



Indus Forever

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Indus for All Programme, WWF - Pakistan

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Indus Forever is the quarterly newsletter of the Indus for All Programme; the first five-year (2007-2012) implementation phase of a 50-year vision of the Indus Ecoregion Conservation Programme. Funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Pakistan, the Programme is being implemented by WWF- Pakistan in close collaboration with the Government of Sindh. The Programme aims to conserve rich biological diversity of the Indus Ecoregion through livelihoods improvement of the local communities. The newsletter aims to keep the stakeholders of the Programme, other concerned organisations and individuals updated about the activities, progress and future endeavours of the Programme.

Indus for All Programme Establishes Institutional Support for Implementation

The Indus for All Programme has established a strong basis for institutional support and coordination for effective implementation by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with selected line departments and establishing governing and advisory bodies at different levels. The institutional support mechanism at the district level consists of the three District Coordination Committees while at the provincial level a Sub-committee of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee (IESC) has been established. The IESC is the existing body that oversees and ensures the proper implementation of the Programme.

Moreover, the capacity building initiatives for the Programme staff and the stakeholder representatives have been initiated. In this connection, members were taken on exposure visits to India and Nepal to provide them first-hand experience of forest and wildlife management-related issues. Various national and international exposure trips and training opportunities have also been availed as planned by the Programme staff.

Support has also been provided to the Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department to monitor and maintain the existing cover of riverine and mangrove forests through building their staff capacity in the area of forest monitoring and survey techniques using GIS technology.

Furthermore, ground preparation is now underway for conducting five economic valuations that aim to estimate total economic values (in PKR) per hectare for five ecosystems in the Indus Ecoregion. The values will be advocated for use in cost-benefit analysis, national income accounting and similar decision support frameworks along with their incorporation in Payment for Environmental Services Plans at all four programme sites.

Following a structured process of interventions for community mobilization, agreements have been reached with ten Community-based Organizations at the four Programme sites. In this regard, in order to catalyze relationship building with target communities and district governments, small-scale development interventions were implemented at all four sites to improve living conditions of local people.

Programme Highlights

Exposure Visit of the Programme's Steering Committee Members to India and Nepal

As part of Programme's commitment towards capacity-building of partners and stakeholders, two exposure trips were organized to India (28 Nov-5 Dec 2007) and Nepal (6-13 Dec 2007). Ten members of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee and five Programme staff took part in the exposure trips. The purpose of the trips was to provide the stakeholder representatives a first-hand experience of ecoregion conservation approaches including participatory forest and wildlife management practices in India and Nepal. Both the visits provided the participants opportunities for understanding the various approaches and institutional mechanisms that support participatory and collaborative management strategies in ecoregion initiatives.



Indus for All Programme and IESC members during India visit



Participants of the Nepal trip

Programme's First Annual Planning and Networking Meeting Held with Key Stakeholders

The first Annual Programme Planning, Review and Networking meeting was held in Hyderabad on 27 December 2007. The basic idea of the meeting was to review the performance of Programme's first year of implementation (April – December 2007), share the 2008 Workplan and to provide a brief introduction about the partnership fund to the Programme stakeholders. Sixty-nine participants representing target district



Participants paying attention to a presentation during the Annual Planning, Review and Networking Meeting

and provincial governments, academia, NGOs and Programme staff attended the meeting. The Programme team gave brief presentations regarding the Programme's progress during the first year of its implementation, Workplan for 2008, the partnership fund and Poverty-Environment linkages. The meeting was later on opened for discussion and suggestions of participants were noted for necessary action.

Communications & Awareness Strategy Ameliorated Through Stakeholder Inputs

A multi-stakeholder consultative workshop was organized to revise the Programme's Communication and Awareness Strategy document on 21 November 2007 at the Wetlands Centre, Sandspit, Karachi. As many as 30 representatives from different stakeholders including the government, media, civil society organizations, and the representatives of the target communities participated in the exercise. Through group discussions and brainstorming sessions, various components of the strategy were critically reviewed. Specific strategic interventions were suggested. The consultative process also served to enhance stakeholders' ownership of the Programme's Communications and Awareness Strategy.



A view of the consultative workshop held to revise Programme's C & A Strategy

Programme Highlights

Consultative Workshop With Media Personnel

On 13 December 2007, the Indus for All Programme organized a workshop on environmental journalism for journalists of Sanghar district. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize the journalists on environmental issues and the role of media in highlighting those issues. A total of 32 journalists attended the workshop. The workshop attempted to develop a common understanding amongst the participants on what, how and when to report on issues pertaining to environment and natural resources. Through group discussions and brainstorming sessions the journalists identified different environmental issues of the area and the Programme team helped them prioritize those issues. The journalists also developed individual plans focusing on environmental issues of the area.



Programme staff explaining the objectives of workshop to the participants

Journalists' Exposure Visit to Chotiari Wetlands Complex and Other Selected Sites

On 12 December 2007, the Indus for All Programme organized an exposure visit for selected journalists of Sanghar district to the significant wetland sites of the district including Chotiari Reservoir. The purpose of the visit was to sensitize the journalists about major environmental issues of the area through a hands-on experience and exposure. In this connection, the journalists were taken to Khorandi Lake in Deh Akro. The lake is a Ramsar site and a natural habitat for marsh crocodiles. A total of 23 journalists participated in the exposure trip.



Journalists during the exposure visit to Khorandi Lake

Later on, the journalists were also taken to Head Jamrao Canal (water channel conversion head) which is the starting point of Ranto Canal supplying water to Chotiari Reservoir. A boat ride through Chotiari Reservoir was also arranged.

In the evening, a traditional gathering called "Mach Kachehri" was held at Baqaar, a village near the reservoir, where the journalists deliberated on site-specific environmental issues in an informal atmosphere. They also discussed the role of media in sensitizing the public on such issues. The Indus for All Programme staff facilitated the discussion.

The Policy Monitor

Third Meeting of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee Held

The third meeting of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee was held on 20 November 2007 in the Committee Room of Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh. Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khero, Additional Chief Secretary (Dev.), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh chaired the meeting. The following key decisions were made during the meeting:



Participants of the meeting discussing the programme's progress

- 5-year Logframe of the Indus for All Programme and Indicators were approved;
- The 2nd year (2008) work plan for the Indus for All Programme was approved;
- Sindh Irrigation & Drainage Authority (SIDA) replaced the membership of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) on IESC; and,
- The composition of a Partnership Fund Technical Committee was approved.

The Policy Monitor

Second Meeting of the Sub-committee of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee Held

The Sub-Committee of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee was notified in July 2007 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Forests & Wildlife Department, Government of Sindh and held two meetings since the notification. The second meeting was held on 10 October, 2007. Key decisions of the meeting are as under:

- The Sub-committee recommended replacement of IWMI's membership in IESC with the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) for approval by IESC;
- The Sub-committee recommended and endorsed the Indus for All Programme's Logframe for approval by IESC;
- The Sub-committee recommended and endorsed the Indus for All Programme's Operational Plan 2008 for approval by IESC; and
- The Sub-committee recommended and endorsed the list of members for the Partnership Fund Committee for approval by IESC.



Secretary Forest & Wildlife Department, Government of Sindh chairing the Second meeting of the Sub-committee of the IESC

The Poverty-Environment Watch

Economic Valuation Studies of Five Selected Ecosystems in the Indus Ecoregion

Ground preparation is underway for conducting five economic valuations that aim to estimate total economic values (in PKR) per hectare for five ecosystems at the four Programme sites. Through these studies, the Programme aims to monetize the environmental services associated with the selected ecosystems. After monetization, previously missing values will be incorporated into policy analyses, including cost benefit studies and assessments of stocks of natural capital required for modification of national income accounts.

For this purpose, the Programme hired services of an international consultant for the study. Focus group and key informant meetings were held prior to the consultant's visit of all four sites to pre-test and record problem areas for execution



Dr. Ben Groom, the international consultant, during a Focus Group meeting at Kharioun, Keti Bunder

of field surveys. The scope of studies and selection of methodologies were also broadly agreed prior to the consultant's field visits in November 2007.

In terms of scope, two ecosystems (coastal and agricultural) were selected in Keti Bunder, while one ecosystem was identified in each of Pai (forest), Keenjhar (freshwater), and Chotiari (rangeland) sites. Analytical boundaries have been recorded in GIS maps in consultations with the Programme. A total economic value (TEV) expressed in rupees per hectare will be estimated for each ecosystem.

In terms of methodologies, the direct use values will be calculated using the "Market Value" approach for which a pilot survey is planned in December 2007; indirect use values will be generated using "Replacement Cost / Preventative Expenditure" methods and "Choice Experiments" for which surveys are planned in the first quarter of 2008. Owing to their format, these studies would additionally enable Payment for Environmental Services (PES) feasibilities and empirically test observed poverty-environment linkages. Likewise, indirect use values will be generated also using off-site surveys employing the "Contingent Valuation Method".

Glimpses from the Programme Implementation Units

Sensitization Workshop for Resource-users Held at Chotiari

A workshop titled "Sensitization of Herdsmen of Chotiari in Livestock-Rangeland Management" was organized by Programme Implementation Unit, Chotiari Reservoir in Village Allah Dino Behan (Awad) on 12 November 2007. The workshop benefited 47 local herdsmen from 15 villages of the Programme area. Given its purpose the workshop was aimed at sensitizing resource-user groups (livestock herders) of Chotiari Wetlands Complex in livestock-rangeland management.

The workshop was divided into two major sessions. The first session was designed to cover different aspects of animal production and health. The resource person, Professor Habib Haider Laghari, informed the farmers about factors causing low productivity of animals such as unavailability of forages, malnutrition, inbreeding, frequent occurrence of infectious and parasitic diseases, delayed breeding and long

calving intervals, role of middlemen, improper vaccination and low standard of vaccines and non-professional personnel working in animal husbandries. Remedies and curative measures were also suggested.

The second session "Rangeland Management" was designed with following outlines which were discussed thoroughly:

- Range Management (Definition, Types, Importance, Existing Condition, Causes and Effects of rangelands degradation).
- Grazing Management (Controlled Grazing "Rotational and Deferred")
- Range Improvement Techniques (Grazing Season, Fencing and Re-seeding)

Farmers were informed about the deleterious effects on rangelands caused by excessive grazing. The concept of stall feeding was also discussed at length.

Indus for All Programme's District Coordination Committee (DCC) meeting held in Thatta

Like the other districts, the DCC in District Thatta has also been notified. The Indus for All Programme is carrying out its activities at Keti Bunder and Keenjhar Lake in the district. The introductory meeting of the DCC was held on 14 November 2007. The members from government, NGOs, academia and local communities participated. The DCCs in each district are headed by the respective District Coordination Officers (DCOs).



A view of the first DCC meeting in Thatta

Women Awareness Workshops held at Chotiari, Keti Bunder and Keenjhar Sites

One-day Women Awareness Workshops on Environmental Health and Hygiene were organized at Chotiari on 30 October, Keti Bunder on 8 November 2007 and Keenjhar on 27 November 2007. A total of 123 local women took part in the workshops. The Indus for All Programme team with the support of Health Departments of the respective district governments facilitated the sessions. In Chotiari, Chotiari Development Organization (CDO) and Sindh Health and Education Development Organization (SHEDO), Sanghar also joined hands to organize the workshop.

The aim of the workshops was to enhance understanding of local women with respect to site-specific natural resource issues and health and hygiene related problems. Environmental health and hygiene related topics and role of women in

community-based NRM were also discussed through group discussions, brainstorming, and presentations.



Local women listening to the lecture on women health and hygiene

Youth Greening Activity Organized Near Pai Forest

A youth greening activity was organized on 2 December 2007 at villages Mari Alam and Mari Jalbani in Nawabshah. The aim was to sensitize youngsters about natural resource conservation and involve youth in conservation activities in the area. Two youth groups of the said villages conducted the activity. During the first half of the day, 1000 plants were planted in both villages and in the later half of the day, a cricket match was held between the two youth groups. Commentators reiterated the importance of forest and wildlife in their commentary during the match. Mass awareness was generated by the event as at least a few hundred spectators came to witness the event.



Local students participated in various activities during the youth greening activity

Environmental Awareness Programme in Schools at Sanghar and Thatta

Organizing participatory learning activities involving academic institutions is a significant initiative for raising awareness about environmental issues and provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their local environmental problems. In this regard, the Programme, in collaboration with EXPLORER Social Research and Development Organization, organized

an Environmental Awareness Programme on 27 November 2007 with the active involvement of local Schools in Sanghar.



Local students during a walk along the embankment of Chotiari Reservoir

A large group of around 400 students and teachers from 7 Government and Private Schools around Chotiari Reservoir pooled their efforts to make the event successful. This one-day event consisted of a nature walk along the embankment of the Chotiari Reservoir, tableaux and skits performances and speech competition.

A similar activity was also organized by the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), Keenjhar Lake on 6 November 2007. A total of 73 students, mostly girls, participated in the activity. Students were sensitized about environment and natural resource conservation through lectures. The event also included a tree plantation activity for the students which was thoroughly enjoyed by them.

Consultative Workshop with Religious leaders to Promote Sermons on Conservation and Islam

One-day consultative workshops with religious leaders were held at all Programme sites. Participants from the respective localities included those with religious titles such as Khateebes, Pesh Imams, Muballighs and Hufaz. The workshops were held on 12 December at Pai, 16 December at Keenjhar, 18 December at Chotiari and 27 December 2007 at Keti Bunder. At Keenjhar, the workshop was facilitated by Mulla Mohammad Khan from Sonmiani who, in addition to being a religious leader, is a conservation activist. A significant number of religious leaders attended the workshops in all the four Programme sites.



A religious leader giving a sermon on conservation and Islam

The workshops focused on highlighting the importance of nature conservation and wise use of natural resources in the light of Islamic teachings. The significant roles that the religious leaders can play to sensitize the public about wise use of natural resources was also recognized. The participating religious leaders discussed their individual plans of action to promote sermons on "Conservation and Islam" in their respective areas. At the end of the each workshop all participants were given a book entitled "Conservation and Islam" published by the Environmental Education Division of WWF – Pakistan.

Theatre and Puppetry Shows Organized During the Local Festivals at Keti Bunder and Pai Forest

On 23 November 2007 the Programme Implementation Unit Keti Bunder organized a theatre performance in a local "Bukhari Baba" festival. More than 5,000 individuals from around Keti Bunder attended the festival. The theme of the theatre performance was "Save Nature – Develop Yourself". Famous local artists performed skits and short plays designed to raise awareness about the theme. Famous local comedy artists also performed on the day. Students from various boys and girls schools also attended the event.

On 28 November 2007 the Programme Implementation Unit at Nawabshah organized a puppet show and interactive theatre during a local festival "Shaheed Jiyo Jang Badshah" in Sakrand Town near Pai forest. The theatre was organized with support of the volunteers of local CBOs. About 2,000 individuals participated from different villages around forest. The theme of the Puppet show was "Hunting and Cutting of Forest" and the theme for the interactive theatre was "Dependency on Natural Resources and Melancholy of Local Communities and the Search for Alternative Livelihoods". Famous folk musician Mr. Sodho Laghari was invited to sing sufi folk songs while conveying the message of a harmonious life.



A puppetry show, aiming to highlight environmental issues, was organized in Nawabshah

HR News

Capacity-building Initiatives

GIS Analyst Mr. Farooq Ahmad Laghari attended "Training on Spatial Analysis Concepts, Tools, and Application of Geo-Informatics for Protected Area Management" offered by ICIMOD at Katmandu, Nepal from 1 to 11 October 2007. The training mainly focused on applications of GIS in Protected Areas Management. The course contents covered almost all aspects of GIS and Remote Sensing.

Coordinator Natural Resource Management, Mr. Rab Nawaz, attended the 4th International Galliformes Conference from 14-21 October, 2007 in Sichuan, China, hosted by the World Pheasants Association (WPA). The week long symposium was focused on the conservation and sustainable management of all species of Partridge, Quail, Francolin, Guineafowl, Grouse and Pheasant, with a special emphasis on the threatened species and their habitats. On the occasion, Mr. Nawaz made a presentation on "Monitoring of Pheasants of Pakistan: What is the Future for Pakistan's Galliformes?"

Manager Environmental Education, Mr. Muhammad Zafar Khan attended a 5-day "Introduction to WWF" course and subsequent workshops on Finance and Network Standards at WWF-International head office in Gland, Switzerland from 26-30 November 2007. The course aimed at to enhance participants' affiliation with WWF's global network and the organization's mission and goals. The training workshops focused on WWF's operational standards.

Manager Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Irshad Junejo participated in a 3-day workshop on "Monitoring and Evaluation" from 19-21 November 2007, held in Islamabad by Civil Society Human & Institutional Development Programme (CHIP). The workshop covered concepts and principles associated with various monitoring and evaluation tools and techniques.

Welcome onboard.....

1. Ms. Meherunissa Hamid, Programme Management Officer, joined the Indus for All Programme on 1 October 2007.
2. Mr. Jamal Mustafa Shoro, Policy and Planning Officer (P&D), joined the Indus for All Programme on 18 October 2007.
3. Mr. Abdul Majeed Thahim, Partnership Fund Executive, joined the Indus for All Programme on 3 December 2007.
4. Mr. Mustafa Abbasi, GIS Analyst, joined the Indus for All Programme on 3 December 2007.
5. Mr. Aftab Akhund, Manager Partnership Fund, joined the Indus for All Programme on 24 December 2007.

Other News

Kallar Kahar Clean-up – Pledge to Conserve Wetlands Renewed

On 29 November 2007, the Pakistan Wetlands Programme's Salt Range Wetlands Complex Site Office Team organised a lake cleaning activity and advocacy walk at *Kallar Kahar* to

raise awareness about the various threats to this and other important wetlands in the region.

The fragile ecosystem of *Kallar Kahar* is under pressure due to a range of factors including increased tourism activity after the construction of the M2 Motorway; and increased visitor pressure after the commissioning of several cement factories and other major construction projects in the surrounding areas.

The main message that was carried by the participants in the walk was that if we want to conserve the wetlands of the Salt Range, the local communities must become more aware of their responsibilities to their environment. The walk started at the Tehsil Municipal Administration Office, which involved more than 500 people, including representatives of local government, NGOs and other Programme stakeholders, school children from the *Kallar Kahar* Higher Secondary School and Science College, as well as the media. The participants displayed banners bearing slogans urging the community to take sustainable steps towards the conservation of the *Kallar Kahar* Wetland.

The cleaning activity concentrated on the lake margin, covering a distance of about 3 km and ended at the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab's (TDCP) lake-side resort where the participants of the walk also gathered. The speakers on the occasion emphasized on the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands through collective efforts. Among the participants were Nazim *Kallar Kahar* Malik Muhammad Ashraf and Principal of the *Kallar Kahar* Government Higher Secondary School Malik Iftikhar Ahmad Shahid. Other valued participants including representatives of the Government Departments, Community-based Organisations and NGOs also expressed their views and praised the initiative taken by the PWP as a step in the right direction. *Mariyum Aurangzeb, Coordinator National Awareness Raising Programme, Pakistan Wetlands Programme*

CCP Team Conducts Surveys at Keti Bunder

Cetacean Conservation Project (CCP) team conducted boat surveys from Karachi to Keti Bunder including Hajamro, Turshan Creeks and from Chan creek to Sir creek and recorded important information and findings on Humpback dolphins. These surveys also included community surveys and interviews with local fishermen. CCP team members conducted these interviews in 4 villages of Keti Bunder and collected information on cetaceans from local fishermen. The Indus for All Programme and Pakistan Wetlands Programme facilitated this survey.

PIU Keenjhar participates in youth group sensitization activity

The Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), Keenjhar Lake of the Indus for All Programme, along with the youth group established by it, participated in the District Youth Assembly held by UNFP in collaboration with HANDS, a local NGO, on 18 December 2007. In the event, the organizers chose six core themes including health, community development, and education for the youth groups to focus on. On the recommendation of the Indus for All Programme however, the theme of environment was also included in the list. The Indus for All Programme also set up a stall at the venue which drew attention of a significant number of people.

Other News

Exposure visit to Oman for CCP Members

An exposure visit to Oman Whale and Dolphin Research Group (OWDRG) was arranged by the Pakistan Cetacean Conservation Project (CCP) for two of its members. The visit took place from 4-10 November 2007. Mr. Babar Hussain, Project Officer, CCP and Conservation Officer, WWF-Pakistan,



CCP members during a boat survey in Oman

and Mr. Shoaib Kiyani, Research Officer, CCP based at University of Karachi participated in the visit. The objectives of the exposure visit were:

- To explore different approaches helpful for knowledge sharing and learning from each other's experiences regarding conservation of cetaceans;
- To participate in the beach and open sea surveys with OWDRG and share experiences;
- To visit the Natural History Museum of Oman and observe

the cetacean specimens preserved there; and
• To explore and discuss other matters of mutual interest.

Syed Ali Hasnain, Project Manager, WWF - Pakistan

WWF-Pakistan and Engro Chemicals Join Hands for Indus Dolphin Conservation

Engro Chemicals has become the largest Pakistani Corporate sector contributor to WWF-Pakistan's Indus Dolphin Conservation initiatives by signing an MoU with the organisation on 2 November 2007. The Ceremony held at WWF-Pakistan's Wetland Centre at Sandspit, Karachi. Through the said Agreement, Engro Chemicals will be providing financial support to WWF-Pakistan's Indus Dolphin Conservation Project, which is going on for the last many years. Engro has pledged Rs. 4.5 million for the project.

On the occasion, Dr. Ghulam Akbar, Director Indus for All Programme introduced the organization and the Programme to the participants after the welcome address. Mr. Sarfaraz Rehman, CEO Engro Foods reiterated his firm's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), while stating the importance of sensitizing corporate sector in conservation of the country's environment. Uzma Khan, Manager Conservation Programme, WWF-Pakistan also spoke on the occasion.

The said project will focus on the conservation of Indus Dolphin through survey of canals involving community based game watchers in the dry season to locate stranded Indus dolphins, and; extension/improvement of rescue unit which is currently operating at Sukkur Barrage. In this connection, a specially built rescue ambulance will also be acquired for the safe transportation of the stranded species. *Uzma Khan, Manager Conservation Programme, WWF - Pakistan*

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

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Programme Implementation Units (PIU)

Chotiari Wetlands Complex

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Near Government Boys High School,
Nawabshah Road, District Sanghar, Sindh.
Tel: 0235-542837, Fax: 0235-542791

Keenjhar Lake

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

Keti Bunder

Keti Bunder Town, P.O. Keti Bunder
via P.O. Mirpur Sakro,
District Thatta, Sindh.
Tel: 0298-607685, 620291

Pai Forest

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

"Conservation cannot be imposed from above. It must have the support of the people."

-Michael Werikhe