



Indus Forever is a 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.



A constructed wetland at village Majeed Keerio, District Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh

Spotlight

Inside this Issue:

Spotlight

It is not Waste but Wealth ...

Programme Highlights

- The Programme's Documentary and Some Key Publications Launched
- 8th Meeting of Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee
- Friends of Indus Forum Calls for Environmental Flows to Save the Indus Delta

Poverty-Environment Watch

The Policy Monitor

Glimpses from the Programme

Implementation Units (PIUs)

HR News

Other News

It is not Waste but Wealth ...

WWF – Pakistan has developed five constructed wetlands in Sindh Region: two in District Shaheed Benazirabad and three in Sanghar. The initiative is first of its kind taken by WWF in Pakistan to demonstrate the concept of constructed wetlands. The projects are being implemented by local NGOs and CBOs with support of the Indus for All Programme of WWF – Pakistan while the one located in District Sanghar is overseen by the Government Pir Syed Sabghatullah Shah Shaheed Degree College, Sanghar. Technical assistance for these projects has been provided by a consultant from UN Habitat, Nepal.

These artificial wetlands, each covering an area of about 0.25 to 0.5 acre have been developed to accumulate domestic wastewater from villages and towns in the vicinity. The projects employ various techniques to purify wastewater for making it useable for agriculture, aquaculture and other purposes. The various purification processes that take place include anaerobic reaction, nutrients uptake by wetlands vegetation such as Typha and Phragmitis sp. and consumption of organic compounds by microbes in the filter beds.

At the same time these wetlands aim to demonstrate environmental conservation through improved sanitation and greening of wastelands around villages and towns. Each wetland has been built to consume wastewater from 2,000-5,000 households in the areas.

Of the five constructed wetlands, one has been carried out under the Partnership Fund, two under the Indus for All Programme and two have been financially supported by the Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh.





Speakers showing BMPs Manuals and TEK study at launching ceremony

The Programme's Documentary and Some Key Publications Launched

Produced with the support of WWF – Pakistan's Indus for All Programme, a documentary 'Flowing Indus River Forever', a study on 'Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Indus Ecoregion' and two manuals on Better Management Practices (BMP) for Wheat, Cotton and Vegetables were displayed at a launching ceremony held at a local hotel in Hyderabad on 25 June 2010. Organised by the Programme team, the launch was attended by a large number of people belonging to government, civil society organisations, academia and media outfits. During the ceremony, speakers spoke on anthropogenic causes of environmental degradation in Sindh. A few of the speakers also noted that while this degradation could not be rolled back; awareness regarding the dangers of environmental degradation and citizen led conservation could certainly be promoted.

Dr. Iqbal Panhwar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh, Mirpurkhas campus, lauded the BMP manuals and hoped that the BM manuals would benefit agriculturalists in the form of rise in per acre yield.

Mr. Abdul Majeed Nizamani, President of the Sindh Abadgar Board, said that Sindh's agricultural productivity remains stagnant due to poor cultivation techniques. "However, the manuals will help the farming community improve their cultivation practices," he said.

Mr. Rab Nawaz, Director NRM WWF-P, remarked that the manuals have been designed to promote environmental-friendly and sustainable farming practices among farmers and thereby support the livelihoods of poor communities. "The manuals have also useful information on pest control, integrated water management and reducing pollution by decreasing the amount of agro-chemicals" he added.

Renowned scholar Prof. Qalandar Shah said of the study on Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a welcome publication by WWF – P and the folk wisdom related to the environment and ecology is an asset that should be preserved for coming generations.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, said Sindh province is bestowed with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Unfortunately, some species have vanished because of unchecked human activities. "The environmental education material launched today is aimed at turning around people's unhealthy attitude towards the environment," he remarked.

Dr Altaf Abro, Manager Conservation, WWF – P, opined that the video documentary and materials would encourage people to become involved in environmental protection and conservation. The documentary was highly appreciated by the participants.

8th Meeting of Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee

Eighth meeting of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee (IESC) was held on 25 May 2010 at the Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh. The Secretary Forests and Wildlife, Mr. Mushtaque Memon, presided over the meeting, in the absence of the Additional Chief Secretary (Dev.). During the meeting, following on the successful notification of the provincial tree, committee members agreed to seek public opinion on declaring provincial animal and bird.

The Regional Director of the Indus for All Programme, Dr. Ghulam Akbar, briefed new participants on the background of the Indus for All Programme, its themes and achievements, and partners. The Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, updated members on



IESC meeting taking place at Sindh Planning & Development Department

the Programme's activities and progress. While the Director of Natural Resource Management, Mr. Rab Nawaz, discussed issues of special interest including the development of terms of reference for a provincial wetlands management authority and Keenjhar Coordination Committee.

Friends of Indus Forum Calls for Environmental Flows to Save the Indus Delta



Friends of Indus Forum members meet in Hyderabad

Representatives of the Friends of Indus Forum have urged the government to declare the Indus Delta a fifth shareholder, in addition to the four provinces, in the distribution of water.

At a meeting held in Hyderabad on 27 June 2010, they also underlined a need to review the Water Accord 1991 and urged the release of the required quantity of water downstream of Kotri to save the dying delta. During the meeting, Manager Conservation Sindh Programme (WWF – P), Dr. Altaf Abro, was invited to present on Pakistan's water policy. He said that the draft national water policy has failed to identify problems caused by the absence of legislation on water rights and entitlements. Instead, it only focuses on how the existing provincial water rights envisaged in the Water Accord can be reinforced further.

He also pointed out that "The draft policy makes a weak assertion that all citizens should be guaranteed right of equitable access to potable water and sanitation facilities while it has fallen short of dealing with the problem of farmer water entitlements and the legal role of water users' associations in buying and selling bulk water entitlements in the Indus irrigation system." Moreover, policy makers have failed to recognise that the glacier melts and ground water are the primary water sources in Pakistan, and the policy does not accommodate climate change as a determining factor in the availability and management of water resources.

A discussion following Dr. Abro's presentation highlighted the need to address gaps in the water policy. Participants were also of the view that the national water policy should also be formulated in a transparent and coherent manner. The Forum participants observed that the water losses in the distribution network have increased to around 40% and solution to the problem lies in promotion of its efficient use at all levels.

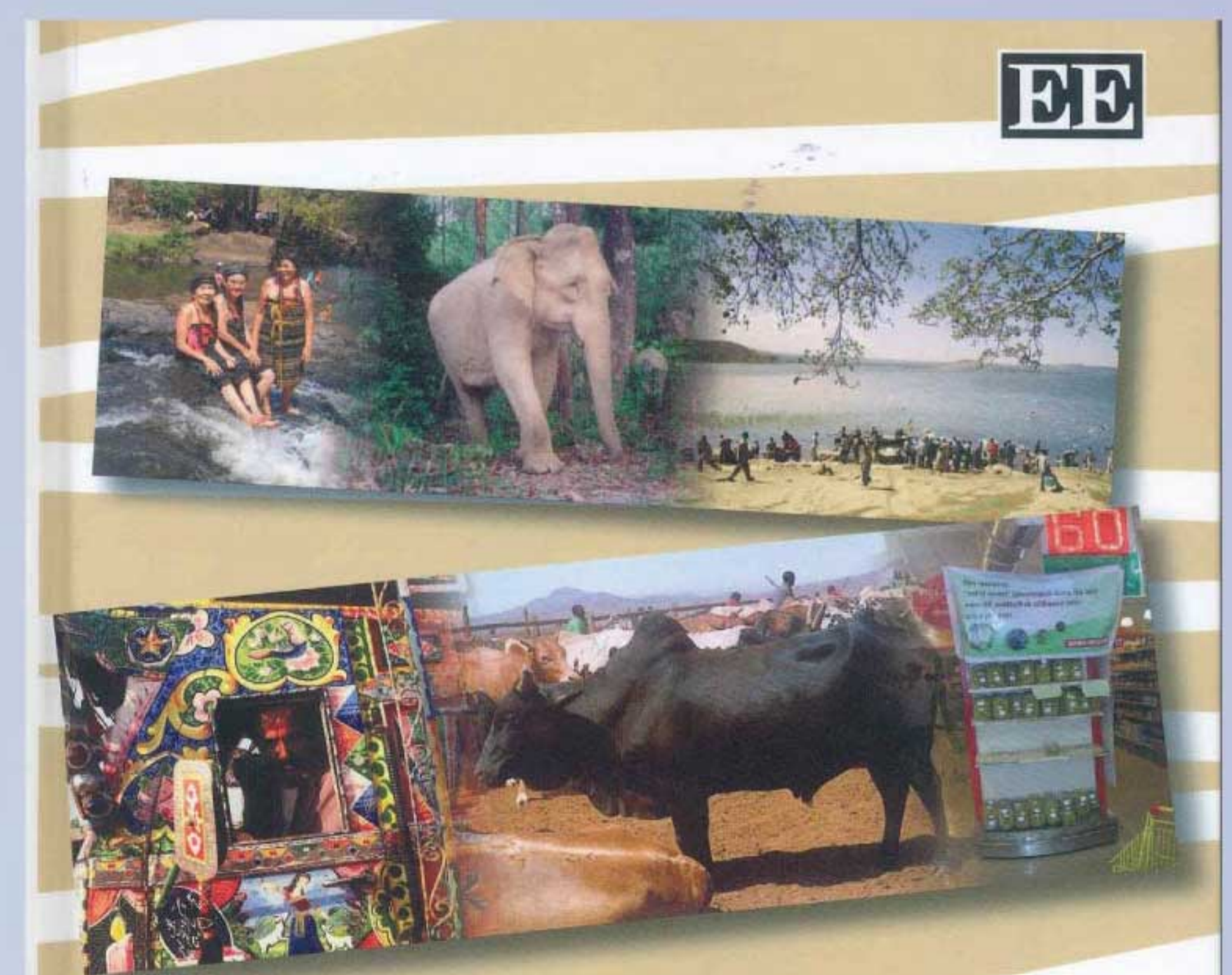
Monetizing Ecosystems as a Policy Instrument

In a two-year collaboration between the Indus for All Programme and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), the World Wide Fund for Nature – Pakistan (WWF-P) completed in 2008 a total economic valuation of coastal, forest, agriculture, rangeland and freshwater ecosystems. While the manuscript for this book is currently under consideration by Oxford University Press Pakistan, a book chapter based on the authors' estimate of the ecosystems' "non-use values" has already appeared. In particular, a leading international academic press, Edward Elgar, released a book entitled "Choice Experiments in April 2010 that has been hailed as "an invaluable one-stop presentation of the best-practice case studies in implementing the choice experiment method in developing countries".

In an International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seminar recorded in Washington D.C. on 21.6.10

(see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ec1Bst5kvUc&feature=channel> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un14k1IPmrs>), the co-editors of the book, Dr. Jeff Bennett, Australian National University, and Dr. Ekin Birol, IFPRI, may be seen introducing and launching the book.

Poverty-Environment Watch



Choice Experiments in Developing Countries

Implementation, Challenges and Policy Implications

Edited by Jeff Bennett and Ekin Birol

Environment: A Provincial Subject

Under the 18th amendment the federal government’s decision to transfer the environment portfolio, among a range of other portfolios, to the provinces has been heatedly debated in the national and provincial media. Environmental pollution and ecology were listed at number 24 of the Concurrent Legislative List of Schedule IV of the Constitution of Pakistan, which has been devolved.

While the federal government has provided a time frame within which this transfer is to take place, the mechanism for this transfer remains largely unclear. However, transference of the subject to provinces does offer a historic opportunity for more debate, discussion and creative planning around this process and lay responsibility on the shoulders of provinces to develop viable plans to effectively address the mounting effects of resource depletion, pollution and climate change at the provincial level.

The Indus for All Programme realises that daunting though this challenge may seem, it also offers the provinces an opportunity for the provinces to shape the environmental policy afresh.

We hope that the Government of Sindh will seize this opportunity and invest increasingly in conservation and natural resource management projects, such as: managing protected areas, instituting wetlands management programmes, intensive afforestation schemes and will develop projects that focus on responding to threats emerging from climactic variability. This would inevitably require relevant provincial government departments to solicit the input of conservation organisations when developing project proposals and building capacity among government personnel to initiate and manage such projects and programmes.

Fish Ecopoint Established at Keenjhar Lake

The Programme, in collaboration with the Keenjhar Mahool Dost Welfare and Development Organisation, has supported establishment of the first fish ecopoint at the Hillaya picnic spot at Keenjhar Lake.

Run by local women, who are skilled in preparing delicious meals with fish as the main ingredient, the ecopoint affords them an opportunity to expand their livelihood base.

This fish eco-point is a part of the Indus for All Programme’s alternative livelihood development plans (LDPs) initiative. The LDPs seek to mitigate pressures on natural resources by providing community members, at all four programme sites, with environmental-friendly and sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities.

Glimpses from the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)



First ever Fish ecopoint built at Hillaya picnic spot, Keenjhar Lake

Networks of Local CBOs Set up at the Programme Sites

Area Coordination Committees formed at the three Programme sites, i.e., Keenjhar Lake, Chotiari Wetlands Complex and Pai Forest. These committees are the networks of local community-based organisations, which have partnered with the Indus for All Programme for conservation of natural resources at their respective sites.

At Keenjhar Lake, the committee known as “Keenjhar Conservation Network” has nine member CBOs while at Chotiari Wetlands Complex it is called “Chotiari Conservation Forum” having nine member CBOs and at Pai Forest it has 14 member CBOs and named as “Pai Forest Action Network”.

The primary objective of these networks is to promote community participation in the effective management of natural resources and improve livelihood of local communities. The networks will also work towards building linkages with other organisations and communities at sites for co-management of natural resources.



Programme Coordinator Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar speaks to local CBO members at Chotiari for ACC formation

Pai Nature Festival Organised at Nawabshah to Mark World Environment Day 2010

Hundreds of visitors, a majority of them school children, thronged to the Pai Nature Festival, organised in District Shaheed Benazirabad on 5 June 2010 to mark World Environment Day.

Held at the D.C. High School, the event was a mix of informative and entertaining activities. It was organised by PIU Pai Forest in collaboration with the Shaheed Benazirabad district government, Nawabshah Youth Organisation, Bank Al-Habib Limited, United Bank Limited, Habib Sugar Mills and Sachal FM 105.

A large number of schools and their students from Shaheed Benazirabad and Sanghar District took part in this event



A view of the Pai Nature Festival, held in Nawabshah

Earth Day Marked at Keti Bunder

The Indus for All Programme celebrated Earth Day in Keti Bunder and organised an awareness raising event in The Citizen Foundation (TCF) school Haji Noor Kannat. Students and teachers of three TCF schools attended the event along with their parents and area's notables.

A range of activities were organised to highlight the theme of the day and raise awareness about the environmental challenges being faced by the planet.

Tree plantation in the school's yard, speech, tableau, poster competitions among schoolchildren were the main activities in addition to a 3-D model competition on a given theme. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme said that Indus Delta and adjacent landscapes have degraded dangerously due to sea intrusion.

The mangrove forests and mudflats in coastal area of the Keti Bunder have fallen victim to the sea intrusion, which has swallowed over 200,000 acres of farm land. "Reduced flow in the Indus River has played havoc with the Indus Delta and its ecology", he added.



A student of TCF School gives demonstration to participants about the Earth Day 2010.

Mr. Faseeh Zaman, Area Manager, The Citizen Foundation, said that the education can play vital role in making citizens responsible for the caring planet. He said that students of rural areas have tremendous potential for growth provided they get the necessary opportunities. At the end, prizes were distributed among the winners and runners-up of various competitions.

7th DCC Meeting Held in Thatta

The seventh bi-annual meeting of the District Coordination and Advisory Committee (DCC) was held on 18 May 2010, during which progress of different interventions launched by the Programme in District Thatta was reviewed.

The meeting was presided over by DCO Thatta Mr. Manzoor Ali Shaikh and attended by local government officials, representatives of NGOs and journalists.

The Programme sought the support of the district government for the effective implementation of the Indus for All Programme's different interventions in Thatta such as LDPs and Natural Resource Management Plans (NRM).



DCO Thatta Mr. Manzoor Shaikh presiding over the 7th DCC meeting in Thatta

Mounting pollution at Keenjhar Lake also came under discussion. The chair appreciated and acknowledged the progress and achievements of the Programme's interventions. He also advised heads of relevant government departments and representatives of different NGOs to extend their full support to the Programme's interventions in the district.

As a symbol of his cooperation, he assured the house that garbage would be collected and disposed of appropriately from the bins installed by the Programme at Keenjhar Lake. Furthermore, stringent action would be taken against polluters, particularly people who wash their vehicles at the lake.

Post Cyclone Relief Work at Keti Bunder



WWF team distributing relief goods among Phet cyclone affectees at Keti Bunder

To mitigate the impact of losses caused by recent Phet cyclone in coastal areas of Thatta and Badin districts, the Indus for All Programme mobilised support from international relief and development bodies, and arranged relief goods, including quilts, slippers, jerry cans, and water purification tablets for the cyclone-hit locals.

The cyclone hit different coastal areas of the districts on 6 June 2010. At Keti Bunder alone, it affected nearly 5,220 families living in the four major creeks. Most of these families were rendered homeless and starving.

The storm devastated around 500 thatched huts while many others were damaged partially. Boats, nets, other fishing paraphernalia and a boat water tanker, which were sources of freshwater delivery in the creeks, were also damaged.

Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that global warming and climate change have increased the recurrence of cyclones and hurricanes and the coastal communities are increasingly vulnerable to these threats. "Therefore, permanent relief camps must be established and elevated platforms should be constructed along the coast of Sindh," he stressed.

A representative of International Relief and Development, Mr. Ghulam Shabir Kori, said that as an immediate response the organisation in collaboration with WWF-P supported one thousand affected families of Thatta and Badin districts.

Mr Zahid Jalbani, site manager PIU-Keenjhar Lake, pointed out that the non-governmental sector was engaged in relief efforts in isolation. He underlined the need for formation of a disaster management body comprising different local non-government organisations to cope with such disasters.

Livestock Vaccinations Administered at Chotiari Reservoir



A herd of goats being vaccinated at Chotiari

Thousands of livestock were vaccinated during a seven-day makeshift livestock vaccination camp. The PIU Chotiari Wetlands Complex organised the camp in collaboration with officials of the Livestock Department of District Sanghar.

Nearly 25,192 domestic animals belonging to 35 villages located around the Chotiari Reservoir were vaccinated under yet another initiative of the Programme taken under the Livelihood Development Plans (LDPs). The extension services were provided by the livestock department's officials, who also assisted in administering the vaccines.

Initiatives for Empowering Local Women at Chotiari

Five shops have been set up by the Programme Implementation Unit-Chotiari under the Livelihood Development Plans. Interestingly, these shops will be run by women and have been designed for the purpose of promoting women-oriented rural enterprises.

In addition to promoting enterprise, these shops will cater to the needs of local women, who frequently have to walk several miles to the distant market to purchase fabric, embroidery thread and other craft materials. The Programme anticipates that these shops will reduce travel time and associated expenses, while building women's capacity to manage small-scale enterprises.



A local woman deals with customers at her shop

Product Development Training for Women Artisans at Chotiari



Local artisan women of Chotiari Site getting training in hand-made product development

A 12-day workshop was held on 15 June 2010 in Chotiari in collaboration with Aurat Sujag Tanzeem to strengthen local women artisans' skills. Held at village Suheno Faqir Umrani the workshop was attended by 20 women. The training programme was facilitated by Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Iqbal of Aik Hunar Aik Nagar (AHAN). The participants were trained in the basics of design and colour palettes, and product development.

Participants were also trained in developing a variety of craft products such as door knob hangings, purses, wallets, decoration mats, tea coasters, wall hangings, cushions, apparel and table mats.

Biodiversity Day Marked at Chotiari



Children perform at the Biodiversity Day 2010

A set of activities were organised around the designated theme of 'Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation'. Students of four local girls' schools in Sanghar took active part and displayed their 3-D thematic models, posters on nature, and drawings, in which they attempted to highlight importance and present face of the local biodiversity. Prizes, shields and gift packs were also distributed among the winners of the different competitions. Visitors attending the programme included EDO Education, DOs Social Welfare, teachers, members of local NGOs, media organisations, and a good number of families and school children.

HR News

Welcome onboard

- Mr. Saleem Shaikh joined WWF – P at Karachi office as Communication Officer on 19 April 2010.
- Ms. Bilquees Khatti joined WWF – P at Keenjhar site office as Environmental Education Officer on 20 April 2010.
- Ms. Kalsoom Fatima joined WWF – P at Keti Bunder office as Community Development Officer on 3 May 2010.
- Mr. Imtiaz Laghari joined WWF – P at Pai site office as Environment Education Officer on 7 June 2010.

Internship

- Mr. Nisar Ahmed, BE (Energy and Environment Engineering) from Quaid-e-Awam University, District Shaheed Benazirabad, interned from 1 June to 30 June 2010. He developed case studies on LDP interventions in Keenjhar Lake site, District Thatta.

Federal Minister for Environment Visits WWF – P's Wetland Centre in Karachi

Mr. Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi, Federal Minister for Environment, accompanied by Dr. Shahzad Jahangir Deputy, (Acting) Inspector General of Forests, visited the Wetland Centre of WWF - Pakistan at Sandspit in Karachi on 01 April 2010.

The minister was briefed about the Wetland Centre's purpose, its role and activities being carried out there time to time. Mr. Afridi also met staff members of the Wetland Centre and the Indus for All Programme. During the meeting areas of mutual interest were identified and the minister assured the WWF's team to extend his full support. He also planted a mangrove sapling in the vicinity of the Wetland Centre.



The Minister with WWF's team after planting a tree near the Centre

Wetland Centre Website Launched

The Wetland Centre launched its official website (www.wlcwwfpak.org) to highlight the importance of the Wetland Centre and awareness about its activities, particularly among those who live outside Karachi and abroad.

The website has been designed and created by the e-Creatorz. Addressing the website-launching ceremony on 18 May 2010 at the Wetland Centre, Dr. Altaf A. Abro, Manager Conservation, Sindh of WWF - P said that the website is an important tool for promoting the significance of the Wetland Centre both nationally and internationally.

He also gave a detailed presentation on WWF - P and the Wetland Centre to the team of e-Creatorz. Later, Mr. Khalid Jamil Shamsi, CEO e-Creatorz, formally launched the website.



Members of e-Creatorz and, WWF at the launching ceremony



Representatives of WWF - P, KWSB and FDoK at the signing ceremony

KWSB and FDoK Ink MoU With WWF - P

The WWF -Pakistan, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) and Fisheries Development Organisation of Kakapir (FDoK) have shown their interest in coming together to address the issue of water shortages in Kakapir (Sandspit) and other adjacent villages.

In this regard, on 11 May 2010 they struck an agreement to cooperate and jointly work with each other to resolve the potable water problem being faced by locals of the Kakapir fishing community village.

At the agreement signing ceremony, WWF – P was represented by Mr. Rab Nawaz, Director NRM while KWSB and FDoK were represented by Mr. M. Najm-e-Alam Siddiqui, Chief Engineer (BT&D) and Mr. Abdul Ghani.

Indus For All Programme, WWF - Pakistan

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

606, 607 Fortune Centre, Block-6 P.E.C.H.S, Shakra-e-Faisal, Karachi.
Tel: 021-4544791-92, Fax: 021-4544790
www.foreverindus.org www.wfpak.org

Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)

Chotiari Wetlands Complex

House # 129/2, Housing Society,
Shaheed Benazirabad Road,
District Sanghar, Sindh
Tel: 0235-542837,
Fax: 0235-542791

Keenjhar Lake

House # B/112,
Hashimabad Society Makli,
District Thatta, Sindh
Tel: 0298-772318, 772319, 610426

Keti Bunder

Adnan House, Rano Mori Stop,
P.O. Keti Bunder
via P.O. Mirpur Sakro,
District Thatta, Sindh
Tel: 0298-620406, 610976, 619366

Pai Forest

House # A-3, M.U.C.E.T Employees
Co-operative Housing Society,
Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh
Tel: 0244-366364, Fax: 0244-282496