



Indus Forever is the quarterly newsletter of the Indus for All Programme; the first six years (2006 – 2012) implementation phase of a 50 – year vision of the Indus Ecoregion Programme.

Funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pakistan, the Programme is being implemented by WWF – Pakistan in close collaboration with the Government of Sindh. The Programme aims to conserve rich biological diversity of the Indus Ecoregion through livelihoods improvement of the local communities. The newsletter aims to keep stakeholders, other concerned organisations and individuals updated about the activities, progress and future endeavours of the Programme.

Local people in a village of Sindh resting under a neem tree



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Spotlight

Sindh Government declares Neem 'provincial tree'

The Chief Secretary of Sindh through a notification No. SO (C-IV) SGA&CD/4-20/2010 has declared neem (*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.) the provincial tree of Sindh. The initiative signifies the Government of Sindh's commitment to conserving forests. The proposal was jointly initiated by the Sindh Forest Department and the Indus for All Programme of WWF-Pakistan under the leadership of the Secretary Forests and Wildlife, Government of Sindh, Mr. Mushtaq Ali Memon and Indus for All Programme Regional Director Dr. Ghulam Akbar.

"Similar proposals are under consideration to declare a provincial animal and bird," said Dr. Akbar.

Neem is a fast growing evergreen tree, with a very dense crown. The tree's height ranges between 15-20 metres. Although the tree is native to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, it is also found in Malaysia and China. It grows in tropical and semi-tropical regions. The tree is widely cultivated in Sindh.

For further information about the tree, please log on to http://foreverindus.org/awm_factsheets.php.



Programme Highlights

Indus for All Programme undergoes external monitoring

The second external monitoring mission was successfully conducted by Mr. Wim Giesen on behalf of Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN). Conducted between 01 March to 21 March 2010, the mission's aim was to monitor and assess the Programme's progress for the year 2009. The mission was facilitated by Mr. Rab Nawaz, Director National Resource Management. On the first day, the external monitor was given a briefing on the Programme and its interventions. The monitor also visited the different site offices and interventions launched at Ketu Bunder, Keenjhar Lake, Chotiari Wetlands Complex and Pai Forest. Interventions, Mr. Geisen, visited included solar panel installations, biogas unit installation, and alternate livelihood initiatives such as pen culture and mangrove replantation. He also met with local communities living in the Programme areas and the stakeholders such as the Sindh Environment, Fisheries & Livestock, Forests and Wildlife departments. The mission concluded with a debriefing session which was attended by the senior staff members of WWF - Pakistan and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



Wim Giesen meeting with local communities at Chotiari

Exposure visit for key stakeholder representatives to Sundarbans, Bangladesh



Boat ride through a mangrove forests in Sundarbans, Bangladesh

A group of six environmental journalists, a senior Sindh Forest Department official and three office bearers of the Indus for All Programme visited the deltaic region of Sundarbans in Bangladesh. Organised by the Indus for All Programme, the week-long exposure visit, which commenced on 23 March 2010, aimed at providing the Programme's key stakeholders an exposure to another deltaic ecosystem so as to deepen their understanding of issues confronting the Indus Delta and develop points of comparison with issues facing Sundarbans. There were two parts of the visit. First, meetings were held with various organisations in Bangladesh, working on natural resource management, especially in Sundarbans. These organisations included the Forest Department; the Integrated Protected Areas Co-management Project (IPAC) of Forest Department; the Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project (BCDP) the Tiger Project of the Wildlife

Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) and the Forum of the Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB). Second, a field visit was undertaken to two wildlife sanctuaries and numerous rivers and creeks of Sundarbans where meetings were held with local fishermen communities. During both the consultations and field visits the participants learned about various aspects of the deltaic ecosystem such as flow of freshwater from rivers into the delta, sea intrusion, climate change impacts, protected areas management, land use patterns, community rights in forest resources, etc. Upon return from the visit, the journalists published several articles in their respective newspapers, in which they compared both deltaic ecosystems.

Indus River Day Marked

The Friends of Indus Forum held a demonstration rally and organised a seminar in Thatta to mark Indus River day on 25 January 2010 and raise awareness about the challenges being faced in the management of freshwater flows. Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary of the Forum, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that shortage of water in Indus River has delivered a hard blow to the ecology and the socio-economic life of the local communities.

"Reverine forests, which used to be the identity of Sindh have vanished, while unchecked sea intrusion has caused an adverse impact on fresh water ecology in the Indus delta, he observed. Later, eminent writers Badar Abro, Rasool Bux Dars, Aijaz Abro, Adam Gandro, Bakhat Jamal, Zahid Jalbani, Salam Dharejo, Bilqees Khati, Zahid Dharejo, Hameed Palari, Abdul Razaque and others also spoke on the occasion.



Tribute to Indus River



A Pledge to Revive Keenjhar Lake



Participants of consultative workshop on Keenjhar Lake

Speakers and participants at a consultative workshop on Keenjhar Lake voiced serious concerns over deterioration of Keenjhar Lake and urged the Sindh government to take effective measures to save it. Held in Karachi at a local hotel on 02 February 2010, the workshop was organised by the Indus for All Programme in collaboration with the Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Department. A group of eminent scientists, senior government officials and representatives of civil society, academia, media and industries attended the event, which was led by Mr. Munawar Opal, former Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh. Speaking at the event, the former Additional Chief Secretary Sindh assured the forum that a Wetlands Management Authority will be established through P&DD and other stakeholders to ensure that Sindh's wetlands are well protected.

He informed the forum that a high powered committee has been constituted comprising, among others, Chairman WAPDA, ACS, Senior Chief P&DD and PEPCO to look into the grim situation of water reservoirs in Sindh such as Chotiari, Keenjhar, Manchar and Haleji lakes.

"The lake has steadily declined in both productivity and its freshwater resources due to chemical pollution, over fishing and eutrophication," stated Dr. Laiq Ahmed Memon, Secretary Livestock & Fisheries Department, Sindh.

"The chemical wastes from 85 industries of SITE Kotri, along with Nooriabad Industrial Area and raw sewage from district Dadu and Thatta flow into the Lake through the Kalri Bagar Feeder and some natural drains (nullahs)," he said.

According to a survey, 29 industries in SITE Kotri are major polluters of the Keenjhar Lake, said Mir Hussain Ali, the Secretary Environment & Alternate Energy Department, Sindh and he assured the forum that the polluting industries would be tried before an Environmental Tribunal in the next 8-10 weeks. Dr. Aijaz Rasool, while presenting the findings of a study revealed that slightly elevated concentrations of certain heavy metal ions in a few water samples have indicated that untreated discharge of industrial effluents and agricultural run-off is accumulating in the Lake. "About 75% effluents of the Kotri Industrial Area are disposed of into the barani area (natural drains) while 25% flow through KB Feeder," said Mr. Tauqeer Tariq, Chairman Kotri Association of Trade and Industry. He requested the ACS to establish a combined treatment plant, so that the Kotri area receives clean water. WWF Pakistan Regional Director, Dr. Ghulam Akbar, said that as a Ramsar site, Keenjhar Lake is home to unique biodiversity. It is a wildlife sanctuary and Karachi's primary water supplier. "As numerous departments are involved in the lake's management and operations, the protection of the lake is not possible without coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders and beneficiaries," he insisted.

10th Sub-committee Meeting of IESC



IESC Sub Committee reviews progress

The 10th meeting of the sub-committee of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee (IESC) was held on 25 March 2010. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Mustaque Ali Memon, Secretary Forest and Wildlife Department. Indus for All Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, briefed the participants on progress of the Programme during the first quarter of 2010. Different programme activities were also highlighted including proposed ecological baseline surveys, consultative meetings with line departments, CBOs trainings and development of NRM plan implementation strategies, implementation of Livelihood Development Plans (LDPs), aquaculture, publications, and Partnership Fund. Progress on Friends of Indus Forum was also reviewed.

Need for Participatory Forest Management Underlined

Chief Conservator Forest, Government of Sindh, Mr. Aijaz Nizamani has said that the provincial forest department needs to adopt 'change management plan' to protect the forest resources by involving local communities and focusing on diversifying income sources of the people living in forest areas. Addressing at a seminar on 'Booharki Forest Rehabilitation Project' organised by Badin Development and Research Organisation (BDRD) in collaboration with the Indus For All Programme, WWF-P, held on 25 February 2010 in Badin, he said: "Present lease policy for forest land has resulted in the misuse of the province's forest resources; however, the policy could be converted into partnership policy to check misuse of the forest land." He also underlined the need for promoting agro-forestry. The Programme Coordinator Indus for All Programme of WWF-P, Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that BDRO with technical and financial support from the Indus For All Programme, WWF - P, has rehabilitated a hundred acres of the Booharki forest by addressing issues related to deforestation, shortage of irrigation water and unawareness among local community about sustainable management of forest and its advantages. Conservator Forest Riaz Wagan, Mr. Aftab Akhund Manager Partnership Fund, Mohammad Khan Samoon, Prof. Abadullah Mallah, Abdullah Turk Ms. Najam Mallah, Haroon Gopang, Khalida Sikandar Mendhro and others also spoke.



Tree plantation at Booharki Forest

Friends of Indus Forum Seeks Revival of Manchar Lake

The Friends of Indus Forum has called for restoration of Manchar Lake and urged the government to establish a Manchar Lake Development Authority, dedicated to rehabilitation of the Lake and its resources. The Friends of Indus Forums' General Secretary and Coordinator of the Indus for All Programme, Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that WWF - P under its Indus Ecoregion Programme has selected Manchar Lake for its second phase. The delegation deplored the deterioration of water quality, which has not only adversely affected the ecology of the area but also the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen and farmers living around the Manchar Lake. The Forum has decided to develop a position the paper on Manchar Lake to sensitise various stakeholders particularly the policy makers on poor conditions of the Lake.



Members of Friends of Indus Forum during visit of Manchar Lake.



Pakistan's economic valuation guidelines

A "valuation" refers to the assignment of monetary values to non-marketed goods and services. Such studies are undertaken by governments the world over in order signal changing scarcities of environmental and natural resources. Besides, the results of valuation studies are used to guide conservation expenditures and, as valuation translates nature into values that can be compared / integrated with financial and economic criteria of benefit cost analysis, to replace pure judgments in conservation work with fairer decisions. Because valuation studies involve considerable expertise it is important that those who commission studies are able to identify that expertise, ensure that it is embodied in the design of questionnaires, the econometric processing of models, and results presentation for policy uptake. Examples of national guidelines for economic valuation of natural resources include the US' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) guidelines for the Contingent Valuation (CV) method (15.1.93), Australia's Commonwealth Department of Environment, Sports and Territories and the Commonwealth Department of Finance (1995), and the EU's European Forest Externalities (EUROFOREX) guidelines (10.2.06 - ongoing). Having completed five total economic valuation (TEV) studies in 2008 jointly with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and a direct use value (DUV) study sponsored by

the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) in 2010, the Programme lent its expertise to the development of national guidelines on valuation of forests products and services. The guidelines were completed in February 2010 and were prepared by WWF-P, guided by a Technical Support Group involving provincial forest departments, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility, with the financial support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Besides a national consultation which was held on 28.1.10, successive drafts of the guidelines were posted on WWF-P's website (<http://www.wwfpak.org/wwf-projects/valuation.php>) from 23.9.09 onwards to facilitate a transparent consultative process. The final set of guidelines cover data requirements, choice of valuation techniques, survey instrument design, sampling and interpretation and presentation of results. They were presented to the Federal Minister for Environment, Mr. Hamidullah Jan Afridi, in the presence of the Deputy (Acting) Inspector General of Forests, Dr. Shehzad Jehangir, on 1.4.10 at the Wetlands Centre, Sandspit/Hawkesbay. The Minister advised on proposed next steps including practical valuation studies of all forest types based on the guidelines and enhancement of the existing capacity of line employees in environment, resource sector, and economic ministries to carry out such studies.

A policy preview of 2010

The policy mainstreaming and outreach component of WWF - Pakistan's Indus for All Programme will continue with some activities that were started in 2009 and initiate some new ones during the current year. With regard to ongoing work, the Programme has planned to mainstream its research activities and upscale its experiences in the fisheries sector by sharing proposals with the Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Department. The proposals are based on ideas and experiences of fisheries

consultants recruited from Sri Lanka. The reports submitted by these consultants propose interventions are geared towards improving fisheries resources and designed to improve livelihoods of fishing communities as well as suggest methods of integrating poverty-environment linkages into a fisheries sector plan. However, it is hoped that suggestions and proposals for the development of the fisheries sector will be incorporated by the provincial fisheries department into their plan of activities for 2010 - 2011.

Policy Monitor

Sustainable Fisheries Management Training Programme Held at Keenjhar Lake



Participants of sustainable fisheries management training with Director Fisheries Government of Sindh

Attended by over 25 fishermen from numerous villages of the lake, the workshop was held on 30 March 2010 at the Keenjhar Lake and organised by the Indus for All Programme, WWF - P. Coordinator Indus For All Programme Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Manager Keenjhar Lake Site Office of the Programme Mr. Zahid Jalbani, Trainer from University of Sindh, Professor Dr. Naeem Tariq Narejo also spoke at the event and shared their experiences.

Glimpses from the Programme Implementation Unit (PIUs)

Fishermen can play a key role in developing the fisheries sector and contributing to the provincial economy if they are imparted modern fishing skills through different training programmes, said Mr. Ghulam Mujtaba Wadhar, Director, Sindh Fisheries (Inland) Department. Addressing a closing ceremony of three - day training workshop on "Sustainable Fisheries Management," he informed the participants that the provincial fisheries department has taken a number of initiatives for economic empowerment of local fishermen and development of their communities settled around Keenjhar Lake.

Capacity Building Workshop for CBOs' Members in Thatta Held



Participants of capacity building workshop

A day-long capacity-building workshop on the subject of 'Conflict Management, Leadership and Team Work' was held in Thatta on 3 March 2010 for members of local community based organisations. Organised by Keenjhar Lake site office of the Indus For All Programme at the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council's training hall, core objective of the event was to strengthen CBOs members for better organisational management and sustainability through institutional support. Some 12 members from five different CBOs and one from Laar Humanitarian Development Programme participated in the workshop. The event was facilitated by Mr. Jamshaid Jakhio, District Project Office Marie Stops Society and Mr. Zahid Hussain Jalbani, Site Manager Keenjhar Lake.

Training Session on Better Management Practices Held

A seven-day Better Management Practices (BMPs) interactive training workshop was organised at the SPO office in Hyderabad for master trainers of all four sites of the Indus for All Programme to boost understanding about improved crop cultivation skills among them. At the event, farmers of the said sites were trained in BMP techniques and how to run farmer field schools at their respective sites. The week-long intensive training session started on 22 March 2010 and was facilitated by Mr. Ghulam Hussain Mallah, Sindh Agriculture Department's expert on BMPs.



Participants of BMPs training programme at SPO office, Hyderabad

Project Development Training Held



Participants of Project/Proposal Development training at Chotiari Reservoir

A three day training workshop on 'Project/Proposal Development' for CBOs of PIU Chotiari Reservoir and Pai Forest was held in Hyderabad on 31 March 2010. Attended by 24 participants from 21 CBOs of the said sites, the training workshop aimed to enhance participants' understanding about project development, with focus on project cycle, proposal development, concept and definition of monitoring and evaluation. Ms. Firdous Miznani conducted the workshop. Professor Dr. Iqbal Panhwar, Pro-Voice Chancellor, University of Sindh distributed certificates to the participants.

Farm Products Cultivated Through BMPs Put on Display at Bhit Shah Mela



Farms products cultivated through BMPs on display

Different farm products including organic vegetables, cultivated through Better Management Practices (BMPs), were placed on display at a stall, set up by the Indus for All Programme, WWF -P, on the occasion of an agricultural and industrial exhibition held at Bhit Shah. The farm products of different varieties, which were put on display, were cultivated by farmers of the four sites of the Programme, applying better management practices. A large number of visitors showed up at the Programme's vegetable display stall and enquired about different aspects of BMPs. Products put on display at the Programme's stall included potato, cauliflower, tomato, ladyfinger, onion, chilies and cotton.

Solar Units and Fish Pond Inaugurated at Keti Bunder



Solar panels here brighten up a villages in Keti Bunder

An inauguration ceremony of two interventions, under Natural Resource Enterprise Development initiative, was held on 17 February 2010 at Bhoori village in Khober Creek area. The interventions were inaugurated by area notable Mehmood Alam Shah. The interventions include installation of three centralised solar units and promotion of pen culture. The solar energy units were installed in five villages of Hajamro and Khober creeks of Keti Bunder, through which 50 households have been electrified. The villagers say that the solar electricity has resulted in saving of Rs. 1,500 per household each month as they are no longer using kerosene oil for lamps.



NCHD officials discuss education related problems with local communities at Keti Bunder



Fish seed being released in Bakaar Lake near Chotiari Reservoir

Distribution of Cold Storage Tanks Among Fishermen of Keti Bunder



Mr. Wim Giesen, the external monitor delivering a storage tank to a local fisherman

Some 60 cold storage tanks were distributed among poor fishermen at Keti Bunder in order to help them reduce fish losses. Absence of modern cold storage facilities often results in wastage of fish and cause financial loss. However, the cold storage facilities will help cut such financial losses and contribute to improve livelihoods.

Community School at Tippan Adopted by NCHD

In an effort to develop linkages between CBOs and other NGOs, the General Manager National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Thatta, visited community school at Tippan village in Keti Bunder. During the visit facilitated by WWF's team, the NCHD General Manager was shown school room that was damaged by strong winds last year. Matters relating to the discontinuation of teachers' salaries also came under discussion. Following directives of Thatta District Coordination Officer, the NCHD GM said that teacher's salary would be paid by his organisation and damaged room would be rebuilt for which expenses will be borne by NCHD, while the community agreed to provide labour.

Livelihood Improvement Intervention at Chotiari Reservoir Site Launched

Fishermen can play a key role in developing the fisheries sector. The Indus for All Programme under its Livelihood Development Plans has launched two initiatives to improve livelihood sources of community members living around the Chotiari Reservoir. Under this, fish collection and marketing points have been set up for 150 families at Phullel, a fishermen community village located inside the Chotiari Reservoir. The intervention aims to provide local fishermen with a facility for proper and hygienic handling of fish. The intervention aims to help improve income sources of the families and reduce pressure on the natural resources.

HR News

Internship

Faiza Tariq, a student of Karachi University, interned from 4 January - 4 April 2010. She assisted Director NRM at Karachi office. Neha Munir Siddiqui, a student of Karachi Grammar School, interned from 22 December - 22 February 2010. She assisted Manager Communication and Environmental Education at Karachi office.

Welcome onboard

Mr. Altaf Shaikh joined WWF - P at Karachi office as Policy Analyst (P&D) on 19 Feb 2010. Ms. Mehreen Niazi joined WWF-P at Karachi as Front Desk Officer on 15 March 2010.

Other News

WWF – Pakistan Signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SAMAA TV Channel



Dr. Ghulam Akbar and Mr. Amir Jahangir at the MoU signing ceremony

WWF - Pakistan signed a MoU with Samaa TV on 4th February at the Wetland Centre for the promotion of environmental awareness among masses. Dr. Ghulam Akbar, Regional Director, WWF – Pakistan and Mr. Amir Jahangir, Chief Executive Officer, Samaa TV, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

Two-year Project on Coastal Cetaceans Launched

A new two-year project on coastal marine cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) has been launched, which will focus its activities (boat, beach and fisher community surveys) in coastal areas of Indus Delta in Sindh province particularly Sandspit area in Karachi and Keti Bunder in District Thatta. The project will engage in a series of activities ranging from conservation of habitat, to securing a sustainable population of Indo-pacific humpback dolphin and Indo - pacific bottlenose dolphin, to collecting, analyzing and disseminating information for scientific and popular audiences, in addition to promoting livelihood initiatives and carrying out lobbying and advocacy activities. The project areas are Balochistan including Sonmiani, Ormara, Pasni and Gwadar. The project partners include WWF-P's Indus for All Programme, a UK based organisation Marine Conservation International (MCI) and Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP). Dr. Mauvis Gore from MCI will supervise the project.

By: Muhammad Shoab Kiani
Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology, University of Karachi



Marine life survey team visiting a coastal area

Indus For All Programme, WWF - Pakistan

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

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Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)

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Keenjhar Lake

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Keti Bunder

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Pai Forest

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