

Indus

FOREVER

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Aegiceras corniculatum, a mangrove species discovered by WWF in 2011, being protected by Keti Bunder youth group

Indus Forever is a quarterly newsletter of Indus for All Programme; the first six years (2006-2012) implementation phase of a 50-year vision of 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 Government of Sindh. The Programme aims to conserve the rich biological diversity of Indus Ecoregion through livelihood improvement of local communities.

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

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SPOTLIGHT Forests Forever

The International Year of Forests 2011 has been a momentous one. On one hand, we accelerated our efforts for forest ecosystems conservation, such as through establishing replicable models for mangrove rehabilitation and protecting priority species in Indus Ecoregion. On the other hand we have lost our field heroes. Kenya mourned the demise of Professor Wangari Maathai, the first environmentalist to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Pakistan grieved the assassination of Mr. Abdul Ghani and Mr. Haji Abu Bakar of Kakapir village, Sandspit, who demonstrated perseverance in mangroves ecosystems protection and have been nominated for WWF - P's prestigious Syed Ali Shah Conservation Award. These leaders have left behind a legacy of values for us to follow. They lived Professor Mathai's statement that those who harm the forest are 'digging their own grave', because 'in their survival is our own'.

Their cause was not a hollow one, as proved empirically through local communities and experts. Forests are vital to the survival and wellbeing of all 7 billion people and cover 30% of the planet's total land area. They provide shelter; are a source of food, livelihood, medicine and clean water; and provide a wide range of environmental services, including biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, flood control, and protection against soil erosion and desertification. They play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment (UNESCO, 2011). However, the expansion of agricultural and industrial needs, population growth, poverty, landlessness and consumer demand has led to mass deforestation. The loss of natural forests around the world contributes more to global emissions each year than the transport sector (UNEP).

Pakistan currently has around 2.5% of its area under forest cover, with a 2.1% deforestation rate. The cost of deforestation in the country is Rs. 2.7 billion, which is 0.04% of Gross Domestic Product. To protect forest ecosystems in Pakistan, WWF has identified priority forests and undertakes participatory campaigns to help reduce pressure on endangered forest patches. WWF - P also has a long term commitment for financial support to the family of our local hero, Mr. Abdul Ghani. In 2011, under Indus for All Programme 1200 hectares of mangrove species (*Avicenna marina* and *Rhizophoramucronata*) have been planted, a dense patch of *Aegiceras corniculatum* has been discovered and being protected by a local youth group, Sindh Forest Act is being revised, and a policy paper on saving forests of Sindh has been developed.

WWF is lobbying governments to establish an ecologically representative network of protected areas covering at least 10% of each of the world's forest types. COP 17 in Durban, South Africa also discussed ways to implement an international REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) mechanism and sustainable management of forests. The matter will be discussed in Rio+20, which will celebrate two decades of the 1992 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development. World Wetlands Day on 2 February will further enforce the concept of saving forests and wetlands for ecotourism. These concerted efforts will ensure that we keep the torches of hope ablaze, as advocated by our lost heroes. We can possibly meet our Millennium Development Goal target to increase forest cover to 6% by 2015.

Editorial Board: Ali Dehlavi, Asif Ali Sandeelo, Fizza Shah, Nasir Ali Panhwar
Graphic Designer: Ayesha Khatib





PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Senior officials of Government of Sindh with Programme representatives

Fifth Annual Review and Networking Meeting

The fifth annual review and networking meeting of Indus for All Programme, held in Karachi, was attended by a diverse range of organizations, including heads and representatives of government departments, civil society organizations, corporate sector and media, and researchers.

Sindh Secretary, Information and Archive Department, Mr. Mumtaz Ali Shah, stressed on the role of media in educating the masses on conservation. He said that the rich forests and wetlands of Sindh have been the identity of the province, and collective effort is needed to protect the natural treasure of Sindh. Former Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development, Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khero hoped that WWF - P with support of key stakeholders will give priority to the four new Indus Ecoregion sites, which include Manchar Lake, Khebrani Forest, Kharo Chan and Nara Canal. He highlighted the need for handing over to Government of Sindh the replication of successes in socio-economic empowerment as well as biodiversity and conservation in the existing four sites. Mr. Shams-ul-Haq Memon, former Secretary, Forest and Wildlife, highlighted the need to document lessons learnt under first phase of the Programme. The Regional Director, WWF - P, Mr. Rab Nawaz committed on continued support to partners at the existing sites and expressed hope in continuation of interventions through partnerships. Water security and stewardship was identified as the new Programmatic focus, along with market transformation, policy work and involving community champions in conservation. While listing the major achievements of the Programme, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, stressed on the unique nature of the Programme in terms of establishing diverse level of participation and an integrated approach to conservation.

Partner representatives from relevant government agencies, community based organizations and civil society organizations gave their perspective on the Programme. Dr. Suleman Shaikh; Mr. Fazal Nizamani, Senior Chief Planning and Development Department; Dr. Fehmida Firdous, Deputy Conservator, Sindh Wildlife Department; Mr. Riaz Wagan, Conservator, Forest; Mr. Irshad Ali Gandhro; Mr. Majeed Mangrio; Mr. Amen Keerio and community representatives also shared their views.

Green journalist award was given to Mr. Aajiz Jamali, Mr. Amar Leghari, Mr. Aziz Ranjhani, Mr. Badar Abro, Mr. G. N. Mughal, Mr. Gulshan Shaikh, Mr. Haris Tayab, Mr. Khalil Jibrani, Mr. Latif Baloch, Mr. Mujahid Shah, Mr. Mehmood Aalam, Mr. Mumtaz Shar, Mr. Mehboob Brohi,



Honorable guests receiving awards in various categories

Local CBO representative sharing her experiences

Mr. Manzoor Solangi, Mr. Nawaz Kunbhar, Mr. Rizwan Tariq, Mr. Ramzan Chandio, Mr. Rasool Bux Dars, Mr. Sanaullah Khokhar, Mr. Shabina Faraz, Mr. S. Khursheed Ali, Mr. Waqar Bhatti, Mr. Zofeen Ebrahim, Mr. Zulfiqar Rajpar, and Mr. Zia Qureshi. Shields were distributed among Programme staff members.

Dutch Ambassador's Keenjhar Lake Visit

The Dutch Ambassador, His Highness Gajus Scheltema, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, visited Keenjhar Lake to inaugurate the walkway at Keenjhar Conservation and Information Centre established under Indus for All Programme.

The constructed walkway is expected to promote ecotourism, as it offers a view of the scenic beauty of the Lake and easy access to the Centre. The Centre facilitates sustainable management of the precious biodiversity through providing a platform for stakeholder dialogue and opportunities for ecotourism, knowledge building, scientific research, and awareness raising. The Centre has a conference room, a display room, a watch tower and boat facility.

The Ambassador toured the nearby villages and appreciated team efforts in providing alternate livelihood sources to local communities, and minimizing damage to the natural environment. He observed the devastating impact of the 2011 flood and expressed the need to continue the Programme for an extended period through partnerships. He met with community based organizations and local community members who were provided fishing boats, floating *matkas*, and computer education through IT centre. He also visited the mangrove patch being conserved close to Keenjhar Lake, and the reed and weed management efforts in collaboration with local communities. He urged rural women to participate actively in community development. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Jan Willem Cools, First Secretary, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. They also visited Haleji Lake, once paradise of birds, where Conservator, Sindh Wildlife Department, Mr. Saeed Baloch briefed them on the significance of the wetland.



The Dutch Ambassador inaugurating the walkway at Keenjhar Conservation and Information Centre



The walkway leading to Keenjhar Conservation and Information Centre

13th Meeting of Sub-Committee of Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee



Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Dept., Mr. Sohail Akbar Shah, chairing the meeting

The 13th meeting of Sub-Committee of Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee (IESC) was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sohail Akbar Shah, Sindh Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department. The committee recommended Sindh Ibex as the provincial mammal and Black Partridge as the provincial bird of Indus Ecoregion.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, highlighted Programme activities, including institutional support to CBOs, awareness raising, natural resource management, species recovery and partnership fund initiatives. Mr. Altaf Sheikh, Manager, Policy and Partnership Fund, Indus for All Programme, briefed the participants on the progress of the decisions taken in the 12th meeting of Sub-Committee of IESC, held on 31 March 2011 and at the Special Meeting of Sub-Committee held on 14 April 2010.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Fazal Nizamani, Senior Chief, Water and Drainage, Planning and Development Department; Mr. Aijaz Nizamani, Additional Secretary, Forest Department; Mr. Ghulam Haider Mangrio, Deputy Commissioner, Sanghar; Mr. Haider Raza, Deputy Secretary, Forest Department; Mr. Saeed Baloch, Conservator, Sindh Wildlife Department; Mr. Hussain Bux Bhagat, Project Director, Kirthar National Park Project; Mr. Muhammad Shami Hingorjo, Project Director, SIDA; Mr. Imtiaz Mangi, Assistant Commissioner, Shaheed Benazirabad; Mr. Riaz Wagan, Conservator, Forest, Thatta; and Dilshad Ali, Sindh Environmental Protection Agency.

Consultative Workshop on Revision of Sindh Forest Act 1927

The Sindh Forest Act 2011 draft was shared in a consultation workshop organized by Sindh Forest Department in Karachi, in collaboration with WWF – P. The draft was prepared by K.K. Consultants - a company of retired Forest Department officials - with financial support of WWF. A revised version of the decades old Forest Act 1927 provides for community participation, increase in the number of acts prohibited, enhancement of penalties and punishment for lawbreakers.

Speakers maintained that the present law is obsolete and inadequate to meet ground realities; it also does not address the issues related to sustainable management. Weak and flawed regulations, inefficient and corrupt administrations, coupled with pressures from politicians as well as military officials, has led to the destruction of indigenous forests and woodland on a large scale, they added. Mr. Aijaz Ahmed Nizamani, Additional Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department, informed that conversion of forest land, law and order situation, water shortage and social and political issues are some major factors that have led to the depletion of forests. He urged forest department officials to adopt a pragmatic approach towards forest conservation.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, shared that Pakistan has the highest annual deforestation rate in Asia; forests cover only 2.5% of the country's land, which was 33% forest covered at the time of independence. He expressed concern over the high rate of deforestation and land conversion from forest to other uses. He said that forest area should be 25% of the total land and community-managed forests should be made an integral part of the revised Act.

Mr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, former Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department, urged Forest Department officials to persuade politicians to 'leave what is left to the forests'. Commenting on the revised Act, Dr. Ghulam Rasool Keerio, representing K.K. Consultants, said the recommended set of laws covers the missing links and includes new concepts of sustainable management. Remarking on the draft law, Mr. Haider Raza Khan, senior conservator of forests said the refusal of the Chief Ministers of all provinces, except Punjab, to surrender the powers of changing the status of forest land is a major reason why a national policy on forest could not be materialized last year.

Giving his input, Mr. Shamsul-Haq Memon, former forest department official, remarked that the definition of 'wasteland' needs to be reviewed to exclude coastal land under mangroves. He also suggested that the government ought to have the powers to declare any tree or plant growing on private land or government land as reserved or protected if it faces the threat of extinction. Mir Nadir Ali Talpur, Chief Conservator, Forests; Mr. Riaz Ahmed Wagan, Conservator, Thatta; Mr. Mehboob Alam Ansari; Mr. Ghulam Qadir Shah, IUCN; Dr. Kella Lekhranj; Mr. Mahboob Ali Bhatti and Mr. Muneer Awan also gave their input.



Participants at the consultative workshop on revision of Sindh Forest Act 1927

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop on Environmental Indicators



Participants at the workshop

A two days training workshop on environmental indicators was organized, to build the capacity of government officials on development of environmental indicators in fisheries, agriculture, livestock, forest and education.

Speaking at the session, National Coordinator, Small Grants Programme, UNDP, Mr. Masood Ahmed Lohar urged that Pakistan is in a state of emergency with regard to environment and the next ten years are critical. He said that environmental degradation results in a national loss of one billion each day. He added that capacity building is a major step towards strengthening the institutions and government officials can play a vital role in taking effective steps to curb the loss. He further said that unprecedented flood of 2010 and rains of 2011 are the vital indicators of climate change. Mr. Lohar shared that due to increasing use of pesticides, many species of fauna and flora have vanished.

Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar highlighted that due to the acute shortage of data on environmental degradation, damage to nature is not taken into account. He stated that economic and social development, and corresponding changes in lifestyle is resulting in environmental pressures. Mr. Panhwar suggested that all stakeholders should come forward to provide credible data for research and the environmental protection agency needs to be strengthened to ensure enforcement of environmental laws.

Resource persons, Mr. Ibad-ur-Rahman and Mr. Tufail Ali Zubaidi from National Environment Consultants said that population growth and development needs are the primary driving forces which exert pressure on the environment. Participants were of the view that deforestation is on a rise, wetlands are diminishing and various migratory birds have disappeared in the region; thus urgent action is required.

The training was attended by Executive District Officers from Shaheed Benzarabad, Thatta and Sanghar districts. Participants included Mr. Imamuddin Khoso, Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Mangi, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Keerio, Mr. Zulfqar Ali Larik, Mr. Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, Mr. Usama Anwar, Dr. Manzoor Ali Rajput, Mr. Vikyo Chohan, Mr. Qaisar Ali Jatoti, Dr. Hadi Bux, Dr. Muhammad Usman, Ms. Shumaila Imtiaz, Programme staff and others.

New Body of Friends of Indus Forum

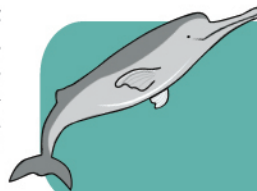
A general body meeting of Friends of Indus Forum was held at Keenjhar Lake. New office bearers were elected for two years, under supervision of Mr. Naseer Memon, Mr. Shahid Panhwar and Mr. Ali Muhammad Sheikh. Elected members include Mr. Sikander Brohi, President; Mr. Ali Akbar Rahmoon, Vice-President; Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, General Secretary; Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Mirani, Joint Secretary; Mr. Altaf Sheikh, Treasurer; and Mr. Aaz Buriro, Office Secretary.

Mr. Naseer Memon remarked that in the context of floods, strong foundations of advocacy have to be built. He said that Sindh, being on the tail end of the Indus basin, is most vulnerable and lower Sindh is already facing threats from natural disasters, including from cyclones and tsunami. He added that in 2010, deforestation and encroachment in the riverine area were major contributors to the flood, while in 2011 unsuitable engineering multiplied loss from disasters, and this would be a major advocacy area in the near future.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, General Secretary of the Forum, gave a presentation on the overall progress of the Forum in three years. He stated that during this period, renowned intellectuals, writers, social activists, journalists and environmentalists have joined the Forum. The Forum has also published position papers, such as on downstream Kotri and Manchar Lake. Mr. Hamsafar Gadhai, Mr. Zulfqar Helpoto, Mr. Shuja Qureshi, Mr. Nawaz Kunbhar, Mr. Aijaz Sindhi and Programme staff also shared their views.



The newly elected body of Friends of Indus Forum



The endangered Indus River Dolphin (Bhulan): Discovered in Pakistan's Indus River one hundred years ago, the sub-species lives in the 3,500km-long river and its tributaries. Today, around 1,100 survive, mostly in the southern 1,375km-stretch of Indus River, divided into isolated populations by six barrages.

Seminar on Floods and Climate Change



Dr. Parveen Shah, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh, with guest speakers

The seminar on floods and climate change was organized in collaboration with University of Sindh, Jamshoro. The seminar was presided over by Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Parveen Shah, who advised the Planning and Development Division to include the recommendations made by scholars at various forums. She expressed great concern on recent damages due to rainfall in Sindh and said that people who suffer from climate change impact need proper attention from the government. The speakers urged the government and community leaders to be efficient in adapting to climate change to avoid extensive human and physical losses, and emphasized on improving the existing infrastructure.

Dr. Badar Ghauri, Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), in his presentation on role of space applications in flood monitoring, shared that during the 2011 floods, SUPARCO assessed the damages by using satellite formation which was passed to concerned agencies to carry out the relief activities. He said that Pakistan has experienced major floods during 1928, 1929, 1955, 1973, 1976, 1980, 1992, 2010 and 2011. He said that SUPARCO advised the government to take measures for storage of flood water in 2010 and use it in dry season. Dr. Ghauri advised on involving the community in the decision making, planning and implementation process for sustainable solutions. Sardar Sarfraz from Meteorology Department said that floods and rains of 2010 and 2011 badly affected Pakistan in perspective of climate change impact. He pointed out that dengue virus is also an indication of climate change. Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme said that climate change phenomenon is a fact and a global issue. He asserted that Sindh has been adversely affected by floods and rainfall. He urged on the need to revisit the current development path in which climate change concept is given no consideration. He shared that University of Sindh and WWF - P have signed MoU and the seminar was a collaborative effort to create awareness on climate change. Prof. Dure Shahwar, Prof. Amanullah Mahar, Mr. Nawaz Kumbar, Mr. Ameen Keerio, Prof. Imtiza Pirzado and Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan Mughal also expressed their views.



Participants at the seminar

Alternate Energy Investments

The Programme recently carried out an assessment to study the status, impact, improvement areas, justification for replication and strengthening role of civil society in the energy supplies to Programme sites. In the past six years, WWF - P has supplied 231 units of energy efficient technologies – 85 biogas plants, 4 wind turbines, 93 household solar panels, 62 centralized solar panels and 37 hybrid systems – to local communities at Programme sites. Its corporate partners include AES Corporation, HSBC and Pakistan Council for Renewable Energy Technologies.

As part of the assessment, quantified and measurable results were discussed in relation to environmental and social benefits associated with alternate energy investments. The data representation reflected a few policy implications, including where to increase alternate energy budgetary allocations and private sector partnerships, based on underrepresentation of a particular type, such as absence of hybrid units in Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad, and nominal solar units (household and centralized) in Shaheed Benazirabad.

Beneficiary impact analysis highlighted changes such as 8-12% monthly savings and 44% switch from wood collection to biogas units, reduced carbon footprint from averted kerosene purchase due to solar units use, and 7-10% monthly savings from hybrid systems (which is only a partial indicator as these systems supply electricity throughout the year, suggesting an annual savings figure much higher than other alternate energy sources).

Social mobilization indicators suggest a doubling of social gathering per month, with meetings increasing three to four fold in Keri Bunder and Keenjhar Lake villages, respectively. These numbers speak to the sustainability of the energy intervention, acceptable levels of distribution / concentration of alternate energy unit maintenance tasks among community based organizations, but also point out whom in the community to follow up with on the repair of non-operational units. This also strengthens the case for providing concerned villages with funding to repair damaged units, as well as making them strong candidates for future investments in alternate energy.

In congruence with the benefits is the major damages incurred and expected from frequent floods in the Indus Ecoregion. From among all four sites, Chotiari suffered the highest damage in 2011, with repairs required for 80% of delivered energy efficient units. In addition to stakeholder assistance and community efforts required to reverse losses from flood damage, non-operational units also require similar attention.

Planners and policymakers in the government may be interested to know that Government of Pakistan, GEF/UNDP and WWF - P has proposed to supply biogas units to Dadu and Thatta districts in 2012.

Value Addition Training for Local Artisans

A fifteen days training on value addition was conducted at Mari Jalbani and Talli villages. 30 women attended this training. A one day training needs assessment exercise was conducted prior to the training, for the selection of best artisans. The training focused on product innovation with fish as the theme of product design. The product outcome was keychains, wall frames, clutch bags, mobile pouches and hand purses. The women also learned new stitches.



Hand embroidered products



Local artisans at work

World Fisheries Day



Speaker at the seminar

that fishing settlements have expanded but physical and social infrastructure is not meeting the requirements; underprivileged fishermen communities are deprived of their fundamental rights, therefore all stakeholders should strive to give them their due status. He advised on legal fishing methods and provision of cold storage facilities.

Mr. Gulab Shah, Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum, said that the prevailing contract system has successfully been abolished after a long struggle and illegal nets are also being discouraged by his organization. Awareness should be created to educate the fishermen and civil society must come forward to help the local communities, he remarked. Mr. Irshad Gandhro, Mr. Abdul Gafoor Gandhro, Mr. Kamal Palari, Mr. Muhammad Sidique and Programme staff also spoke at the occasion.

World Fisheries Day celebrated in Makli, Thatta, was attended by government officials, NGO and CBO representatives, civil society members, media representatives and students. Mr. Ghulam Mujtaba Wadhar, Director, Fisheries, Sindh, stated that fishermen community is the oldest community of the world; they sell fish which fulfills an essential food requirement of the local people. He said that government is making all efforts to provide basic needs to fishermen community of Sindh. In this regard, he shared that department has provided 100 houses to fishermen at Manchar their Lake, while in Keenjhar Lake work on 100 new houses, hospital and community hall has started. He emphasized that fishermen should use legal nets and methods for fishing. He called for public-private partnership to address multiple and complex problems of fishermen community.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme said that all great civilizations of the world have evolved on the banks of rivers. He added that the culture and heritage of Sindh is closely linked to its fishermen community. He further stated that Sindh's contribution in fishing sector is immense, which is vital to the economy of the country. He informed

World Energy Day



Students being briefed on wind solar system

that once installed, solar and wind farms have low maintenance cost and long life. Mr. Ashraf Shah, Ms. Parverish and Programme staff also spoke at the occasion. Mr. Rahid Hussain from Shareef International exhibited solar and wind models.

World Energy Day observed at Makli, Thatta was attended by government officials, NGO and academia representatives, civil society members and media persons.

Deputy Commissioner Thatta, Mr. Muhammad Jaffar Abbasi commented that Sindh has immense potential for alternate energy resources which needs to be optimally utilized. He said that energy crisis in the country can be mitigated by utilizing these resources for the benefit of local people.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, maintained that Pakistan is facing economic crisis mainly due to energy crisis. He said that energy has become unaffordable and the long hours of load shedding is affecting industry and agriculture, while hospitals and schools are suffering too. He was of the view that world landscape in energy generation is changing and Pakistan should also strive toward solar and wind energy production for sustainable development. He pointed out that wind corridor along the coastal regions of the Sindh has the capacity to generate power of 50,000 MW.

Mr. Rasool Bux Dars explained that renewable energy has vital economic advantages that are absent in traditional methods. He stated

Bird Feeding and Nesting

A youth greening activity was held for primary and secondary grade students of Pai Forest area. Detailed briefing was given on threats to local species, conservation measures, bird habits and nesting patterns. Students were given leaflets, developed by Jahangir Durrani, Natural Resource Management Officer, Indus for All Programme. The students also participated in a demonstration activity on building nests which were then hung on trees in the Forest Lodge area. Bird feeding arrangements were also made.



Bird feeding and nesting activity by youth

Visit to Kirthar National Park



Exposure visit for Keenjhar youth and CBO representatives was organized to help learn about the protected area and its management

Call to Preserve Cultural Heritage through Wise Use of Natural Resources



View of mach kachehri

A traditional gathering was organized on the bank of Keenjhar Lake. Speakers felt that conservation of natural resources is vital for not only Keenjhar ecosystem but also for preservation of the area's rich cultural heritage. They claimed that the wetlands and other natural resources are part of the literature of Sindh and added that great poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai also depicted the natural beauty of Keenjhar Lake in Shah jo Risalo. Prof. Qalander Shah remarked that the advancement of technology has changed the medium of interaction and exchange of ideas. He said that the culture of bonfire should be revived and folklore story tellers need to be patronized by the government.

Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme shared that wetlands and forests are under severe threat in Sindh and urgent steps are required to improve the deteriorating conditions. He requested the government to give financial priority to wetland conservation. Highlighting the cultural aspect of wetlands, he added that many religions attach spiritual and religious value to wetlands and that Sindh has its fair share of spiritual and religious wetland attributes, with shrines, archaeological and historical features. He further quoted that mythological stories are also attached to various wetlands, and advised on documenting these aspects of culture.

Mr. Kamal Palari, Mr. Irshad Gandro, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Khatri, Mr. Shuban Wistro and others also spoke at the occasion. Folklore storyteller Mr. Imdad Baber, Mr. Qabeer Lolai and poets Mr. Zulfikar Gadhi, Mr. Ayaz Buriro, Mr. Amar Panhwar and Mr. Hafiz Jameel Rehman presented poetry. Sufi music was presented by Mr. Ashique Qalnadri and Mr. Ramesh Jogi.

Disaster Risk Management Initiatives



Local community participants

A seminar was arranged to mark International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction and set the stage for involving youth in its management. Executive District Officer, Education, Mr. Razi Khan Jamali, informed that after 2011 flood, relief camps were established in 634 schools of the district, which affected education of children. He said that new concepts of disaster risk management need to be integrated into the syllabus. Speaking on the occasion, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar said that 66.5 million children are affected annually by disasters. He stressed on giving priority to child protection, before, during and after a disaster, and making schools and education uninterrupted. Dr. Nasir Leghari from Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering and Technology, recalled that most stakeholders react only when disaster occurs. He called for changing the mindset, and making disaster risk management an integral part of the planning process.



Speakers addressing the audience at the occasion

Mr. Zafar Talpur said that due to anthropogenic interventions, natural disasters are becoming even more devastating. He added that rampant encroachment on natural flows of water has worsened the flood situation. District Manager, Health and Nutrition Development Society, Mr. Ikhtiar Tunio, pointed out that psychological and social impact of floods on children is colossal. Mr. Rajab Jalbani asserted that degradation of riverine forests has not only affected the ecological conditions but livelihood of local communities is also severely affected. Mr. Nisar Keerio, Mr. Qurban Shah and Programme staff also spoke at the occasion.

To engage youth in disaster risk management, a training workshop was also organized for participants from all four sites. It covered potential threats from site specific disasters, disaster preparedness and village development plans, and hazard assessment. Incorporating environmental safeguards into disaster risk management was also discussed.

Local Name: Ludher Status: Near Threatened
Recorded at: Chotiari Reservoir

Legal trade in otter pelts is common. Otters are mercilessly killed for their valuable fur. Pollution from sources such as agricultural run-off and infrastructural development has led to disappearance of otters from some streams and rivers which were once major otter habitats.



Marine turtles have existed for over 100 million years



WWF - P, B. Braun and Eik Koshish Get Together to Clean Turtle Nesting Area at Sandspit



Employees at beach cleaning activity

A ceremony on 'cleaning green turtle nesting area' was organized at Sandspit beach, Karachi, with partnership of B. Braun and Eik Koshish organization. The speakers addressed the issues confronting green turtle species, water pollution and hazards to marine biodiversity. Subject specialists, civil society members, students and media persons attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rab Nawaz, Regional Director, WWF - P, mentioned the collective commitment of the partners in reducing water pollution and improving environmental degradation. Dr. Babar Hussain, Incharge, Wetland Centre, WWF - P, said that half a kilometer of Sandspit beach area was cleaned by participants where garbage was thrown by the visitors. He further said that they have sought support of school teachers and students to clean turtle nesting beach, to increase the number of green turtle species. Green turtle species are decreasing in our sea due to pollution, therefore people should endeavor to take steps for conservation of marine biodiversity, he added. One of the activity sponsors of B. Braun was represented by Mr. Zafar Hashmi who briefed the audience about corresponding field interventions. He stressed on the need for addressing the issues regarding green turtle nesting areas and rapid water pollution hazards, especially in Karachi. Another B. Braun representative, Mr. Anees Kas highlighted their perseverance to bridge the gap between humans and nature. He informed the audience on the

impact of ongoing partnership initiatives for improving nature and conservation of biodiversity. Mr. Subhash K Dawani, Manager, Conservation, Sindh Programme, WWF - P, presented the prevalent issues about turtle nesting and water pollution. He expressed hope in addressing environmental problems faced by marine biodiversity through collective efforts.



Mr. Abdul Ghani and Mr. Haji Abu Baqar, recipients of WWF - P's prestigious Syed Ali Shah Conservation Award

Orientation Programme

The newly hired staff members of Indus for All Programme, namely Mr. Shoukat Sathio, Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation; Mr. Khalid Saifullah, Finance Officer; and Mr. Asif Ali Sandeelo, Communication Officer; and Project staff of Building Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Areas of Pakistan, namely Mr. Tahir Abbasi, Site Coordinator; Mr. Muhammad Shahid, Senior Project Officer, Keti Bunder; and Mr. Sayed Shueb Ali Shah, Human Resource and Administration Officer; visited WWF - P Head Office, Lahore on 21-22 December 2011, for an overview of WWF - P's history, mission, goals, objectives and current activities.

Staff Capacity Building

- Ms. Mehreen Niazi, Front Desk Officer, Indus for All Programme, is undertaking a four-month Administrative Diploma Course being conducted by Pakistan Institute of Management, Karachi

- Ms. Naomi Alesworth, Research Officer, Building Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Areas of Pakistan Project, attended an international workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Water Resource Management for Asia-Pacific Region, arranged by National Institute of Banking and Finance/ COMSATS, Islamabad on 22-24 November 2011

Internship

Mr. Abdul Qadeer worked as an intern in Indus for all Programme from 19 October 2011 to 31 November 2011, to assist in documentation of Human Resource department work

Induction

- Mr. Muzaffar Memon joined as Environmental Education Officer, Indus for All Programme, on 17 October 2011

- Ms. Ayesha Khatib joined as Graphic Designer, Indus for All Programme, on 5 October 2011

- Ms. Lubna joined as Community Mobilizer, Sindh Programme, on 19 October 2011

Indus for All Programme, WWF - Pakistan

606 - 607, Fortune Centre, Block 6, P.E.C.H.S., Shahra-e-Faisal, Karachi
Tel: 021 34544791-92, Fax: 021 34544790
www.foreverindus.org, www.wwfpak.org

Programme Implementation Units

Chotiari Reservoir

Chotiari Conservation and Information Centre, Bakar Village, Sanghar, Sindh
Tel: (0235) 483454

Keenjhar Lake

Keenjhar Conservation and Information Centre, P.O - 73120, Village Abdullah Gandro, Thatta, Sindh

Keti Bunder

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

Pai Forest

Bunglow D-29, Mehran University College Engineering Technology Employees Cooperative Housing Society
Sakrand Road, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh