



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.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011

Spotlight

Inside this Issue:

- Spotlight
- 2011: The International Year of Forests Programme Highlights
- 4th Annual Planning & Networking Meeting
- 9th Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee Meeting
- Call to Protect Ecology in Flood-Affected Areas
- Indus for All Programme's Delegation on Exposure Visit to Nepal
- Policy Monitor
- Poverty-Environment Watch
- Glimpses from the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)
- HR News
- Other News

2011: The International Year of Forests

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2011 as the international year of forests to promote awareness of the sustainable management of forests, their conservation and sustainable development.

The decision was taken by the UN General Assembly in recognition that both forests and sustainable forest management significantly contribute to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, which include the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This announcement by the UN has come at a time when Pakistan has demonstrated the highest annual rate of deforestation in Asia despite the fact that forests cover only 2.5% of Pakistan's land mass, according to a recent report by WWF - Pakistan.

The report further points out that over 4.242 million hectares in the country accounted for forest land in 1992. However in 2001, this figure declined to 3.44 million hectares.

The report warns that if the current deforestation rate of 2.1% and trend of land conversion from forest to other uses is not contained, the country would not be able to meet its international commitments under the MDGs to augment its forest cover from 2.5 per cent to 6 per cent by 2015.

More than 61,000 hectares of forest land have been converted to non-forest use in the country since its inception, according to the report, which recommended the immediate placement of a government ban on forest land conversions, commercial harvesting and allotments; spread of awareness among lawmakers for proper legislation to restrict land conversions and recovery of forest land from encroachers and its subsequent reforestation.

...Continues on page 3



Programme Highlights

4th Annual Planning & Networking Meeting Held



Launching of the environmental education kit

Sindh Minister for Power, Ms Shazia Marri has underlined the need for raising awareness among masses about environmental challenges and fast depleting natural resources and sensitizing masses to play their part for mitigating soaring pressures on the all aspects of environment.

She raised this issue at the 4th Annual Planning and Networking Meeting of the Indus for All Programme, held in Hyderabad on 30 January, 2010.

Speaking at the occasion she said that media should play a more active role in this regard and raise awareness among the public about environmental perils and motivate them to help reduce mounting pressure on natural resources and their conservation as well as protection.

She underlined the need for increased and sustained investment in environmental protection and development.

Ms Marri lauded efforts of the WWF - Pakistan with regard to raising mass awareness about different facets of environmental degradation, natural resources depletion and other ecological challenges.

Director of the Indus for All Programme, Mr. Rab Nawaz, said that the meeting primarily aims at planning for year 2011 and networking for more effective implementation of the Programme's different initiatives related to conservation and protection of natural resources. He also shed some light on the flood's impact on ecology and new challenges ahead.

In particular, he urged the government and civil society to come forward and play their due role in mitigating the post flood ecological damages and rehabilitation of riverine forests and displaced wildlife in the province.

The Programme's Coordinator Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar introduced the Indus for All Programme, its goals and objectives, achievements and different plans implemented so far in the four priority sites, namely: Keenjhar Lake, Keti Bunder, Pai Forest and the Chotiari Wetland Complex.

Earlier, shields were awarded to journalists acknowledging their contribution for creating awareness. Those who received shields included Jan Khaskhali, Daily The News; Ms. Faiza Ilyas, Daily Dawn; Mr. Bhagwandas, Daily Dawn; Mr. Amar Guriro, Pakistan Today; Mr. Zulfiqar Memon, Daily Dawn (Nawabshah); Mr. Iqbal Khawaja, Daily Dawn (Thatta); Mr. Mohammad Hussain Khan, Daily Dawn (Hyderabad); Mr. Naz Sahito, KTN; Mr. Niaz Panhwar, Daily Kawish; Mr. Faiz Khoso, KTN; Mr. Imdad Soomro, Daily Ibrat; Mr. Rauf Chandio, Mehran TV; Mr. Ishaque Mangrio, Freelance; and Mr. Irfan Ghumro, Geo News TV.

Besides, the best community-based organisations from the four priority sites of the Programme were also given away shields.

9th Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee Meeting Held

The ninth meeting of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee (IESC) took place on 30 November, 2010 at the Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh. The Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & Development Department, Mr. Mohammad Ishaque Lashari chaired the meeting.

He appreciated the Indus for All Programme's initiatives in multiple sectors including natural resource management, livelihood improvement and alternative energy and assured his all-out support for the Programme. Mr. Lashari, meanwhile, underlined the need for promoting indigenous species of trees instead of invasive species such as eucalyptus.



IESC meeting participants discuss progress on Indus for All Programme

The meeting was attended by Sindh Secretary Forest and Wildlife, Mr. Mushtaque Ali Memon; Sindh Secretary Environment and Alternate Energy Department, Mr. Mir Hussain Ali; Sindh Special Secretary Finance, Mr. Najam ul Saqib Siddiqi; Senior Chief of Water and Drainage section of the Planning and Development Department, Mr. Fazal Ahmed Nizamani; DCO Thatta Mr. Jaffar Abbasi; Director Coastal Programme IUCN, Mr. Tahir Qureshi; Regional Director Shirkat Gah, Ms. Tabasum Afzal and representatives of the Coastal Development Authority; Sindh Secretary Agriculture; Manager Policy and Partnership Fund of the Programme, Ms. Khadija Zaheer and others.

Team Leader of the Programme, Mr. Rab Nawaz, briefed the meeting on background of Indus for All Programme being implemented in four sites including, i.e., Keti Bunder, Keenjhar Lake, Chotiari Wetland Complex and the Pai Forest in partnership with key stakeholders.

Mr. Rab Nawaz also shared with the meeting participants the key achievements of the Programme.

The Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, in his briefing said that the Sindh Wildlife Ordinance 1972 has been revised through consultative process and would be sent to the provincial law department for further process.

He also said that rehabilitation of hog deer habitat in the Pai Forest has been initiated while 35 livestock model farms in villages around Pai Forest have been established.

"Solar and wind energy are being promoted in the four priority sites of the Programme and rehabilitation of the mangroves in Keti Bunder area of Thatta district has been also undertaken. Besides, in Chotiari area of Sanghar district a rangeland management model has been established and drip irrigation installed," he apprised the meeting.

Call to Protect Ecology in Flood-Affected Areas

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

The dialogue was arranged at Hyderabad by the Friends of Indus Forum and produced recommendations on how to reduce flood impacts on wildlife, forests, vegetation, aquatic life and sub-soil or ground water.

Mr. Riaz Shahid Siddiqui, divisional forest officer Hyderabad, said that riverine forests are entirely dependent on flooding by the Indus River. However, the recent floods would act as a life blood for the flourishing of the riverine and mangrove forests.

Mr. 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 took shelter at safer places or islands in the Kacha areas or moved outside the kacha areas to nearby croplands.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar suggested that all the stakeholders should converge on a single platform to discuss the ecological impacts of floods. He underlined need for taking stock of the current situation with regard to impacts of the flood on wildlife, forests and water resources and suggested ways and means to improve the situation.

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



Distinguished speakers at the dialogue

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

Among recommendations emerging from the dialogue were: (a) legislation should be made on groundwater, (b) lease of forest lands should be stopped, (c) inquiry into non-filling of the Chotiari dam should be conducted, (d) Manchhar Lake should be protected from further damages, and (e) organisations involved in relief and rehabilitation should incorporate ecological and environmental concerns into their programmes.

Among those who spoke on the occasion were Senior Forester Mr. Lala Fazal Balae, Mr. Zain Doudpoto, Ali Mohammad Shaikh, Mr. Aziz Ranjhani, Mr. Majeed Thahim, Mr. Ismail Khumbar, Dr. Yameen Memon, Dr. Ghulshan Ara Sahto, Mr. Mustafa Baloch, Mr. Mustafa Nagraj, Mr. Ishaq Mangerio, Mr. Karim Gabool, Ms Marvi Khan, Mr. Saeed Baloch and others.

Indus for All Programme's Delegation on Exposure Visit to Nepal



Visiting members sighting wildlife in the Chitwan National Park

Indus for All Programme organised a 12-day exposure visit to Nepal for three persons including a staff member of the Programme, a local journalist and the president of a partner CBO. The delegation departed for Nepal on October 1, 2010.

The exposure visit aimed to increase delegates understanding of ecoregion conservation approaches. Participants attended a training on 'Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems' arranged by UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities Programme, South Asia, in Kathmandu.

The delegation visited the Chitwan National Park (CNP) located in the subtropical Inner Terai lowlands of south-central Nepal, among other locations.

Here, the delegation was taken on a wildlife sighting tour, and visited a community managed forest area, the elephant breeding centre and the gharial conservation project. They were also briefed on the subject of a community managed enterprise - paper making from elephant dung.

...Continued from page 1

"But, in extremely important cases, where conversion of forest lands becomes unavoidable, necessary provisions in the law must be made for compensatory forestation on twice the land being converted / allotted, the report recommends," the report has suggested.

Environmentalists have called for concerted efforts focusing on raising awareness at all levels by government, NGOs, media and other segments of the civil society to strengthen conservation of forests throughout the country.

They also suggest that the government should give a call for voluntary partnerships among all stakeholders of civil society and the government departments to facilitate and promote activities related to the international year of forests at local and national levels, including the creation of national committees or focal points in their respective areas.

The announcement of the year 2011 as the year of forests provides an opportunity for all stakeholders of the civil society to join hands for conservation and protection of the rapidly depleting forests resources in the country. The reason for this is that forests not only provide livelihood for tens of millions of people, but also are critical for bringing about a healthy environment and healthy living.

Policy Monitor

2010: A Retrospective

In 2010, the Indus for All Programme continued its engagement with the Forests and Wildlife, and the Fisheries and Livestock Departments of the Government of Sindh. The Programme, in consultation with government officials, developed project proposals for 2010-2011.

These proposals included conducting fish stock assessments, restocking wetlands with indigenous fish species and promoting sustainable fish farming. Proposals also covered joint community-government managed forest initiatives and the promotion of a game reserve with community supported eco-tourism. All these proposals reflect some aspect of the Programme's objectives and its thematic interests.

The Programme's policy portfolio also produced a series of briefs and concept notes, which are available on the Programme's website (www.foreverindus.org).

Of particular interest are the two briefs on (i) conservation investment, and (ii) community based vulnerability assessments. The brief on conservation investment is particularly interesting as it presents a policy perspective on the extensive natural resource valuation work undertaken by the Programme over the 2007-10 period. In fact, the brief has been specifically developed to bridge the different initiatives taken by WWF-P and other stakeholders in the realm of monetizing ecosystems and environmental resources.

The utility of the brief on 'conservation investment' lies in its use as a policy tool to help stakeholders adopt and promote policies, strategies and practices to effectively manage and utilize environmental resources. The brief on vulnerability assessments is by comparison a simpler tool. In light of the recent floods, and the recurring coastal storms, it provides an overview of natural disaster threats and their impacts, and discusses the nature and scope of community based vulnerability assessments.

In the coming year, the policy arm of the Programme will continue to develop similar purposive briefs and will sustain its engagement with government and other partners.

Poverty-Environment Watch

Phase II: Socio-economic Baseline

A socio-economic baseline survey was conducted between 28 December 2010 and 12 January 2011 covering Kharo Chhann coastal ecosystem, Manchar lake, Nara Wetlands Complex, and Khebrani forest. The purpose of the baseline is to provide both qualitative and quantitative information about Phase II priority site target beneficiaries (e.g., farmers and fishers).

The baseline will serve two broad purposes. First, the general and first hand field information obtained on physical, social, and institutional conditions in these priority areas will be used to design action / research programmes. Second, the surveys are designed to produce benchmark information for monitoring certain testable performance and evaluation indicators to be used during Phase II gestation and post-project periods.

What can one expect from the baseline results? Very broadly speaking, the survey instrument design includes three basic modules: (a) profile of household members; (b) their access to social infrastructure and perceptions on environmental, social and economic challenges; and, (c) sources of income and expenditure (in both disaggregated and aggregated forms). The design incorporates lessons from the Programme's 2006-2011 experience, in particular all three modules include sections that will facilitate the targetting of villages and help assess the feasibility of delivering various livelihoods and natural resource management sub-outputs.

The design is also forward-looking in that questions have been included for the Programme's upcoming work on adaptation to climate change. Thus, questions were included to help assess existing adaptation measures, if any, and the demand/need for help with adaptation.

As data entry has yet to be undertaken, preliminary results cannot be reported upon. However, a few interesting insights have already emerged from discussions with enumerators.

As regards floods, as access to villages in Khebrani was marred by floods, the team chose to complete surveys at the other three sites first. At Manchar, a number of villages -- key among them Abdul Karim Mallah, Goth Safi Thallo, and Goth Yusuf Jamali -- experienced outmigration owing to the floods.

As regards dependence on natural resources, at Nara wetlands complex, at Goth Jagirani, located at the right bank of the canal, those fishing only do so for own consumption and do not sell to markets. Contrary to this form of subsistence agriculture, at Kharo Chhann even fishers without boats or nets catch and sell crabs owing to the proximity of selling points. At Sanri creek, which is located on the very edge of the coast and far from the freshwater and inland portions of the proposed Phase II boundary, respondents have temporary housing for fishing expeditions.



Glimpses from the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)

Ban on Dangerous Fishing Nets

While speaking at a seminar, organised by the Indus for All Programme of the WWF - P, at Keti Bandar on 15 December 2010, - Director General of Sindh Fisheries, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Mahar, said that the use of banned nets was having a negative impact on fisheries resources and asked fishermen community to voluntarily cease this practice.

Mr Mahar said that the fishermen had been earning their livelihood through traditional methods and that if a more strictly enforced ban on the use of illegal nets was not stopped immediately imposed, they would lose their livelihood.

He added that government was promoting crab and shrimp farming in Thatta and Badin and, in this regard, 20,000 acres of land had been acquired to establish farms. He added that Karachi was a major market which needed to be capitalised for fisheries. He said that a reverse osmosis plant had been installed in Keti Bundar to provide potable water to fishermen.

The Programme Coordinator of WWF, Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that rich agricultural lands in Indus delta have now become saline by sea intrusion, as the flow of fresh water from the Indus was no more available. He added that as a result communities depending on agriculture turned to fisheries.



The Director General Fisheries Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Mahar gives away fishing nets to fishermen

The trend of over fishing has created unsustainable methods of fishing practices, which ultimately had to be banned by the government. He said that WWF was working closely with the communities in Keti Bundar to encourage fisherfolk to abandon banned nets.

Site Managers of the Programme at Keenjhar and Keti Bunder, Hafeezullah Ghumbeer and Ghulam Rasool Khatri, also spoke on the occasion.

Other participants at the seminar included Director Sindh Coastal Community Development Project, Khawar Pervez Awan, Deputy Project Director Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Programme (BBSYDP) Aslam Jarwar and Akhtar Samoon of the Coastal Community Development Project.

'Indus Ecoregion' Media Exposure Visit

A two-day exposure visit for Karachi-based journalists was organised by the Indus for All Programme 11-12 November 2010 to sensitise the media about conservation and environmental issues and the depletion of natural resources in the Indus Ecoregion.



Journalists at the Chotiari Conservation and Information Centre, Sanghar

Led by the Programme's communication officer, Saleem Shaikh, the five-member media delegation consisted of Mr. Bhagwandas (daily Dawn), Mr. Amar Guriro (Pakistan Today), Shahid Khaskheli (KTN TV), Nawaz Khuro (PPI) and Haris (Daily Times).

On 11 November 2010, the delegation reached Nawabshah where it was briefed about different Programme activities and interventions by Mr. Usama Anwar, Site Manager Pai.

Environmental Education Officer, Imtiaz Ali, took the delegation to the demo plot of the Indigo plant at Haji Keerio village and the constructed wetland unit for biological wastewater treatment built in Majeed Keerio village of Sakrand.

During his presentation to the delegation, Haji Keerio of the Goth Sudhar Sangat shared his experience on cultivation of the Indigo plant and its economic advantages.

At the constructed wetland plot, also funded by the Partnership Fund, Ameen Keerio of the Sindhica Reforms Society, briefed the visitors on the merits of the project and its utility in reducing pollution caused by open discharge of wastewater.

He also said, "The constructed wetlands for biological treatment of the wastewater are environmental service providers and becoming increasingly popular in different countries for removing nutrients, organics, trace elements, pathogens and other pollutants from domestic wastewater."

On 12 November 2010, the journalists were given a briefing on different programme activities and interventions in the Programme Implementing Unit (PIU)-Chotiari Wetland Complex.

They also witnessed interventions of the Programme in the different villages around the Chotiari Reservoir, i.e., livelihood development plans, solar energy systems, biogas plants, drip and pitcher irrigation.

Teachers Training in Environmental Education Sanghar

As many as 21 teachers of different government and private schools of Sanghar district were imparted training in environmental education and grassroots comics.

Held at the Chotiari Conservation and Information Centre on 26 October 2010, the three-day interactive training session was organised by the Indus for All Programme of WWF - Pakistan.

The key objective of the training was to build teachers' awareness-raising skills through innovative methodology and enhance their conceptual understanding of biodiversity, climate change and population growth.

The training was facilitated by Ms Nida Shams of the World Comics Network - Pakistan.



Participants of the training session at the Chotiari Conservation and Information Centre, Sanghar

Government Urged to Rehabilitate Sindh's Lost Forest Cover

While the recent floods in Sindh caused massive human losses, widespread damages to socio-economic infrastructure and displaced millions of people, they have undeniably provided an opportunity to revive forests.

This conclusion was reached by noted speakers at a seminar "Revival and Rehabilitation of the Riverine Forests after Flood" held in Nawabshah on 25 December 2010 and organised by the Pai Forest Action Network in collaboration with the WWF - P's Indus for All Programme.

Mr. Badar Abro, who writes on such subjects as environment and wildlife, pressed on the need to initiate a drive for increasing forest cover in the province without further delay.

He said that ideally forest cover should be 25 per cent of the total area of a country but in the given situation when the forests are fast being hewed this seems to be hardly achievable. It is unfortunate to note that our forests are rapidly depleting and inviting natural.

He suggested that the government and civil society should strive to increase the forest cover to at least ten per cent of the total area.



Speakers at the seminar 'Revival and Rehabilitation of the Riverine Forests in Sindh'

The Programme Coordinator of WWF Mr Nasir Ali Panhwar said that riverine forests of Sindh used to provide food and fibre and the contribution of forests to economic, ecological, social and cultural wellbeing of people was significant.

Under the millennium development goals, he said, Pakistan was expected to increase the forest cover by seven per cent till 2015.

He said the WWF - P was providing alternative energy systems to community living around the Pai forest so as to reduce pressure on forests.

Professor Mithal Jiskani of the Sindh Agriculture University said that there was strong need to enhance the forest cover across the province, particularly in the riverine areas.

Community Dairy Cooperative Shop Opens at Sakrand

The Indus for All Programme has established Community Dairy Cooperative Shop in Sakrand town under its livelihood development plans (LDPs).

The dairy shop is managed by a local CBO, the Sindhu Sujag Tarqiyati Tanzeem.

The Programme has provided the CBO with a milk chiller plant, a glass wears generator, gruber machines, measurement tools and steel tanks for the dairy shop.

Four milk collection points have also been set up in four villages of the town, from where milk will be collected through a tri-wheeler motorcycle-pushed cart and brought to the shop in Sakrand for selling.

Besides, training was also conducted for 10 persons who will run the dairy shop, which was designed on milk fat testing methods. The dairy shop was inaugurated by DCO Shaheed Benazirabad, Mr. Jamal Mustafa.



DCO Shaheed Benazirabad Mr. Jamal Mustafa Shah inaugurating the dairy shop

Call for 'Indigo Plant' Revival



Speakers and participants of the seminar on Indigo plant, Shaheed Benazirabad

Speakers at a seminar urged the government to help revive indigenous Indigo plant locally called Neer in Sindhi, which is national heritage.

The plant was widely used as a source of the blue dye indigo. The use of plant indigo has nearly died out and has been completely replaced by synthetic material.

They were speaking at the seminar 'Need for Revival of Indigo Plant' organised on 15 October 2010 by the Goth Sudhar Sangat Haji Khan Keerio in collaboration with the Indus for All Programme of the WWF - Pakistan.

In his key note address, the Programme Coordinator of the Programme, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that Indus for All Programme has developed small grants programme titled "Partnership Fund" for NGOs, government departments and academic institutions and grant awards are focused on the themes of conservation of species, conservation and management of habitat, livelihood support for nature conservation and ecological processes.

He informed the participants that the Fund has supported the Goth Sudhar Sangat to establish demonstration plots of Indigo plant to revive the lost specie.

Dr. Sadoro Naz, Moharam Ali Keerio and Muneer Ahmed of Goth Sudhar Sangat also spoke at the occasion.

PWP's Gawadar Delegation Visits Indus for All Programmes Sites

A delegation of the Pakistan Wetland Programme, Gwadar chapter, visited the Pai Forest and Keenjhar site areas (PWP) of the Indus for All Programme on 9 November 2010 to have exposure about different interventions launched by the Programme for natural resources management through local communities.

The delegation comprised 13 members including 11 participants from female CBOs of Gwadar.

The aim of the exposure visit was to showcase natural resource management practices at Pai forest with the support of local CBOs and suggest means of applying these practices in project; covered by the PWP.

Ms. Shahzadi Tunio, Programme Sociologist of the Indus For All Programme, and the PIU Pai Forest team facilitated the exposure visit.

The participants of the PWP conducted meeting with members of the Aurat Tarqiati Tanzeem and the Marvi Aurat Tarqiat Tanzeem and visited a vocational centre run by these local CBOs in the respective Talli and Mari Jalbani villages.

The delegation also paid visit to a livestock model farms in the villages and discussed the economic benefits of the beneficiaries.

Later, Mr. Usama Anwar, Site Manager of the PIU Pai Forest formally welcomed the PWP delegation at PIU office in Nawabshah and briefed them on the significance of different interventions launched under the Programme.

Keenjhar Festival, Nature Study Camping in Thatta



Campers participate in the Matka race in the Keenjhar Lake

A two day nature study camping was organised by the Indus for All Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature - Pakistan on December 7, 2010 at Chul area near Keenjhar in Thatta.

The event was attended by local people, schoolchildren and members of community-based organizations, NGOs, officials of different government departments and the media.

Executive District Officer Thatta for the Community Development Department, Mr Abdul Razzaque Ghanghro, honoured the event as chief guest.

The event featured the sighting of the coral reef at Chull site, basic camping craft, a mountaineering expedition, visit of trekking trails, orienteering and wilderness study visits, first aid and team building exercises, tourist spots cleaning, thrill sports and wakeup walks.

The main objective of the festival was to disseminate the message on conservation of natural resources. The festival also featured boat racing, Matka race and seminar, which was attended by people from different walks of life.

Orientation Programme-Lahore Head Office

The newly hired Ms. Bilquees Khatti, Community Development Officer, from Keenjhar office and Ms. Kalsoom Fatima, Community Development Officer, Keti Bunder Office participated in the orientation visit to WWF Pakistan office in Lahore from 20 - 21 October 2010 for an overview of WWF Pakistan's history, goals, objectives, on-going activities and core values, vision and mission.

Staff Capacity Building (National)

o Mr. Umair Shahid, NRM Officer at Keti Bunder Office, participated in a 4 day PADI open water diving course from 20th to 24th December 2010 organized by the Pakistan Wetlands Programme.

o Ms. Bilquees Khatti, Environment Education officer Keenjhar Office participated in one day workshop on Child Protection and Psychosocial Support on 23rd December 2010 organized by UNICEF at Thatta.

o Mr. Hafeezullah, Site Manager Keenjhar Site office, participated in a four-day workshop on "Towards a Community of Practice on Sustainable Management of Wetland Ecosystems" from 10 to 13 October 2010 at Islamic Republic of Iran supported by Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Programme/ UNDP/GEF.

Internship Programme

o Mr. Ali Ahmed Jakhro, BS Hons from University of Sindh, Jamshoro worked as an intern from 15 October 2010 to 15 November 2010 to assist in documentation of financial data at Keti Bunder Site Office.

o Ms. Zille Huma, MSc Zoology from the Karachi University, worked from 1st October 2010 to 31st December 2010 at Karachi office to conduct analysis on impact of Chotiari Reservoir.

o Mr. Ghulamullah Metlo, a student of Master in Energy and Environment Engineering from Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering Science and Technology, Shaheed Benazirabad worked as an intern from 28 October 2010 to 27 December 2010 on performance evaluation of constructed wetlands at Pai.

Other News



The Sindh Environment Minister Mr. Shaikh Muhammad Afzal, SSGC officials and others seen at the event, Karachi

Teachers, Schoolchildren's Role in Environmental Protection 'Crucial', says Sindh Environment Minister

The Sindh Environment Minister, Mr. Shaikh Muhammad Afzal said that the role of school teachers and children in improving the deteriorating environment could not be underestimated.

This he said while addressing a gathering on 25 October 2011 on the occasion of the tree-plantation campaign, held here at the Government Rashid Minhas School in Liaquatabad town, Karachi.

The 'School Greening' event was organised jointly by the WWF - Pakistan and the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) under the 'Green Learn-n-Fun Programme' in collaboration with the City District Government Karachi (Local Body Wing).

Syed Ali Hasnain of WWF - Pakistan stated that because of excessive and unchecked tree cutting, the situation of rising carbon dioxide gases continues.

He said that there is, therefore, a serious need for promoting and encouraging tree-plantation campaigns.

SSGC's representative Mr. Salman Siddiqui, MQM's Sindh MPA Rehan Zafar, Javed Mustafa Khan, Assistant District Officer Education, CDGK Local bodies wing, WWF - Pakistan's Policy Manager Ms. Khadija Zaheer, WWF - P Communication Officer Mr. Saleem Shaikh, CDGK environmental education organiser, Ms. Nuzhat Siddiqui; town administrator Liaquatabad, Khalid Riaz Siddiqui and DO Education of CDGK, Syed Khurram Arif also spoke on the occasion.

A turtle hatchling heading towards the sea at Sandspit

ICI Pakistan Limited Extends Support for 'SAVE THE TURTLE PROJECT'

ICI Pakistan Ltd. extended financial support to 'Save the Turtle' Project to facilitate the hiring of four turtle guards during the turtle nesting season, from September 2010 to February 2011.

The guards have been hired from the local community. They assist the WWF - Pakistan team at the Wetland Centre situated in Sandspit area near Hawkesbay, Karachi, for protection of marine turtles, their nests and hatchlings. Besides, they have been also assigned tasks to monitor the turtle population.



The WWF - Pakistan will be organising a turtle beach cleaning activity at the Sandspit in collaboration with the ICI before February 2011.

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: 021-34544791-92, Fax: 021-34544790
www.foreverindus.org www.wwfpak.org

Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)

Chotiari Wetlands Complex

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

Keenjhar Lake

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

Keti Bunder

Adnan House, Rano Mori Stop, P.O. Keti Bunder via P.O. Mirpur Sakro, District Thatta, Sindh
Tel: 0300-3149543, 0333-2583001

Pai Forest

House # A-3, M.U.C.E.T Employees Co-operative Housing Society, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh
Tel: 0244-366364, Fax: 0244-366197

"Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people"- **Franklin D. Roosevelt**