

Indus FOREVER

Vol. V: Issue 19 July - Sep 2011



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 the local communities.

The newsletter aims to keep the stakeholders, other concerned organizations and individuals updated about the activities, progress and future endeavours of the Programme.

SPOTLIGHT

The Flood Fiasco

The year 2011 saw a comparative scale of damage from floods since last year. As many as 8.9 million people living in Sindh and Balochistan have been affected this year, many are those who were still recovering from the disastrous 2010 floods which affected 18 million people.

Despite rainfall predictions, the scale of this natural calamity coupled with the topography of the area with poor natural drainage, complicated the response to the flooding.

The 2011 floods have displaced 1.8 million people, damaged 1.5 million houses, killed one-third of cattle, and destroyed 3 million acres of crops and 67 per cent of food stock. Nearly 3 million people are in need of immediate food assistance, with a high prevalence of high level of child malnutrition. Other issues include restricted access to available assistance, and lack of female-friendly space and provisions. There is an urgent need of fodder and vaccination for livestock, child health provisions, and water and sanitation facilities. Organizations such as WWF - Pakistan, UN, OXFAM and local NGOs have been actively involved in recovery work.

An evident connection between floods and climate change has been signified. This year, Sindh received 270 per cent and 1,170 per cent above-normal monsoon rains. In line with the global climate change projections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in Pakistan also climate change impact will include considerable increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, coupled with erratic monsoon rains causing frequent floods and droughts. Increased temperature will result in enhanced heat and water stress conditions, particularly in the arid and semi-arid regions. Rising temperatures also hasten the melting of water sources of Himalayas that are the world's third largest repository of snow and ice. South Asia is already among the climate change hotspots, with heavy rainfall having more than doubled in the past 50 years. Heavier precipitation is often linked with human-induced global warming, such as deforestation and clearing of wetlands.

An adaptation plan is urgently needed to cope with such disasters and weather changes in future. Towards that end, Pakistan has developed a Draft National Climate Change Policy. Our disaster mapping and forecasting activities are satisfactory, though implementation of existing National Disaster Management Act 2010, policy framework and guidelines as well as coordinated efforts, prioritization exercise and development of a system is required. On a global scale, a Green Climate Fund and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (incentives for low-carbon paths) are some of the initiatives. As a catalyst in climate proofing, WWF envisions a future in which we limit global warming to 1.5°C and ensure safety, sustainability and prosperity of people, places and species. The Rio +20 global sustainability conference in June 2012 is hoped to set such as road map, for a Global Climate Agreement and opportunities for low-carbon economy.

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10th Meeting of Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee



IESC meeting, members being updated on progress

The 10th meeting of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee was held on 24 August 2011 at the Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh. The Chief Economist, Dr. Qazi Masood Ahmed chaired the meeting on behalf of Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Department Government of Sindh.

The Team Leader, Indus for All Programme Mr. Rab Nawaz gave background of IFAP being implemented in four sites including Keti Bunder, Keenjhar, Chotiari and Pai in partnership with key stakeholders. He highlighted principles of ecoregion based conservation, context of IFAP, design stages of the programme, and implementation mechanism.

The meeting was briefed about the major achievements of Programme from January to July 2011. The Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, while briefing said that the Sindh Wildlife Ordinance 1972 has been revised in consultation with stakeholders and sent to law department for vetting. He informed that under Natural Resource Management plan, community based crab culture has been established in Keti Bunder, de-weeding of exotic flora was undertaken in Keenjhar Lake, while five hotspots of smooth coated otter have been identified for its management in Chotiari. He informed that family drip irrigation system has been installed in village near Pai Forest. Under the livelihood development plan, fishing nets and floating matkas have been provided to 20 fishermen in Keenjhar Lake, while wind sails and engines were provided to 30 fishermen in Keti Bunder. A computer centre and two home based bakeries have been established in villages of Pai. He also informed that information and conservation centres established in Keenjhar Lake and Chotiari have been formally inaugurated. While various activities related to awareness raising including observing significant environmental days, youth greening activities and local festivals were organized in four sites.

Project Manager Climate Change Adaptation, WWF - P, Ms. Khadija Zaheer briefed the meeting about recently launched project titled Building Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Areas of Pakistan. She informed that five year project is supported by European Union and will be implemented in Keti Bunder, Kharo Chan and Jiwani. She informed that Project has four thematic areas including coastal ecosystems and mangrove forests, natural resource dependent livelihoods, building capacity and outreach and awareness.

Deputy Secretary Finance, Mr. Asif Ikram; Special Secretary Local Government, Mr. M. Suleman Chandio; Deputy Secretary Forest and Wildlife, Mr. Hyder Raza Khan, Senior Chief Water and Drainage Planning and Development Mr. Fazal Ahmed Nizamani, DG Fisheries Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Mahar; DCO Sanghar, Mr. Ahmed Bux Khokhar; Mr. Shafique Rehman, EDO Works & Services Thatta; Director Coastal Programme IUCN, Mr. Tahir Qureshi; Mr. Shahryar Kazi representative of DG Coastal Development Authority; Mr. Ahmed Zaman Khan, Director FPCCI; Mr. Azam Channa representative of Secretary Agriculture; Natural Resource Management Coordinator, Mr. Ummed Khalid; Manager Policy and Partnership Fund, Mr. Altaf Shaikh; Manager WWF Sindh, Mr. Subhash Dewani and others attended the meeting.

Flood Assessment of Programme Sites

A rapid assessment exercise to study post flood impact in the four sites was conducted by the Programme team. Results reveal a kaleidoscopic image of the macro level damage in Sindh. The two sites severely affected are Chotiari and Pai, with the latter still struggling to escape the grip of volumes of water and associated risks, including vector and water borne diseases. In Chotiari, 50,000 acres have been affected by the recent floods, making 30 villages vulnerable, destroying 4,000 houses, displacing 18,000 people and causing 30,000 people to live in shelters. Loss of food reserves is estimated to be 80 per cent. Likewise, in Pai 11,000 acres have been affected by floods, making 17 villages vulnerable in terms of coping mechanisms; 502 houses have been destroyed, 6,320 people have been displaced and 1,700 are living in shelters. Food reserves are estimated to have incurred a 55 per cent loss. The largest direct loss to the Programme, in terms of damage to interventions has occurred in the natural resource management component. Rehabilitation work will be required to recover from the damage to physical interventions, such as alternate energy units, constructed wetlands, livestock farms and better management practice fields. Livelihood development schemes have mostly incurred indirect impact from inaccessibility and loss of income and assets etc., though there has been structural damage too, in bakeries and vocational centres established. The environmental component has been at a halt due to floods largely as a result of school closure, temporary migration and flood affectees living in school premises on district government order. Some damage to overall interventions (e.g. physical damage to schools and constructed wetlands) can only be assessed once the flood water recedes and the flood affectees return home.



Broken boundary wall of Chotiari conservation and information centre

Despite the evident damage, there is increasing hope for recovery through community resilience and collective commitment to ensure continuation of field initiatives. Emergency relief operations are being followed by continued investment in promising Programme interventions.



Talk Show on Wetlands

A talk show was conducted on KTN News regarding the issue of wetlands in Sindh on 15 August 2011. Dr. Irfana Mallah hosted the show while Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator Indus for All Programme, WWF - P, Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Chairman Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum and writer Mr. Nawaz Ali Kunbhar, participated in the discussion. It was directed by Mr. Aziz Solangi. The talk show was attended by NGO's and CBO's representatives, from Keenjhar and media persons.

Discussing the issue of wetlands participants said that the Ramsar UN convention regarding wetlands was established in 1971. The convention has outlined a broad definition of wetland. The UN Convention gives a framework for sustainable use of these wetlands. The Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar said that Pakistan has diverse wetlands covering 10 per cent of total land area of the country. There are 225 nationally significant wetlands in Pakistan, 19 wetlands



View of the talk show

declared as Ramsar sites are in the country out of which ten are situated in Sindh. Wetlands in Pakistan are confronted with two kinds of threats: man-made and the natural threats.

The participants said that great civilizations have evolved by the banks of rivers and folk wisdom is associated with them. There are a number of interesting historical and cultural stories relating to these wetlands. Knowledge associated with wetlands needs to be documented. Wetlands give impetus to economies, considerable number of people have remained associated with them for centuries. People living around wetlands typically have a unique culture. As Pakistan's wetlands are diminishing due to government's careless attitude and other concerned organizations, culture of people dependent on wetlands are also at the risk of disappearance. These wetlands are managed by different government departments and are being exploited without taking care of sustainability of these natural assets. Diversions on the River Indus, a focus on irrigation of agricultural lands and mismanagement of water are responsible for 30 per cent of the destruction of wetlands in Sindh. Participants also elaborated that many wetlands that are recorded in history do not exist now. Representatives of CBOs from Keenjhar Lake which is a priority site of Programme highlighted the problems confronting Keenjhar Lake. Speakers urged the government and civil society members to fight for protection of existing wetlands.

Justifying the Need of Investment in Tourism Development

The necessity of investment in tourism development for freshwater lakes was justified by a recent study conducted by WWF - P's Indus for All Programme with the financial support of South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics. The study examined the value of recreation at Keenjhar Lake, Pakistan's largest freshwater ecosystem and a priority site of Indus Ecoregion.

The study estimated that the value visitors draw from recreation at the lake is about PKR 3.46 billion (USD 42.2 millions). This demonstrates not only a justification for conservation spending but also return on equity for monetary outlays associated with maintaining and improving the lake and its environs. Policy makers can use this information to assess returns on future conservation investment.

The Keenjhar Lake a notable wildlife sanctuary and a Ramsar site with the area of 14,000 hectares is the country's largest fresh water lake. About 50,000 people from 12 large and 20 small surrounding villages are dependent on the lake. Besides these local communities, tourists mainly from Karachi also enjoy swimming, boating and other recreational activities offered by Sindh Tourism Development Corporation (STDC) at the resort on the lake's western bank. The lake also supplies agricultural water and a staggering 80 per cent of Karachi's commercial and residential water supply. Given its multiple uses as water source and tourism point, concern about pollution, i-e from upstream tanneries, sewerage, and grease from vehicle washing and motorized fishing boats, is warranted. The STDC received PKR 2.5 million (USD 42000) worth of grant-in-aid financial support in FY 04-05. In FY10 the STDC requested about the same amount as one time grant to help overcome a financial crisis. As a limited company, STDC faces increasing pressure to justify the required money. Therefore, STDC is also interested to provide an estimate of the economic value of recreational services it manages.

WWF - P's study used the Travel Cost Model (TCM) to assess the recreational value of Keenjhar Lake. The principle underlying the model is that people's willingness to pay to visit the lake can be estimated using costs they incurred in traveling to the site. A comprehensive questionnaire was administered to a sample of 741 visitors from Karachi, Thatta and Hyderabad on different days.

Based on the TCM model, the recreational use of Keenjhar Lake is about PKR 3.46 billion. The basis for this calculation is annualized mean consumer surplus per visit estimate of PKR 9,500 (USD 116) and assumes 1,000 visits to the lake every day. The result shows a significant recreational value of the lake.

The above figure provides policy makers with information that will prove essential to establish the need to preserve the lake. Policy makers are likely to be receptive to estimates such as these based on valuation. So they can expect further ongoing relevance from WWF-P's study. In particular, the database accompanying the study allows for easy addition of more data and will therefore serve as an ongoing tool for STDC.

The link to the study is:

http://www.sandeeonline.org/uploads/documents/publication/932_PUB_Working_Paper_58_Ali_Dehlavi.pdf

**Alternative Energy and the Poverty-
Environment Nexus**

This issue of the “poverty-environment watch” examines the Programme’s record of alternative energy interventions over the period 2008-2011 and their impact on incomes and natural resource use. The four types of alternative energy units provided by the Indus for All Programme include: household level and centralized solar units, biogas units, and hybrid systems. The latter have the advantage over single systems because they can supply electricity throughout the year.

To date, 277 units of all four alternative energy unit types were supplied across all sites. The distribution is fairly even with the exception of hybrid systems, 95 per cent of which are concentrated at Keenjhar Lake; and, biogas units of which 50 per cent are to be found at Chotiari Reservoir. Also, nearly half of all household and centralized solar units are at Chotiari, while Pai Forest neither has neither household solar units nor hybrid systems. This brief tally alone can signal an opportunity for policy makers and private companies as to which technology to invest in at which relatively underserved Indus Ecoregion priority site.

Recall, WWF – Pakistan’s conservation interventions rely on building human and institutional natural resource management capacity among communities that are almost entirely dependent on stocks of fish, forest, and other pressured resources. Our experience and own empirical studies suggests a direct link between declining real income and increased natural resource extraction, and vice versa. In this article we focus on the impact that biogas units have had on natural resource extraction through enhancement of livelihoods. The figures reported are all based on the Programme’s 2011 monitoring and evaluation household surveys.

Barring one household at Pai, all 85 biogas unit beneficiaries (across all sites) reported “wood collection” as their energy source prior to the Programme’s intervention. Before the intervention, about 60 per cent of all biogas beneficiaries collected between 20-30 maunds each month (or between 746 - 1,120 kgs per household per month). After the intervention, wood collection among the same beneficiaries did not exceeded 12 maunds per month (or 448 kgs), while 44 per cent of beneficiaries switched entirely away from wood collection, and 43 per cent brought their average monthly collection to only 3-5 maunds (or 150 kg). This is both a significant and a measurable arresting of anthropogenic pressure on forest cover.

How is this conservation success tied to the poverty-environment nexus? The answer is that, in this case, a releasing of pressures on household incomes is what in turn caused a release of manmade pressure on forest cover. Average monthly net savings of the beneficiary households as a result of biogas adoption were Rs. 1,191 – Rs. 1,654 across all sites. To place matters in perspective, savings represent approximately 8-12% of 2011 average monthly household incomes at the Programme sites (which are estimated to range in 2011 from Rs. 14,000 – Rs. 20,000 per month).

“Net savings” are calculated by subtracting savings on the purchase of kerosene or wood and/or cost of collecting wood (inclusive of the opportunity cost of time of unskilled labor) from each household’s monthly expenses on the previous energy source before the intervention. The figure is also inclusive of the household’s monthly expenses on maintaining the new energy source after the intervention. All figures are based on the 2011 hourly wage rate for unskilled labor. Other data collected, such as travel time and collection time incurred by households collecting fuel wood, were cross-checked with data from the Programme’s 2008 economic valuations of forest ecosystems.

Food Ration Distributed among Flood Affectees

In response to recent devastating floods in Sindh, WWF - P has played an active role in rescue and relief activities. WWF - P has provided dry food ration and mosquito nets and repellants to 200 displaced families from 21 villages around Chotiari Reservoir, one of the sites of WWF's Indus for All Programme. Senior officials of IFAP including NRM Coordinator, Mr. Umeed Khalid, Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Site Manager Chotiari, Mr. Zafar Ali Talpur and representatives of CBOs were present on the occasion. A single ration intended for one household included 20 kg flour, 3 kg sugar, 5 kg rice, 2 kg pulse (dal mung), 2.5 kg ghee, 800 gram tea, 400 gram red chili powder, 1 kg salt, 1 pack of match boxes, 2 soaps, one mosquito net and 2 bottles of mosquito repellants.

Moreover, WWF – P provided food and drinking water to 400 flood affectees continuously for 4 days. In addition to this WWF – P facilitated PILER (Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and



Distribution of food items at Chotiari

Research) in providing health and nutrition services to 700 flood affected patients in the area.

The widespread rains have caused great havoc and brought life to a complete standstill in Sanghar. The breaches and overflows of Left Bank outfall Drainage have multiplied the untold miseries of rain affected people. A mass displacement has been witnessed whereas a large number of people are still marooned at some spots in the area. The flood affectees have taken refuge in temporary camps, schools, tents by road sides and all other safe place for human shelter. More than 80 per cent of villages and all major cities of Sanghar district have been affected by the floods. Thousands of mud, semi mud and baked bricks houses have collapsed. More than 30 human casualties have been reported so far while 2,000 people have injured in various incidents. The rains have also caused a number of diseases and massive damage to agriculture, livestock and infrastructure of the district.

The present pitiable situation needs an urgent response for rescue and relief work. It is high time that government organizations, civil society members and other national and international organizations to come forward and help these needy and helpless people.



Call for Promoting Eco-Tourism



Participants of World Tourism Day

WWF-Pakistan's Indus for all Programme (IFAP) observed world tourism day at Keenjhar Lake. Speaking on the occasion writer and historian Mr. Badar Abro said that tourism potential in Sindh has not been exploited. He said that there are more than two thousand archeological sites in Sindh, out of which 200 are located in Thatta alone. He added that Thatta has remained the capital of Sindh for 350 years and a considerable number of historic places are located here. He emphasized that communities should not wait for others and start working on a self help basis to preserve historic monuments and tourist places. He appreciated the concept of nature clubs, which are established by WWF to sensitize students about ecology and environment.

Programme Coordinator Indus for all Programme, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar said that ecotourism is defined as tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with the specific objective of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery, wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural aspects found in the areas. Speaking on the theme for the day, he said that linking cultures with tourism is essential. He added that culture of Sindh provides immense potential for promoting tourism. He said that Sindh provides

huge diversity in terms of its natural environment, built environment, archaeological sites and living culture. He said that government must construct approach roads to various tourist sites, construct rest areas, provide public and private transport to the sites and conduct organized tours.

Educationist Mr. Rasool Bux Dars said that poets and writers have written poetry about the natural beauty of Keenjhar Lake. The lake has remained a habitat for migratory birds since decades, but now birds have disappeared and its beauty is diminishing due to a number of reasons. He said that there are many places in Sindh, which can be turned into beautiful tourist spots. He also urged that government institutions must come forward to take measures to stop untreated industrial and domestic waste being discharged into lake.

Mr. Jamal Panhwar, CEO Travels and Cultures Services said that current situation of tourism is deplorable. He said that two decades before, a great number of tourists used to come to Moen-jo-Daro, Keenjhar Lake and the other places of historic importance. However, nowadays due to security reasons foreign tourists are reluctant to come. He added that tourism can generate income and provide a good opportunity to learn about other cultures. Though Indus civilization and Egyptian civilizations have many similarities but in Pakistan this has not been capitalized, he added.

Mr. Hafeezullah, Site Manager, Keti Bunder IFAP, said that eco tourism is related to uplift of people, as it generate funds for government and creates job opportunities for local people. In addition to this, natural resources could also be conserved. Ms. Fizza Shah, Ms. Raheela Memon, Mr. Irshad Gandro, Mr. Shakeel Memon and others also spoke on the occasion. While students of nature clubs from Keenjhar and Keti Bunder presented tableaus and delivered speeches on importance of the day.

Fish Nursery through Cage Culture

The Indus for All Programme under its Livelihood Development Plan has established a fish nursery through cage culture at Keenjhar Lake. The project is implemented in partnership with a Community Based Organization, the Keenjhar Fishermen Welfare Society - Essa Manchari. In this regard, fishseed releasing ceremony was held on 30 September 2011.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ghulam Mujtaba Wadhar, Director Inland Fisheries, Government of Sindh, hoped that the project would facilitate the poor fishing families and hoped that different types of fish species can be saved. The intervention will reduce the catch of juvenile fish and use of illegal fishing nets in the lake, he added. Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator said that this project aims to provide employment opportunities to the fishermen and increase average family income of poor fishing families. This will also reduce stress on natural resources such as cutting of trees and hunting of birds. He further said that it would raise awareness among fishing communities of Keenjhar Lake for sustainable and safe fishing practices.



Fish seed being released

Mr. Hafizullah Site Manager Keenjhar Lake, said that through this project local fishermen are mobilized to release some portion of juvenile fish into Keenjhar Lake and one individual fishing family is expected to earn Rs.15000 to Rs. 20000 per month for a year by managing fish seed nurseries. Mr. Adam Gandhro, Mr. Anees Halayo, Ms. Raheela Memon and Mr. Asif Ali Sandeelo and representatives of community were present on the occasion.



Nets Distributed among Fisherwomen at Keti Bunder



Fisherwoman receiving net

capacities of fishing women and encourage women to earn their livelihood in an efficient way. This would also create a healthy environment for women where they can have a chance to participate in fish catching practices.

The Indus for All Programme, under its Livelihood Development Plan, distributed 40 fishing nets to fisherwomen. The project was implemented in partnership with a local CBO, Hajamro Mahol Dost Development and Welfare Organization. The ceremony was held to improve income generating capacity of fishing families.

Addressing the event, WWF-P's Indus for All Programme, Programme Coordinator Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar said that the main purpose of this project is to provide an opportunity to increase income generation of women group of the communities living in the creeks. This intervention will allow fisherwomen to get a good catch for providing economic support. The project also aims to give learning opportunities to women from marginalized communities with exploitation of their present potential skills and abilities to achieve socio-economic benefits, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Khatri Site Manager Keti Bunder, described salient features of the project. He said that the project would build technical

National Children Mountain Conservation Meet

For inculcating a caring attitude towards nature among a younger generation and for promoting youth-led initiatives for sustainable conservation of Indus Ecoregion, the Indus for All Programme arranged a National Children Mountain Conservation Meet 2011. The meet was organized at by Adventure Foundation Pakistan at Lasddana and Sundan Gali, Azad Kashmir from 3 to 12 July 2011. The participants included 17 schoolchildren, teachers and environmental educationist from priority sites of Pai Forest, Chotiari Reservoir, Keenjhar and Keti Bunder. This group from Sindh was joined by other 180 students who came from different parts of the country. During these thought-provoking ten days, a number of environmental education activities were conducted such as a basic camp-craft mountaineering expedition, trail trekking for the study on flora, a wilderness study, lectures and presentations, personality building exercises, a tree plantation, cleaning of tourist spots, interaction with tourists for environmental awareness, a wakeup/awareness walk and a cultural evening. The activities were led by a group of seasoned professionals who raised environmental stewardship in youth and encouraged initiatives for creating environment friendly culture.



Students climbing the mountain



Hog Deer

Local Name: Para | Status: Vulnerable | Recorded at IFAP sites

The term "hog deer" is derived from its habit of running through the forest with its head held low, ducking under obstacles in the manner of a wild hog (pig), rather than leaping over them like most deer. When alarmed, they make a whistling sound or give out a warning bark. They can swim well and readily enter the water thus often taking up temporary abode on islands between the channels of the Indus.





Reed and Weed Management



Volunteers removing Reed

improving their livelihood. Cleaning of the weeds would ensure enough supply of oxygen and sun light which again will increase the fish quantity in Keenjhar Lake.

In compliance to the decision made at the 9th District Coordination and Advisory Committee (DCC) meeting held on 29 June, 2011, to expedite and complete the work on the reed and weed issue at two of the locations at Keenjhar Lake, community volunteers from partner CBOs were mobilized to contribute in cleaning of the aggressive and non-beneficial weeds at Keenjhar Lake. More than 150 volunteers from partner CBOs and DCC members participated in the activity and provided 25 boats. EDO (CDD) said that such type of activities should be owned by district government.

The basic objective of this project is to rehabilitate some of the area (5sq.kms) in the lake where fish species can potentially be increased by managing reeds and aggressive weeds. The management of reeds and weeds will result in development of fish nursing grounds which currently block sufficient amount of oxygen and sun light penetration. With the management of reeds by developing narrowing passes fishermen community will have more chances to catch fish which will result in

Youth Greening Activity at Pai Forest

A youth greening activity was organized in collaboration with Mahol Dost Nature Club and a youth group, Mehran Youth Wing in Majeed Keerio village on 25 August 2011. The event was attended by 250 participants including, school children, teachers, youth group, community members and media persons. The main objective of the activity was to sensitize school children regarding local environmental problems such as illegal cutting of valuable indigenous trees and harmful activities of human beings which adversely affect natural resources. In order to impart information to students and the general public about Pai Forest, a youth greening and a green generation campaign was also arranged. Threats to natural resources were pointed out through engaging students in various activities such as tree plantations and displaying banners.

In this greening activity fifty saplings of fruit trees were planted by school children and the guests. An awareness rally was also arranged in which participants displayed banners and raised environmental slogans during their walk through the village. Two hundred plants were also distributed among all the participants.



Students planting saplings

Facinating Fact

Trees Talk

“In addition to defending themselves, trees release scented airborne chemicals to alert their neighbors in danger.”



Launching of Coastal Project on Water and Sanitation



Partners at launching ceremony

includes public and private sectors, as well as local NGOs and UN-HABITAT. He mentioned the collective commitment of the partners in reducing water footprint and improving environmental sanitation. Mr. Syed Hasan Ejaz Kazmi, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), an autonomous body, deliberated on their institutional efforts to redress the problem of water and sanitation in urban areas, which generate 470 million gallons of sewage. Their initiatives include multistage pumping from the two water sources (Hub Dam 100mgd and River Indus 550mgd), Citizens Report Card and Performance Benchmarking.

One of the project sponsors, UN-HABITAT, was represented by Mr. Siamak Moghaddam, Country Programme Manager, who briefed the audience on the agency's programme in Pakistan, and the corresponding field interventions. He stressed on the need for addressing human settlements and rapid urbanization issues, especially in Karachi, a city he identified as the engine driving Pakistan. Another UN-HABITAT representative, Mr. Bhushan Tuladhar, Regional Technical Advisor for Water for Asian Cities Programme, illustrated the project significance in terms of its role in partnership and perseverance to bridge the gap between humans and nature. The other project sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company representative, Mr. Fahad Qadir, Regional Public Affairs and Communication Manager, shared their global commitment for improving the quality of life in less privileged communities, such as the selected villages near Sandspit and Hawksbay Beach. Mr. Hashim, President of Fishermen Development Organization Kakapir Village informed the audience on the impact of ongoing partnership initiatives in nature conservation and community development. Mr. Aijaz Nizamani, Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Sindh stressed on the need for government bodies to learn efficient management systems from the private and NGO sector.

Mr. Subhash Dawani, Manager Conservation (Sindh) WWF - P, presented the prevalent issues, sanitation practices and project roadmap. This was followed by closing remarks by Mr. Rab Nawaz, Regional Director, WWF - P, who appreciated the work of project partners and expressed hope in addressing water security concerns of Pakistan through concerted efforts.

The launching ceremony of 'Water and Environmental Sanitation Improvement Project in Coastal Communities of Karachi' was organized by WWF - P, with support from United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Coca-Cola Company. The two year project is being implemented in Kakapir and Soomer villages, catering to 300 households who rely heavily on fishing income. The area is deficient on water supply, sewerage system and solid waste management, which the project will address through public awareness, capacity building and institutional setup.

The ceremony was attended by government representatives, subject area specialists, civil society, private sector, academia, community members and media. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Ejaz Ahmed, Deputy Director General, WWF - P, highlighted the unique nature of the project, in terms of its diverse partnership that

HR NEWS

Induction

- Ms. Fizza Shah joined as Manager Communication and Awareness Raising in Indus for All Programme on 7 July 2011.
- Mr. Sayed Shueb Ali Shah joined as HR and Admin Officer in Building Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation Project in the Coastal Areas of Pakistan (CCAP) on 01 August 2011.
- Mr. Kamran Abbasi joined as Community Mobilizer in Water and Environment Sanitation Improvement Project funded by UN-HABITAT and Coca Cola Company on 26 August 2011.
- Mr. Muhammad Shahid joined as Senior Project Officer Keti Bunder Office in Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation Project in the Coastal Areas of Pakistan (CCAP) on 12 September 2011.

Indus for All Programme, WWF - Pakistan (Programme Management Unit)

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Programme Implementation Units

Chotiari Wetlands Complex
House No.129/2, Housing Society
Near Govt. Boys High School
Shaheed Benazir Road, Sanghar, Sindh
Tel: 0235 542837, Fax: 0235 542791

Keenjhar Lake
House No. B/112
Hasimabad 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
Bunglow No. A-3, M.U.C.E.T Employees
Co operative Housing Society
District Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh
Tel: 0244 366364, Fax: 0244 282496