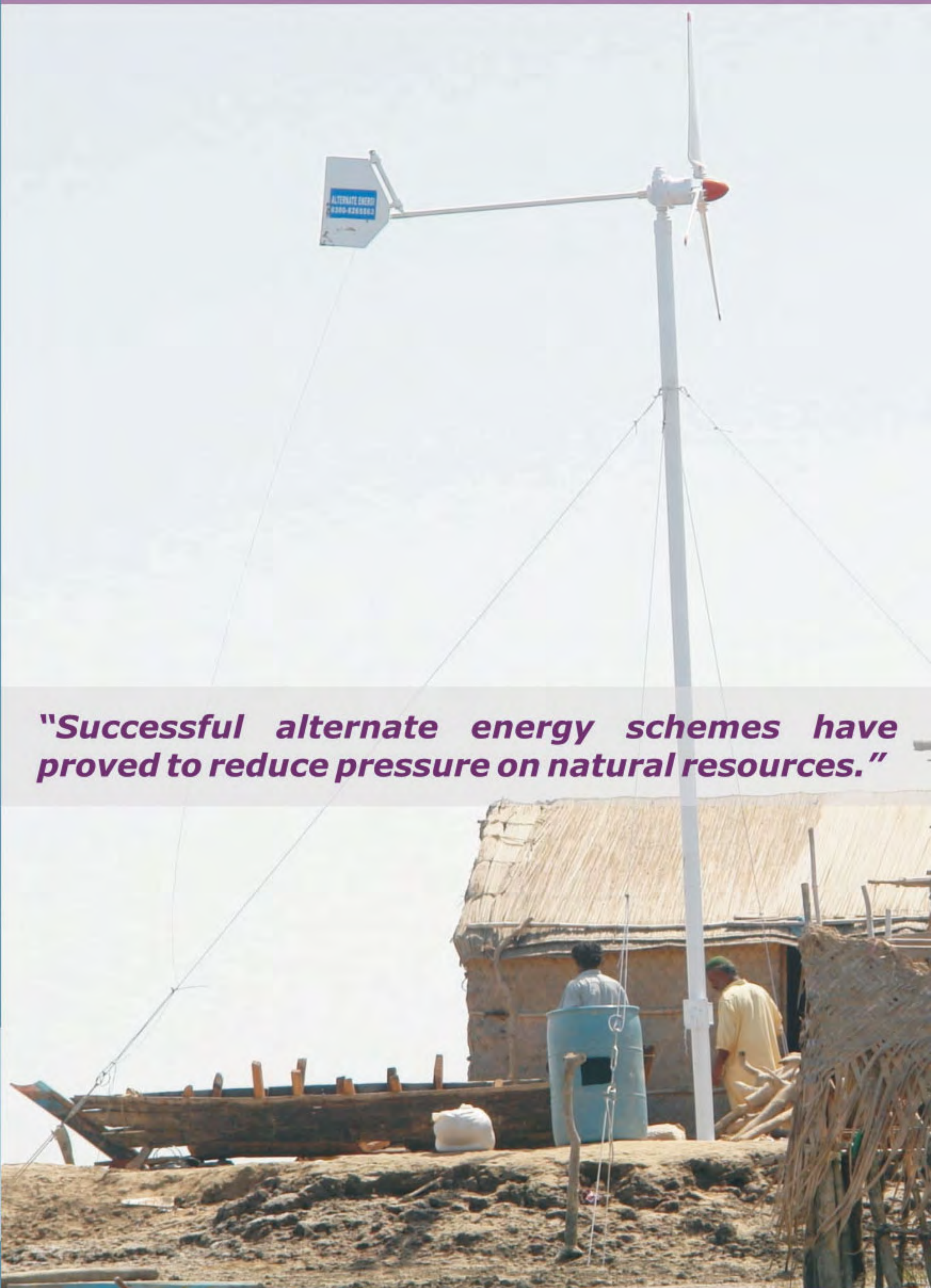
To aid the fisher population living in Keti Bunder town and creek areas, the Programme has set up a boat engine repair workshop. The first workshop of its kind, it will not only encourage cost-effective boat repairs but also train locals in boat maintenance.



Community managed nurseries

In the settlements around Pai Forest, residents are raising nurseries and selling the saplings in the market. This enterprise generates income for the local community whilst ensuring their involvement in the Pai Forest plantation.

Alternate Energy



"Successful alternate energy schemes have proved to reduce pressure on natural resources."



Energy plantation

To curtail the dependence on natural habitats, energy plantations have been established at the priority sites. These plantations should ultimately meet local firewood and fodder needs decreasing the strain on neighbouring forests and rangeland.



Installation of biogas units

This simple technology is being successfully tested at all the priority sites. Biogas units not only produce gas that can be used for cooking and lighting purposes, they also produce excellent fertilizer in the form of slurry. So far 21 units have been installed across the priority sites.



Wind-turbine installation at Keti Bunder and Keenjhar Lake

At Keti Bunder and Keenjhar Lake in areas where communities live with no access to electricity the Programme has installed wind/solar hybrid systems. These installations signal the Programme's commitment to these communities and are also meant as an incentive for them to conserve natural resources.



Solar energy units

The Programme has successfully installed and explored the benefits of solar energy units at three of its sites. Ranging from 200 watts to 400 watts these units have received favourable feedback since they provide regular energy and are easy to maintain.

Community Livelihood Development

HANDICRAFTS OF INDUS ECOREGION



"We are committed to improving livelihood of local communities by exploring alternate livelihoods to generate higher income."

Let's Explore the Indigenous Skills to Improve the Livelihoods of the Local Communities



Vocational centres

Community managed vocational centres have been established at four sites with the aim to enhance skill of local women and provide them opportunity to diversify their livelihoods and increase their household income.



Livelihood Development Plans

Sixteen livelihood development plans have been developed covering four thematic areas of fisheries, agriculture/livestock, cross-cutting and women's issues. Intensive community participation has produced these livelihood plans identifying interventions for increasing earnings while diversifying the livelihood base.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness



"The Programme is dedicated to involving and educating all stakeholders in environmental conservation and its sustainability."



Media outreach

The Programme engages both print and electronic media through consultative workshops, press trips to priority ecosystems, talk shows, documentaries, news coverage and press releases. The Programme is on its way to establishing and activating a forum of environmental journalists in the Ecoregion.



School and youth outreach

Intensively focusing on young people and school-going children the Programme's comprehensive environmental education component reach out to schools in the Ecoregion. It trains schoolteachers, establishes nature clubs, organizes nature study camps and engages in a range of awareness raising activities with school children.



Community outreach

Since successful conservation work depends on aware and engaged communities, the Programme strives to create awareness among local populations through sensitization workshops for resource users and women's groups, local festivals, interactive theaters and exchange visits. To showcase its community based awareness raising activities the Programme is endeavouring to establish Conservation Information Centers at Keenjhar Lake and Chotiari Reservoir.



Religious outreach

Exploring religious sentiment as an avenue for promoting environmental conservation the Programme engages religious leaders to deliver sermons on Conservation and Islam. A Sindhi translation of a book "Conservation and Islam" has also been published for this purpose.



Engaging with academia

The Programme engages with national and international academic and research institutions to promote research on various topics on the Indus ecoregion. Topical issues such as climate change and payment for environmental services are often the target of such research.

Supportive Policy for Conservation & Development

"The relationship between increasing poverty and declining natural resources and its impact on marginal communities, can only be addressed through informed public policy decisions supported by ongoing field research."



Integrating environment in policy and planning

The Indus for All Programme actively encourages government allies at the district, provincial and national levels to integrate priority environmental issues into planning and policy documents. A handbook on environmental legislation has also been published.



Strengthening government ties

The Programme is proactive in improving relationships with government, public and private actors to align actions for conservation and livelihoods improvement. It focuses on relationship development through regular multi-stakeholder meetings and joint activities.



Integrating 'green' issues into national policies

The Programme also promotes the fusion of poverty-environment issues in national planning while it searches for new ways to reduce poverty while protecting natural resources. Examples of such documents include: Provincial and district level 'Annual Development Plans' and Ministry of Finance led 'Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper(s)' and 'Medium Term Development Framework'.

Poverty Environment Linkages



"The Programme plans to mainstream poverty-environment concerns into the mandate of all policy level stakeholders by up scaling lessons from local level to provincial and national levels."



Economic valuation studies

Innovative research produced by the Programme includes valuation studies covering all four sites and placing rupee values on five ecosystems, namely: deltaic, freshwater, rangeland, forest, and agricultural ecosystems. The rupee estimates allow useful comparisons between "environmental values" and "development values." In particular, planners and policy makers will be assisted in justifying investments in conserving precious resources.



Poverty-environment linkages and indicators

This study examines the relationship between poverty and environmental stress. A total of 14 indicators are constructed and tested in the study after reviewing 20 linkages across four Programme sites. The poverty-environment indicators are designed to enable responses to patterns of deterioration ahead of major breaches to natural biological cycles of environmental assets at sites.

Partnership Fund



“Contributing to the long-term vision of the Indus Ecoregion Programme, the Partnership Fund enables stakeholders to implement projects that address emerging environmental concerns.”



Promoting alternate energy

To date, several biogas plants and wind turbines have been installed in remote areas of the Indus Ecoregion under the Partnership Fund. These interventions not only reduce community dependence on natural resources but also lessen the burden on household expenses.



Increasing forest cover

Through community participation, volunteer organizations are involved in increasing forest cover. Over 1,000 acres of land in Miani Forest have been planted whereas 100 acres of land in Booharki Forest have been planted. These projects will serve as afforestation models for government and NGO in the Indus Ecoregion.



Replenishing fish stock in freshwater lakes

CBO managed fish nurseries have been established to grow fish fry, which after release will replenish the fish stock of water-bodies such as Keenjhar Lake. This will contribute to improving the livelihood of local fisherfolk.

Mission:

WWF-Pakistan aims to conserve nature and ecological processes by:

- Preserving genetic, species and ecosystem diversity;
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, both now and in the longer term; and
- Promoting actions to reduce pollution and the wasteful exploitation and consumption of resources and energy.

Vision of the Indus Ecoregion Programme

"People coexist with nature in complete harmony and biodiversity flourishes in its entirety"

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