

Indus FOREVER

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

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The Energy Leap

Found an energy solution? This is the resonating thought amongst citizens and leaders alike. The share of people without electricity access in Pakistan is 25-50% (UNDP/WHO, 2008). According to media reports, the current shortfall is of 5800 megawatts. The energy crisis has led to galloping electricity prices and load-shedding as well as dwindling fossil fuels, commercial loss and a hampered effect on the poverty-environment nexus. The truth is, there is more of a crisis of ignorance in terms of feasible options than the apparent energy crisis.

Depletion of non-sustainable energy resources has invoked global debates. WWF estimates that the energy sector is responsible for around two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions. The options available to lessen this dependency include using our scarce land resource for energy production and to invest in renewable energy. However, these strategies are contentious, particularly the former, due to possible concerns including availability, variability, reliability, equity, aesthetics, land use, longevity, lifestyle and innovation as well as ecological, economic, financial, political, legal and cultural implications under certain conditions. Nevertheless, climate change threats, exacerbated with rising oil prices, nuclear accidents and increasing government support, are driving increasing renewable energy legislation, incentives and commercialization, thus dampening the debate (UNEP, 2010).

Despite the global economic meltdown, renewable energy contribution to energy growth is expected to rise from 5 to 18% in 2010-2030, with solar and wind energies leading the way (Deloitte, 2011). While the United States and Germany are presently leading the renewable energy sector, China has emerged as the world's largest solar photovoltaic manufacturer and also the largest market for solar hot water, with nearly two-thirds of global capacity (UNEP, 2010). There is also a massive potential as well as a demand for source diversification through use of renewable energy in Pakistan, especially in the Indus Delta ecoregion. However, following the global examples, a right mix of financial incentives (e.g., national fund, discounted lending, tariff / tax preferences), cost effectiveness, feasibility and licensing mechanism need to be provided. Competing targets, increasing collaborative endeavors and support of our leaders, businesses and investors will facilitate the process.

Currently, Pakistan satisfies domestic energy needs from thermal (65%), hydel (30%) and nuclear sources (Hassan, 2010). The Alternate Energy Development Board (AEDB) in Pakistan has been involved in improving access to wind, micro-wind, micro-hydel, solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, bio-diesel, biomass / waste to energy and fuel cell technology. AEDB claims that there is 30-32% wind energy capacity estimated in Gharo-Keti Bunder area, a WWF project site. Under the Indus for All Programme, WWF - P has installed 63 solar units (centralized: 30, home-based: 31, solar panels: 2), 6 wind power units, 4 hybrid units and 96 biogas units, together benefitting around 170 villages. It seeks to upscale its renewable energy contributions through a sustainable mechanism, such as utilization of indigenous technology. WWF believes that by 2050, global energy demand can be met entirely by renewable sources, providing energy that is equitable and affordable for all, and producing it in ways that can be sustained by the global economy and the planet. As part of its efforts for a 'climate-safe' future, it has launched the Clean Energy Ambassadors drive and provides 10 key recommendations for 100% renewable energy switch. These recommendations are concerned with clean energy, grids, access, money, food, materials, transport, technology, sustainability and agreements.





Consultative Workshop: Revision of Sindh Forest Act 1927



Stakeholders in consultative workshop

A consultative workshop on Revision of Sindh Forest Act 1927 was organized on 31 May 2011 in Hyderabad by Sindh Forest Department. The initiative was supported through the Partnership Fund established under Indus for All Programme. The workshop was the first step towards revisiting the Sindh Forest Act 1927, while other provinces of Pakistan have already revised their respective acts. WWF - P has previously provided support in the revision of Sindh Wildlife Ordinance 1972.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir Nadir Ali Talpur, Chief Conservator Forest, Sindh stressed on community participation in forest management, addressing needs of forest-dependent communities, and establishing a legal support system and forest courts to expedite decisions on encroachment cases. He hoped that revision of the Forest Act 1927 will pave the way for incorporating new concepts in forest management.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, identified a consultative process as vital in the revision of the Act. On behalf of WWF - P, he committed on supporting reforms in governance of forests, including through bringing in global expertise.

Dr. Ghulam Rasool Keerio of KK Consultants identified the present Act as weak and inadequate in its ability to meet ground realities. He added that the Act does not cover sustainable management concepts and approaches; its implementation focuses more on punitive measures. Mr. Riaz Wagan, Conservator Forest felt that there is a huge potential for poverty reduction, if the Act is made result-oriented. He called for developing a Sindh forest vision and highlighted current challenges in forest management, including shortage of water, encroachment and illegal logging.

Senior serving and retired foresters, and representatives of local and international NGOs participated in the workshop. Mr. Aijaz Nizamani, Additional Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department; Mr. Ghulam Qadir Shah, IUCN Pakistan; Mr. Umeed Khalid, Natural Resource Management Coordinator, WWF - P; Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Shaikh; Mr. Muneer Awan; Dr. Kella Lekhraj; Mr. Lala Fazal Balae; Mr. Mehboob Bhatti; Mr. Sadiq Mughal; Mr. Agha Tah; Mr. Wasif Ali Shah; Mr. Zain Daudpoto; Mr. Mohammad Khan Samoo; Mr. Irfan Shaikh; Mr. Abdul Sattar Khatri, WWF - P staff and others also spoke on the occasion.

Islamabad Chapter of Friends of Indus Forum



Members discussing formation of Islamabad Chapter

The Islamabad Chapter was established during a meeting in Islamabad on 19 May 2011 at Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) office. Mr. Mustafa Talpur was nominated the focal person for this Chapter. During the session, Mr. Naseer Memon, President, Friends of Indus Forum, expressed hope in the vital role the new Chapter would play in advocacy, considering the presence of key players in the capital city - public sector organizations, policy think-tanks and civil society organizations. Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, General Secretary of the Forum, shared the background and major achievements of the Forum. The participants offered fateha for Late Mr. Abdul Ghani and Mr. Abu Bakar of Fisherfolk Development Organization.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Zulfiqar Halepoto, Ms. Zubeda Birwani, Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Mr. Karim Gabol, Mr. Uris Umrani, Mr. Munwar Hasan, Mr. Irshad Junejo, Mr. Imran Qureshi, Mr. Aijaz Shah and Mr. Asghar Khanoti.

Third Monitoring Mission



The Monitor visiting BMP cotton plot in Chotiari

The third external monitoring mission was conducted by Mr. Wim Giesen on behalf of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands from 17 June to 1 July 2011. The mission assessed the Programme's progress for the year 2010. After a briefing in Karachi, the monitor visited the Programme's four sites, including a Partnership Fund supported project on rehabilitation of Booharki Forest in Badin. During the visit Mr. Giesen visited the various interventions on natural resource management and livelihood development. He also visited information centers in Chotiari and Keenjhar Lake. The office bearers of the Area Coordination Committees of CBOs shared their current and future plans. Mr. Wim Giesen attended a local festival organized to disseminate environmental messages at Keenjhar Lake. He met with key Programme stakeholders from the Government of Sindh, including Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department, DCO Shaheed Benazirabad; Senior Chief Water and Drainage, Planning and Development Department, Director General Fisheries; Conservator Sindh Wildlife Department; and members of Friends of Indus Forum in Hyderabad and Karachi. The debriefing session was attended by senior staff members of WWF - P and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Islamabad.

Training Workshop: Proposal Development

A three-day capacity building workshop was organized on 23-25 May 2011 in Hyderabad for 21 partner organizations present in the four sites of the Programme. Mr. Shahzad Bukhari, General Manager, Four Corners Group, was the lead resource person and Mr. Farhan Memon co-facilitated the sessions. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of civil society organizations (particularly women groups) in developing project proposals to diversify the resource base required to sustain their organizations. Topics covered included proposal outline and planning, problem diagram, monitoring and evaluation, sustainability, gender inclusion and project appraisal. Participants received certificates at the closing ceremony. The Programme team highlighted the role of CBOs in local development and hoped that the training would enable the CBOs in fulfilling their developmental goals.

Mainstreaming of PE into Policy

In this instance, the Policy Monitor reviews the Programme's initiatives in relation to and as a follow up to poverty-environment studies described in the adjoining Poverty-Environment (PE) Watch in this issue of newsletter.

As concerns policy development, mainstreaming of PE indicators into public planning, and capacity building among officials in concerned departments, it should be noted at the outset that PE indicators can be constructed for use at scales above the village-specific locale. For example, on the strength of its field-based empirical evidence, the Indus for All Programme tested the mainstreaming of PE indicators at policy and decision-making levels (see: http://www.foreverindus.org/pdf/010310_prsp.pdf for recommendations on the incorporation of PE indicators into the Government of Pakistan's second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and http://www.foreverindus.org/pdf/indus_ecoregion_programme_and_sindh_vision.pdf for WWF - P's recommendations on the mainstreaming of PE indicators into Sindh Vision 2030). That is, besides micro-level indicators (which also vary in their specificity, e.g., distance walked as measured in minutes to collect water may be ubiquitous in its application, while volume of fish harvested by income level may be applicable only to inland and marine water locales), macro-level indicators (e.g., changes in mangrove forest cover in a coastal zone regrouping multiple districts) may also help in the design and evaluation of poverty reduction strategies.

Specific policy integration mechanisms in this regard include: (i) at the district and provincial levels, the identification of budgetary outlays for conducting PE studies in Annual Development Programmes (ADPs) and Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDPs); (ii) at the provincial and district levels, incorporation of budgetary outlays for the testing of PE indicators, e.g., as part of a "social sectors" PC-1 (i.e., the por forma for development projects used by the Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan; a "social sectors" PC-1 covers education, health, science, water, culture, mass media, governance and research); (iii) at the district and provincial levels, use of existing representative fora in which WWF - P has membership to exert influence over uptake of PE mainstreamed ADP and PC-1s (e.g., the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee was notified by the Government of Sindh in March 2006 under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh, and reviews implementation of milestones and targets of WWF - P's Indus Ecoregion Conservation Plan); and, (iv) at the federal level, incorporation of PE indicators, approaches and activities into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or PRSPs - PRSP-II itself recognizes the need to mainstream environment in all sectors (pp. 206-208) (e.g., PRSP-II's treatment of the "agricultural sector" could make use macro-level PE indicators such as "use of organic pesticides and changes in farmer's input costs", or, "fertilizer consumption (100 kg per hectare of arable land) and changes in farmer input costs"; while its treatment of the fisheries sector could use indicators such as "decline/rise in banned fish nets as a measure of the effectiveness of environmental legislation", or, "upward/downward changes in fish stock" as an gauge for multiple factors including utilization of fish resources, release of freshwater into the Indus, and annual flooding of the Indus).

Status of PE studies

The Indus for All Programme provided empirical evidence in 2009 on whether and how, and through which specific linkages, poverty is a mechanism that transforms the true underlying causes of environmental degradation into actions that degrade the environment, and vice versa, i.e., how declining real income tends to exacerbate due to increased environmental degradation (Volume II, Issue 10).

The data supporting or opposing a poverty-environment (PE) linkage was gathered through household surveys undertaken at priority wetlands in the Indus Ecoregion, namely Keenjhar Lake, Chotiari wetlands complex, Pai forest, and Ketu Bunder coastal ecosystem. The dataset comprises cross-sectional (but also time-series) observations on changes in levels of income and biodiversity abundance. An example of a physical observation in WWF - P's time-series dataset is GIS satellite imagery showing changes in forest cover alongside named villages. Household responses on perceived changes in forest density and cover form part of the cross-sectional dataset. Access the 2009 study at: http://www.foreverindus.org/ec_pe_indicators.php.

Methodology for developing a PE linkage, before selecting a location at which to construct and deploy a PE indicator, includes: (i) holding of key informant and focus group meetings to validate hypothesized relationships between declining real income and natural resource use; (ii) questionnaire design (modules include household members' profiles; their perceptions of changes to environmental, social, and economic parameters; and, sources of income and expenditure in both disaggregated and aggregated forms); (iii) sampling strategy design; (iv) conducting of reconnaissance and pilot surveys before a main survey; (v) data editing, cataloguing, and entry in preparation for analysis through the application of statistical software; and, (vi) application of correlation and regression analysis, among other empirical analysis techniques, to support or refute hypothesized relationships. These and more steps are outlined in the Programme's PE manual: http://www.foreverindus.org/ec_pe_manual.php.

For monitoring over time at village-specific locations, WWF - P's Indus for All Programme also constructed PE indicators to improve its field-level interventions. Examples of PE indicators are: (i) "proportion of income generated by using primary natural resources"; (ii) "conversion of sweet water to brackish water as an indicator of declining real incomes (due to declining fish catch)"; and, (iii) "deaths from water-related disease or incidence of acute respiratory illness by income class". PE indicators are implemented through periodic surveys over time at single locales. Their purpose is to flag trends in poverty, population growth, and other compounding factors that give rise to environmental degradation. They are in this sense less like a means of measuring poverty or resource use and more like early warning systems to arrest patterns of deterioration ahead of major breaches to natural biological cycles of environmental assets.

Matkas and Nets Distribution

Floating matka (pitcher) use is an indigenous technique and is used specifically at Keenjhar Lake. Experienced fishermen consider it to be an easy and safe technique for catching their daily requirement of fish (3-10kg, sold for about Rs. 500-2,500). Matka also makes navigation easy, especially through narrow passages of reeds. The current cost of a matka is Rs.30,000-35,000. With the rising cost of copper and labor, obtaining fishing tools is becoming unaffordable for poor fishermen.

Under the Livelihood Development Plans, the Programme distributed floating matkas and nets among twenty local fishermen, during a ceremony organized at Keenjhar Lake on 12 May 2011.

Senior government officials, Deputy Project Director, Fisheries Department, Mr. Aslam Jarwar; and District Officer, Fisheries, Mr. Zulfiqar Larik, attended the ceremony. They shared government initiatives on community development, and urged the fishermen to practice sustainable fishing and abstain from catching juvenile fish. Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, underlined the importance of preserving local livelihood sources (fishing) and involving local communities in managing their natural resources (fish stocks).



Fishermen receiving nets and matkas

Exposure Visit for CBO representatives

An exposure visit was organized for twenty representatives of community based organizations from all four sites of the Programme. The participants visited Mehrano forest which can be classified as a model natural forest, conserved by its owner (His Highness Mr. Ali Murad Khan Talpur, former ruler of Khairpur state). Mehrano forest hosts diverse wildlife (such as wild boars, deer, birds, reptiles) and indigenous trees. Other venues visited include a botanical garden at Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur; Indus Resource Centre's model interventions on alternate energy, water management and promotion of traditional arts and crafts; and certain rich historical sites at Khairpur, such as Faiz Mahal. The team visit was facilitated by Khaji Cooperative Society, Khairpur.

Keenjhar Melo



Audience at Keenjhar Melo

A local festival was organized at Fisheries Hall, Keenjhar Lake, on 23 June 2011. The festival was attended by Programme external monitor from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Mr. Wim Giesen. He described the festival as unique and interesting due to the evident close intimacy of culture and nature. He appreciated Sindhi music, tableaus and speeches delivered by students on the subject of environmental challenges at Keenjhar.

Famous writers, mystical poets (Mr. More Sagar, Mr. Abid Sindhi, Mr. Ali Izhar, Mr. Zulfqar Shahani, Mr. Sarvech Sajavili, Ms. Marium Majeedi, Mr. Qavi, Mr. Aman Chandio, Mr. Ayaz Amar Sheikh and Mr. Ayaz Buriro), singers (Mr. Balak Sindhi, Mr. Allah Dino Khaskaily, Mr. Hafiz Fazil Palari and Mr. Fakeer Murad Maganhar) and comedian captivated the audience with their talents. The Programme team conveyed conservation messages, including the need to protect the collective heritage, disseminate knowledge, and commit to a long term process, in order to address environmental degradation, diminishing migratory birds and water pollution etc. The speakers pointed out that Keenjhar Lake has served as a source of inspiration for poets and writers of Sindh, including the great poet of Sindh, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai who dedicated most of his poetry to nature.

World Environment Day Celebration



Guests at World Environment Day Event

Students from local nature clubs participated in a speech and art competition organized at Keenjhar Conservation and Information Centre (KCIC), to observe World Environment Day on 5 June

2011. Ms. Zahida Detho, senior development expert, appreciated the importance of environmental education and lauded the performance of children during environmental speeches and painting competitions. Mr. Rasool Bux Dars expressed fear that Keenjhar Lake will be destroyed due to discharge of waste materials from factories of Kotri Mill and Nooriabad. He added that earlier various species of birds used to migrate to Keenjhar Lake, but currently the situation has reversed due to environmental and human factors. Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, said that forests are significant in maintaining ecological balance. He deplored that forests are declining due to various factors and urged the government and community to play their role in increasing forest coverage. Mr. Hafeezullah, Site Manager and Ms. Bilqees Khatti, Environmental Education Officer, emphasized the need to undertake collaborative efforts to address emerging environmental challenges.

Meeting of DCC Thatta



Participants sharing views during DCC Meeting

The ninth District Coordination Committee (DCC) meeting was held in Thatta on 29 June 2011. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Hafeez Siyal, EDO Revenue and was attended by relevant government departments and NGOs. Major decisions taken include control over use of illegal fishing nets at Ketri Bunder and Keenjhar Lake (DO Fisheries was assigned the task of preparing a report after a detailed survey of the area), combined efforts of CBOs and NGOs on reed and weed management project (on EDO Revenue's suggestion EDO-CDD will be inviting community representatives to select volunteers for the cleaning work. DO Fisheries will prepare its report and suggest appropriate measures), control camel grazing at Ketri Bunder (led by DO Forest with support of police), promote Keenjhar Conservation and Information Centre (KCIC) and install proper signage with relevant messages at various points, in addition to providing environmental education material to EDO (Education) for distribution among schools. Removal of garbage from garbage bins installed by WWF - P at tourist points was appreciated.



Students displaying their work

International Biodiversity Day Celebration

International Day for Biological Diversity was observed on 27 May 2011, in collaboration with Bahria Foundation College at Sanghar. The objective was to raise awareness on the significance of forest biodiversity and challenges faced. Students presented tableaus, skits, nature songs and speeches. A nature club led college greening campaign on tree plantation was also launched.

Dr. Ali Murtaza Dharejo, Principal MKJ Institute of Science and Technology identified biodiversity as vital for human survival. He emphasized community role in conserving species and advised on an integrated approach to promote sustainable use of biodiversity. Commander Liaqat Ali, Principal, Bahria Foundation College, highlighted the importance of environmental education in addressing environmental challenges. Mr. Majeed Mangrio, environmental activist, shared threats faced by Chotiari Wetlands Complex, an area rich in biodiversity. The Programme Coordinator Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Site Manager, Mr. Zafar Talpur and Naveed Soomro highlighted sustainable use of biological resources as a challenge for society and suggested collaborative efforts for conservation. The role of youth (including nature clubs) as frontline soldiers for the battle against biodiversity degradation was stressed on, in addition to the vast potential for ecotourism in the area.

Community Exposure Visit to Rangelands

An exposure visit to Mithi and Nagarparkar in Tharparkar district was organized on 29-30 June 2011, for eleven herdsmen of Padhrio community. The visit was hosted by Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE). It strived to protect dwindling natural resources of the area and ensure sustainable use through proper management. The participants were informed on new approaches and applicable practices in rangeland management, including green guards (a communication system exerting influence through law and media and from grassroots level to top level). The participants also visited agro-pastoral farms, which perform multiple roles - provide supplementary fodder during drought season as well as supply fruits and vegetables.

Chotiari Nature Festival



Folk music performance

Chotiari Conservation Forum and the Programme organized a nature festival on 24 June 2011 at WWF - P's Chotiari Conservation and Information Centre (CCIC). The event attracted more than 1,500 people, including herdsman, fishermen and farmers living around the Chotiari Reservoir and adjacent lakes. Conservation messages were shared through diverse awareness tools. A swimming competition in Baqar Lake (now called Chotiari Reservoir, spread over 18,000 hectares) was organized. Additionally, boat racing, Belaro (indigenous game of wrestling), theatre performance and sufi (mystical) songs recitation, all centered on environmental issues, were undertaken and winners were awarded prizes. Famous local singers, Mr. Allah Dino Khaskheli and Moula Bux Sanghrai, played folk music. A documentary on "Flowing Indus Forever" was shown to the audience, in addition to speeches by experts, who highlighted the prevalent poverty-environment nexus and the importance of the local natural heritage; and suggested actions on saving biodiversity and forests as well as adopting sustainable livelihood options. Journalists were also awarded shields for their contribution in promoting nature conservation.

Master Trainer's Training on Agriculture



A view of training session

As part of the Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) programme established by the Programme, a three-day training titled "Training of Master Trainers for Better Management Practices in Agriculture" was conducted from 13-15 May 2011 in Hyderabad district. The objective of the training was to enhance skills in agricultural development through adoption of better management practice (BMP) techniques, such as integrated pest management (IPM) and water efficiency for cultivation of cotton and vegetables. A senior trainer, Mr. Ghulam Hussain Mallah (IPM expert), taught the course. The 31 farmers nominated by the respective CBOs at Pai Forest and Chotiari Reserve sites were awarded certificates at the end of the training. These trained farmers are expected to work as facilitators in their respective FFS.





Programme staff and participants of festival

Pai Nature Festival

To mark World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June 2011, a festival was organized, in collaboration with District Government and Cultural Youth Organization, Talli Sakrand, at H.M. Khowaja Library, Benazirabad. Central to the event was the competition in which numerous students prepared 3D models on contextual themes, such as animals and plants of the Indus ecoregion. The event was attended by local communities and other stakeholders.

Mr. Jamal Mustafa Shah, DCO Shaheed Benazirabad, called for joint efforts of government, private sector and NGOs in improving environmental conditions. Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, highlighted ecological, economic and social benefits of forests, and the need for conservation. He shared prevalent environmental challenges, including water shortage, commercial logging and illegal occupation of forests. Mr. Razi Khan Jamali, EDO Education, Shaheed Benazirabad and Mr. Ameen Keerio, Pai Forest Action Network also spoke on the occasion.

The speakers highlighted key concerns and solutions on the WED forest theme. The role of forest conservation in survival of humans and unique wildlife species was considered as cornerstone of all efforts. The current scenario depicts declining forest cover, due to water shortage, commercial logging and encroachment, they stated. Joint effort of all sectors was identified as the primary solution to change. In that context, the DCO announced involving NGOs and CBOs in upcoming monsoon plantation season and lauded the students' efforts in highlighting environmental conditions. Shields and prizes were distributed amongst participating students.

Earth Day Celebration



Students presenting tableau on Earth Day

For creating awareness on the importance of earth and its resources, the Programme celebrated Earth Day on 22 April 2011 at Government Girls Primary School Talli Sakrand, Shaheed Benazirabad. About 200 participants including school children, teachers, youth groups, community representatives, media and government officials attended the event. In order to celebrate the day in an apt manner, school children were engaged in different competitions such as painting, speech and tableau performances which aimed to highlight the importance of Earth Day. Mr. Abdul Khalique Chandio, Assistant District Officer Education, Talka Sakrand was the chief guest of the event. Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator; Mr. Refigure Ahmed Jamali, Deputy District Officer, Community Development Department; Mr. Siddique Mangio, renowned writer; Zahid Darejo and Nasir Keerio were the guests of honor. Prizes were distributed among participants who took part in the competitions.

Mangroves Plantation



A view of mangrove plantation in Keti Bunder

A mangrove plantation campaign was arranged in which community members led massive plantations during a period of 4-5 weeks, starting on 24 May 2011. The Programme has set a target of rehabilitating 500 hectares of mangroves by 2012 in the Khobar creek of Keti Bunder, where 90% of residents are dependent on mangrove fisheries; a majority earns their subsidiary income from crabs, prawns and fish catch in this ecosystem. Its wood is used as a primary energy source (the wood is resistant and burns for longer hours) and its leaves serve as fodder for animals. Thus, mangroves form an integral resource for the local communities, also in terms of shelter from natural disasters (tsunami, cyclones and storms) and sea intrusion. However, the benefit they provide to the communities also becomes a menace for its survival. Anthropogenic factors have led to a 73% degradation of mangrove cover globally, according to recent WWF estimates.

WWF - Pakistan launches a New Initiative on Climate Change Adaptation



Participants at Launching Ceremony with Director General WWF - Pakistan Mr. Ali Hassan Habib

WWF - Pakistan launched a significant climate change project titled 'Building Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Areas of Pakistan' (CCAP). The launch which was held in Karachi on 8 June 2011 was attended by dignitaries including from Environment Department, Forest and Wildlife Department, Alternative Energy Development Board, and civil society organizations (among others, from UNDP, SUPARCO, Friends of Indus Forum). Mr. Mushtaque Ali Memon, Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department, applauded the timely effort and emphasized the climate induced risks threatening vulnerable coastal communities.

Funded by the European Union, the project will be implemented in the disaster prone sites of Keti Bunder and Kharo Chhan in district Thatta (Sindh), and Jiwani in district Gwadar (Balochistan). It intends to build resilience among coastal communities and improve the ability of ecosystems to respond to climate impacts. The project's major activities include capacity building of government and communities, public outreach and regional collaboration, in addition to development of area specific action-plans and promotion of community based adaptation strategies. Project partners include WWF - UK and LEAD Pakistan while project associates include Friends of Indus Forum in Pakistan, Centre for Coastal Environmental Education in Bangladesh, WWF - India and Andishe Ensanshahr in Iran.



Staff Capacity Building-National and International

- Community Development Officers, Mr. Mumtaz Rahu (Pai Forest), Ms Rukhsana Memon (Pai Forest) and Ms Ghulam Kubra (Chotiari Reservoir), participated in a Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Course in Murree, organized by Human Resource Learning
- Mr. Umair Shahid, Natural Resource Management Officer at Keti Bunder, participated in a Wildlife Management Course in India, organized by Wildlife Institute of India

Indus for All Programme, WWF - Pakistan

Programme Management Unit

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Induction

- Mr. Subhan Younas joined as Finance and Administration Officer, Pai Office, on 22 June 2011
- Mr. Zafar Talpur joined as Site Manager, Chotiari Office, on 11 May 2011
- Mr. Asif Ali Sandeelo joined as Communication Officer, on 30 May 2011
- Mr. Muhammad Khalid joined as Finance Officer, on 1 July 2011
- Mr. Shoukat Ali Sathio joined as Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation, on 25 April 2011

Programme Implementation Units

Chotiari Wetlands Complex
House # 129/2, Housing Society,
Near Government Boys High School,
Shaheed Benazirabad Road,
District Sanghar, Sindh.
Tel: 0235-542837, Fax: 0235-542791

Keenjhar Lake
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District Thatta, Sindh.
Tel: 0298-772318, 772319, 610426

Keti Bunder
Adnan House, Rano Mori Stop,
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District Thatta, Sindh.
Tel: 0298-620406, 610976, 619366

Pai Forest
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