

## In this Issue:

### Editorial

Dependence of Local Communities on Natural Resources

### Programme Highlights

- Progress Review by the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee
- Increasing Fish Stock in Keenjhar Lake
- District Government Officials Visit Western Himalayan Ecoregion
- Strengthening Ties with Academic Institutions
- Capacity Building Workshop for the Honorary District Game Wardens
- Celebrating National Tree Plantation Day
- Promoting Indus Journalist Forum

### The Policy Monitor

Exploring neighbouring ecoregions

### The Poverty - Environment Watch

Moving Ahead: Green Accounting

### Strengthening Partnerships

Glimpses from the Programme Implementation Units

### HR News

### Other News

### Editorial Board

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Indus Forever is the quarterly newsletter of the Indus for All Programme; the first five years (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 stakeholders, other concerned organizations and individuals updated about the activities, progress and future endeavors of the Programme.

## Dependence of Local Communities on Natural Resources

Sindh's natural wealth comprises mainly of agriculture, riverine and mangrove forests, freshwater wetlands, marine and inland fisheries and a variety of flora and fauna. Nearly 60% of the population depends on these natural resources for their livelihood. According to a socio-economic assessment conducted by WWF – Pakistan in 2008 people living around the four priority sites in the Indus Ecoregion (Keenjhar Lake, Keti Bunder, Pai Forest and Chotiari Reservoir) are heavily dependent on natural resources.

Fishing is the major source of income for nearly 90% of the communities residing around Keti Bunder, 42% in Keenjhar and 60% in Chotiari Reservoir. Other sources of livelihood include mat making from typha grass, livestock rearing and subsistence agriculture. Traditionally a larger number of people were engaged in cattle raising but over the years the declining water resources and degradation of pastures and forests have led to a change in occupations. Over the years residents of these areas have been facing substantial income losses due to depletion of natural resources. This has been caused by: lack of appropriate management, coupled with weak enforcement of laws; high local dependence on natural resources; lack of coordination and ownership at different tiers of management; and limited financial resources.

Consequently, local communities have had to seek alternative means of livelihood. Local women have taken up craft production such as embroidery, weaving fishing nets, collecting wild grass and so forth to supplement their household incomes. However, in cases where alternative sources of livelihood are insufficient, communities have either sold their livestock or borrowed heavily, which has intensified their poverty cycle. It is a challenge not only for government but also for civil society and environmental organizations to work with communities to reduce pressure on natural resources and generate alternate means of livelihood.



A herd of livestock grazing near a waterbody



### Progress Review by the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee

The sixth meeting of Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee (IESC) was held on 6 July 2009. Mr. Nazar Hussain Mahar, the Additional Chief Secretary Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh, presided over the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mahar stressed the need to adopt integrated approaches to address environment and poverty related issues in the province and highlighted the role of community in that regard. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved by Programme in the last six months. The Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme, Nasir Ali Panhwar, shared the findings of the periodic wildlife and habitat surveys, conducted in four priority sites of the Programme in three districts; Thatta, Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah). Speaking on the occasion the Coordinator, Natural Resource Management, Mr. Rab Nawaz said that four species of trees have been proposed to declare one as a provincial tree of Sindh. The issues of sanctioned water for Pai Forest and ban on illegal fishing nets were also discussed in the meeting. Mr. Mohammad Ali Shah of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum assured his full support to the government's drive against illegal fishing nets. The meeting was attended by representatives from the departments of Forests and Wildlife, Fisheries and Livestock, Agriculture, Irrigation, Planning and Development of the Government of Sindh, Finance, Environment Protection Agency, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Coastal Community Development Project, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, Shirkat Gah, Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority, and WWF - Pakistan. The District Coordination Officers of Thatta, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad and Director General, Coastal Development Authority also attended the meeting.



Mr. Nazar Hussain Mahar, ACS, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh, presiding over the IESC meeting.

### Increasing Fish Stock in Keenjhar Lake

Under the Partnership Fund granted project titled 'Rehabilitation of Fishermen Community and Keenjhar Lake', 100,000 fish seed were released by the Keenjhar Fishermen Welfare Society (the project executing organization) in Keenjhar Lake on 31 July 2009. The average size of the released fish was 6-8 inches. A ceremony was held in the Fisheries Community Hall at Keenjhar Lake and Mr. Zahid Bhurgri, the Provincial Minister for Fisheries, was the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bhurgri said that the government is committed to the introduction of fisheries pens and cage culture around lakes in the province.



Mr. Zahid Bhurgri, Provincial Minister for Fisheries along with other guests during the ceremony

Lauding the efforts of Keenjhar Fishermen Welfare Society and WWF - Pakistan's Indus for All Programme, he said that department would also implement similar projects with their assistance.

The seed releasing process continued for two days and was monitored and witnessed by the representative of local Community Based Organizations.

### District Government Officials Visit Western Himalayan Ecoregion

The Indus for All Programme organized an exposure visit to the Western Himalayan Ecoregion for the District Government Officials of Sindh. Like the Indus Ecoregion, the western Himalaya is among the 238 ecoregions forming part of a 1997 ranking of the world's most biologically outstanding terrestrial marine and freshwater ecosystems, carried out jointly by WWF and such institutions as the National Geographic Society, the United Nation's Environment Programme and the Birdlife International. The visit formed part of capacity building of District Government officials, who are working closely with the Programme.



The delegation at WWF Nathiagali Office.

The officials visited the Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP), WWF Nathiagali Office and Environmental Recovery Programme for Earthquake Affected Areas of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Balakot and Kaghan Valleys. The officials were exposed to various on-ground initiatives undertaken for the conservation of natural resources with community participation.



## Programme Highlights

The eight-member delegation including six district government officials and two Indus for All Programme staff members who took part in the visit were: Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Mahtum, Executive District Officer, Information Technology and District Officer-Finance, Mr. Vikyo Chohan, Executive District Officer, Agriculture from district Thatta; Mr. Niaz Ahmed Memon, Assistant Engineer, Chotiari Reservoir, Mr. Mushtaq Soomro, District Officer, Agriculture from district Sanghar; Mr. Murad Jamali, District Officer, Community Development, Dr. Karim Bux Leghari, Executive District Officer, Agriculture, Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah); Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, and Mr. Majeed Thahim, Partnership Fund Executive, Indus for All Programme.

### Strengthening Ties With Academic Institutions

The University of Sindh Jamshoro and WWF – P have come together to address environmental and developmental issues in Sindh. Mr. Mazhar-ul-Haq Siddiqui, the Vice Chancellor University of Sindh Jamshoro and Dr. Ghulam Akbar, Regional Director, WWF – P signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of their respective organizations at Jamshoro campus aiming at building and strengthening long-term collaboration between the two organizations by extending technical and institutional support to each other. Speaking on the occasion the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Siddiqui emphasized the need to enhance interaction between academia and conservation organizations for the conservation of natural resources. Dr. Ghulam Akbar, Regional Director WWF – P informed that WWF – P would develop linkages between University of Sindh and South - West Forestry University, China. This would enable both universities to have exchange programme of faculty as well as students.



Mr. Mazhar-ul-Haq Siddiqui, the Vice Chancellor, University of Sindh and Dr. Ghulam Akbar, Regional Director, WWF - Pakistan at the signing ceremony.

As part of the understanding, the two organizations will collaborate in research and information sharing regarding conservation and natural resource management subjects in the Indus Ecoregion and extend mutual support in joint initiatives, especially celebration of environmental events and exposure visits.

### Capacity Building Workshop for the Honorary District Game Wardens

A one-day training workshop for the Honorary District Game Wardens of Sindh and officials of the Sindh Wildlife Department was held on 18 August 2009 at a local hotel in Karachi. Attended by nine Honorary Game Wardens and seven officials of Sindh Wildlife Department, the training aimed to build capacity of the participants in knowledge sharing, management and decision making regarding wildlife management in the Province.



Dr. Dayaram Essarani, Provincial Minister, Wildlife with the participants and other guests.

The resource persons were subject specialists and experts from Sindh and NWFP Wildlife Departments and other conservation organizations such as Habitat and Species Conservation Project, Balochistan and WWF - Pakistan. The provincial minister for Wildlife, Dr. Dayaram Essarani and Secretary Forests and Wildlife, Mr. Mushtaq Ali Memon also attended the event. Dr. Ghulam Akbar proposed the Nara Region to be declared as a National Park, which was strongly supported by the Minister Wildlife along with the participants.

Certificates and information packs were distributed among the participants upon completion of the sessions. The information pack contained a booklet on "the Duties and Powers of the Honorary District Game Wardens" a fact sheet on wildlife of Sindh and other resource material. The booklet was especially developed and printed for this occasion.

### Celebrating National Tree Plantation Day

This year the government of Pakistan declared 18 August 2009 as National Tree Plantation Day all over the country. To commemorate the day and sensitize local communities to the importance of planting more trees, WWF - P's Indus for All Programme, planted 120,000 trees in one day at its four priority sites, i.e. Keti Bunder and Keenjhar Lake in Thatta, Pai Forest in Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah) and Chotiari Reservoir in Sanghar. The various community groups who participated in the plantation campaign included members of the CBOs and school nature clubs, youth and local women groups. Representatives of the districts governments of Thatta, Shaheed Benazirabad, and Sanghar were also present on the occasion. The plantations comprised of Mangrove plants in Keti Bunder and Euclalyptus, Cornocorpus, Shahtoot and Neem trees in the rest of the three sites.





Students planting trees at Keenjhar Lak during the National Tree Plantation Day

### Promoting Indus Journalists Forum

A one-day consultative workshop, organized by Indus for All Programme on environmental Journalism was held on 29 September 2009 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad. Ms. Sharmeela Farooqi, Advisor to the Sindh Chief Minister, was the chief guest on the occasion. The goal of the workshop was to sensitize media in order to create a common understanding of environmental conservation in the Indus Ecoregion. A total of 28 journalists from Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah), faculty and students of Mass Communication Department, University of Sindh and six staff members of Indus for All Programme, attended the workshop.



Ms. Sharmila Farooqi, the Advisor to the Sindh Chief Minister with participants of the workshop.

The office bearers of Indus Journalists Forum elected during the workshop were: Mr. Sohail Sangi, President, Mr. Ishaque Mangrio, Vice President, Mr. Akash Santorai, General Secretary, Mr. Jan Khaskehi, Joint Secretary, Mr. Imdad Soomro, Finance Secretary, Ms. Sabeen Fatima, Press Secretary and Ms. Ambreen Hisbani, Office Secretary. Moreover, an Executive Committee was also constituted including Mr. Aslam Memon, Mr. Amar Leghari, Mr. Qurban Keerio, Mr. Ismail Memon, Professor Dr. Ali Murtaza Dharejo, and two staff members of the Programme: Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar and Ms. Badarunissa Tunio.

### Policy Monitor

#### Exploring Neighbouring Ecoregions

As part of its initiative to build and strengthen alliances with government and community partners, the Indus for All Programme organizes environmental exposure visits both within Pakistan and outside the country to other neighboring ecoregions.

This year, members of the Indus Ecoregion Steering Committee (IESC), the apex decision making body of the Programme, visited China and Nepal.



The delegation during a field visit in Nepal.

A four member delegation visited Yunnan Province, China as an ecoregion exposure trip. Yunnan falls under the River and Wetland Ecoregion, famous for its Tiger Leaping Gorge and many other important wetland sites. The delegation consisted of Mr. Mushtaq Ali Memon, Secretary Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department, Mr. P.S Rajani, Senior Environmentalist, Sindh Planning and Development Department, Dr. Ghulam Akbar, Team Leader, Indus for All Programme and Rab Nawaz, Coordinator, NRM, Indus for All Programme. As well as visiting important ecoregions sites such as Erhai Lake they also held a meeting with the officials of South-West Forestry University to explore the scope of collaboration between South-West Forestry University and a university in Sindh.

A second ecoregion exposure visit to Nepal took place from July 20-25, 2009. The delegation comprised of Mr. Khurshid Naeem Malik, District Coordinating Officer, Shaheed Benazirabad (Formerly Nawab Shah), Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Mahar Director General Livestock, Mr. Aurangzeb Haq Chief Economist, Mr. Riaz Wagan, Conservator Forest, Thatta, Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar, Programme Coordinator, Indus for All Programme and Mr. Zahid Hussain Jalbani, Site Manager Keenjhar Lake, Indus for All Programme. The trip was organized to learn from WWF - Nepal's valuable and fruitful experience in ecoregion conservation. The participants visited the Terai Arc Landscape, Bardia National Park, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the office of UN-Habitat. Staff from WWF-Nepal facilitated the trip in general and to each of the ecologically significant sites in particular.

### The Poverty-Environment Watch

#### Moving Ahead: Green Accounting

Pakistan has committed to incorporating an inventory of environmental assets and their degradation into its Systems of National Accounts (SNA) under section 5.1.e of Pakistan's National Environment Policy (2005). This process is also referred to as "green accounting".

WWF facilitated a series of national consultations on the subject at the district (Hyderabad, 27.4.09), provincial (Karachi, 13.5.09), and federal levels (Islamabad, 28.5.09). In turn, this was supported by a series of 2008 "total economic valuation



## Strengthening Partnerships / Glimpses from PIUs

(TEV)" studies covering the freshwater, forest, deltaic, agricultural and rangeland ecosystems.

What steps does the Programme intend to take to move this process ahead? A strategy to move ahead with green accounting is currently being finalized. It has three broad components: an institutional component, an advocacy component, and a technical capacity building and applied component.

The institutional component of the strategy will proceed in stages. First, institutional focal points would help set up and jointly moderate a listserv to enable stakeholder consultation and information exchange on green accounting. Second, policy briefs would help strengthen ownership. Third, synergies between the Programme's 2008 and the World Bank's 2006 valuation studies should be leveraged: both cover rangelands and forests; WWF covers coastal, freshwater and agricultural ecosystems in addition, while the World Bank has additionally covered soil salinity and erosion, water, urban air, airborne lead and indoor air pollution.

The advocacy component of the green accounting strategy requires judicious use of the aforementioned listserv and use of the Programme's policy interventions in planning documents among others at the district, provincial and federal levels. Key among elements to incorporate in planning documents is the need to strengthen the Statistical Division / Federal Bureau of Statistics to help them develop for the first time the periodic compilation of raw data series as required for green accounting.

As regards technical capacity building and applied component of the strategy, it is essential to identify upcoming training opportunities for the Planning Commission's Planning and Development Department statisticians. It is after all these statisticians who must agree equations, variables required for these, and duly request the Statistical Division / Federal Bureau of Statistics to periodically compile the raw data series required for each such variable.

### Strengthening Partnerships

- The Programme Coordinator, Nasir Ali Panhwar, participated in a talk show on KTN News on "Water Crisis", held on 3 July 2009.
- Programme Implementation Units Keti Bunder and Keenjhar Lake participated in the Guinness World Records Plantation of Mangroves at Keti Bunder organized by the Ministry of Environment and the Sindh Forest Department on 15 July 2009.
- The Programme Coordinator, Nasir Ali Panhwar, participated in an International Vultures Awareness Day organized by Dharti Development Society and UNDP-GEF at Hyderabad on 5 September 2009.
- The Programme Coordinator, Nasir Ali Panhwar, participated in a Seminar on "Impacts of Industrial Waste on Human Settlement and Environment" organized by the Indus Institute for Research and Education (IIRE) and Hamdam Development & Welfare Organization at Hyderabad, on 8 September, 2009.

- Programme Implementation Unit at Keti Bunder participated in a walk against cutting of mangroves organized by AHD, a local partner NGO, on 19 August, 2009, at Garho town. This walk was organized in lieu of the national plantation day.

### Glimpses from the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)

#### Celebrating Significant Environment Days in Sanghar

To commemorate the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer and National Marine Day, the Programme Implementation Unit, Chotiari Reservoir in collaboration with Bahria Foundation School/College, Sanghar, organized an awareness raising campaign on 16 September, 2009. The day's events comprised of painting, quiz and speech competitions in addition to tableaux and singing performances.



Students of Bahria Foundation displaying their paintings made for poster competition.

These performances focused on five different themes: ozone layer depletion and its preservation; importance of wetlands; pollution; marine life and importance of oceans. The activity aimed to enhance environmental sensitivity among school children. During the event, the school garden and a nature corner, developed by the school's nature club were also inaugurated. Around 46 students from the school and college took part in various competitions.

#### School Nature Clubs: Making Their Way Towards A Green Future

Programme Implementation Unit, Chotiari Reservoir, established three Nature Clubs entitled "Eco Friends" in Government High School Chotiari, "Green Corps" in Bahria Foundation School/Collage, Sanghar and "Green Future" Nature Club in Government High School, Molvi Khair Muhammad. Established to promote environmental awareness and stewardship amongst school children, these nature clubs have been implementing a variety of initiatives. The Programme has supported the newly formed clubs in showcasing some of the actions by providing the required resources. The joint efforts of the Programme and the host schools have already started the following activities:

- Development of school's new lawns;
- Plantation and gardening;
- Solid waste collection and disposal systems keeping in view of the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle);



## Glimpses from PIUs

- Development of a resource corner in the schools;
- Display of awareness material in classrooms;
- Nature painting on school walls;
- Locally made water purification plants for safe drinking water; and
- Installation of signboards.

### Alternate Energy Schemes for Communities of Keenjhar Lake

The Programme helped local CBOs at Keenjhar Lake to install four solar panels including one hybrid system in four villages. These units will supply electricity to 32 households situated around Keenjhar Lake. Six biogas plants were also installed at six villages around the lake. All the installations are functional.



A solar panel installed at Keenjhar Lake

### The National Children Mountain Conservation Meet, 2009

A group of 11 students from the schools of Pai Forest, district Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah) took part in the eighth National Children Mountain Conservation Meet, organized by Adventure Foundation Pakistan in Kaghan Valley, from 1-10 July 2009.



Students participating in the National Children Mountain Conservation Meet, 2009.

The group from Sindh joined 72 other students who came from different parts of the country. During the 10 day meet, Adventure Foundation Pakistan held a mix of adventurous and environmental activities like tree plantation, hiking, study of flora and fauna, route finding, emergency rescue, community awareness, river rafting, nature painting and story writing competitions. Students who participated in the meet returned to their homes inspired. Some of them have developed small environmental projects for their respective schools.

### Spreading Environmental Messages through a Local Festival at Pai Forest

The annual festival of Peer Maha Walli took place from 14 to 17 August 2009 near Village Morio Lakho, some three kilometres away from Pai Forest. Around 2500 people from the nearby Pai Forest attended the festival which was organized by two Local CBOs, Sindhu Sujag Tarkiati Tanzeem and Goth Sudhar Tanzeem in collaboration with the Indus for All Programme. During this four-day festival, the commentators kept announcing environmental messages during various events such as the bull race, traditional wrestling, and circus shows. The Programme Implementation Unit, Pai Forest also organized a stage play on their environment and indigenous wisdom which was performed by local artists. Haneef Lashari, a well-known classical sufi and folk singer sensitized the audience by singing songs about nature.



A folk singer sensitizing audience by singing nature-loving songs at a local festival near Pai Forest.

### Building Competencies of the School teachers

A two-day field-based teachers training workshop on environmental education was held from 16 to 17 September 2009 at the Cotton Research Institute Sakrand, district Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah). The training was attended by 28 male and female teachers from primary and high schools around Pai Forest. The training aimed to enhance participants' understanding of environmental education concepts by referring to the textbooks taught at primary, middle and high school levels.



Participants of the workshop learning waste management through hands-on activities.

Through interactive and hands-on learning approaches like field visits and development of low-cost learning aids, the training sessions resulted in improving the participants' teaching and learning skills. At the end of the two-day training workshop certificates were awarded to the participants by the Caretaker Executive District Officer, Education, Mr. Ghulam



Rasool Keerio who attended the closing ceremony as chief guest. Mr. Alam Keerio, Mr. Muhram Keerio, Ms. Safia Dharejo and Mr. Javed Ansari, facilitated the workshop. All facilitators are master trainers, trained by the Programme during 2008.



A view of teachers training in environmental education, in Keti Bunder.

Another three-day teacher training on environmental education was organized by the Programme Implementation Unit, Keti Bunder from 26-28 September 2009. The training took place at the Citizen Foundation School (TCF), at Haji Noor Kinnat, Keti Bunder. 31 teachers (29 from TCF and 2 from government schools) attended the workshop.

### Workshops on Environmental Health and Hygiene

Two one-day workshops on environmental health and hygiene were organized by the Programme Implementation Unit, Keti Bunder in collaboration with Sindh Agriculture and Forestry Workers Coordination Organization (SAWFCO) for female groups on 15 July 2009 at village Ahmed Samo and Haji Moosa Jat of Union Council Keti Bunder. The purpose of the workshops was to provide basic knowledge about preventive diseases and keeping the environment clean. 55 local women from the aforesaid villages took part in these workshops.



Participants at the environmental health and hygiene workshop for local women.

### French Film Makers Capture Community Life at Keti Bunder

A French film making team visited the Programme implementation Unit, Keti Bunder on 17 September 2009. The team visited creeks and documented the life of the fishermen community. They spent a full day in the area and took shots of the local communities while busy in their routine activities, such as planting mangroves, fishing etc.



French film makers taking shots of the local community at Keti Bunder

## HR News

### Internships

1. Noushad Arshad, BSc, a student of Islamia University Bawalpur, assisted in HR functions from 22 June to 31 July, 2009.
2. Sanam Shah, MSc Zoology, a student of University of Sindh, provided support in community mobilization at Wetland Centre, Sandspit, Karachi from 2 June to 2 September, 2009.
3. Sadaf Mobin Khan, a Msc student of Environmental Science, University of Karachi, interned from 2 June to 1 September, 2009. She worked on Community-based Natural Resource Management activities of the Programme.
4. Mirza Muhammad Abbas, BE Energy and Environment, a student of Quaid-e-Awam University, Shaheed Benazirabad, interned from 15 June to 15 August, 2009. He provided assistance in village data collection for water and sanitation at the Programme Implementation Unit, Pai Forest.
5. Zeeshan Ali Memon, MBA, Human Resources, IBA Sukkur, interned from 01 April to 30 May 2009 and assisted in the Programme's database maintenance.
6. Basharat Hussain, B.Com, Government Superior Commerce College interned from 27 July to 27 August, 2009. He provided assistance to the finance department.
7. Ahsan Ali Khan, a student of BBA (Hons), KASBIT interned from 3 August to 3 September, 2009. He assisted in Human Resources functions.

### International Trainings

The Commonwealth Fisheries Programme (CFP) seeks to support sustainable fisheries management to benefit coastal communities in the developing Commonwealth countries. A South Asia study tour was organized by the CFP focusing on understanding how returns to coastal communities from fisheries can be on sustainable basis. Mr. Hafeezullah Jamali, Site Manager, Indus for All Programme, Keti Bunder, joined the team in Bangladesh from 28 September to 3 October, 2009 and shared experiences of coastal areas of Pakistan with the members of other countries and the representatives of the local community of Bangal.

## Other News

### First Turtle Hatchlings of The Season Released



Students of Karachi Japanese schools releasing the season's first hatchlings of Green turtles at Sandspit, Karachi.



## Other News

The turtle nesting season extends from August to January and after 40 days the hatching process takes place. This was the first turtle hatchling of the season released on the occasion in which 12 students and five teachers participated. The Karachi Japanese School also participated in mangrove plantation organized by WWF - Pakistan on the same day.

Babar Hussain, Sindh Program,  
WWF - Pakistan

### Green Turtle Rescued Near Sandspit Beach

A green turtle was found trapped in a pond at the back end of Sandspit Beach near the main road on 30 July 2009. The turtle came to shore for laying its eggs and could not find its way back to the sea. Babar Hussain, the Incharge, WWF - Pakistan's Wetland Centre at Sandspit, was informed of the incident by the local community, and with their help he rescued the turtle and released her into the sea.

Babar Hussain, Sindh Program, WWF - Pakistan



A green turtle is being rescued by Babar Hussain of WWF - P with the help of local community members

### National Tree Planting Day - 18th August, 2009

- Plant a Tree; for Greener Pakistan
- Plant a Tree; be pollution-free
- Plant a Tree; for healthy environment
- Plant a Tree; for healthy Pakistan
- Trees Gives us Oxygen: Plant trees and protect them
- Plant for Pakistan

These are some of the slogans for National Tree Planting Day, celebrated on August 18, 2009 by children, citizens, NGOs, schools, government organizations and people from all walks of life.



The Chairman Senate Mr. Farooq H. Naik and the Federal Minister for Environment, Mr. Hameedullah Jan Afridi, planting a tree in Islamabad.

In this campaign Pakistan Wetlands Programme (WWF) participated as a forefront contributor and partner with the Ministry of Environment. The activity aimed to create awareness, especially in youth - the leaders of tomorrow - about planting of trees for conservation of environment and wetlands of Pakistan. The Federal Minister of Environment, Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi planted a sapling in D-12, Islamabad. In his speech, the Minister said that because of such activities, a positive image of Pakistan emerges in the world. "That was especially true when last month Pakistan set a new world record that was rightly acknowledged by the proponents of "Guinness Book of World Record", he added. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme was the core contributor in that event that culminated in setting the World Record by planting 541,176 propagules of *Rhizophora macro-nata* in Keti Bunder (Sindh). The event was greatly appreciated by the UN General Assembly and of course, the National Assembly of Pakistan, creating a very positive image of Pakistan.

Pakistan Wetlands Programme's team set up stalls for awareness materials, erect banners and planted trees. Team also demonstrated school children how to plant tree.

Besides the Minister for Environment, the Chairman Senate, Mr. Farooq H. Naek also participated in the Tree Planting Day celebrated at the intersection of M1- M2. The importance of the event can be gauged from the fact that numerous organizations, including NHA, PTC, PMAC, CDA, WWF and others took part in the event.

Nasir Iqbal Malik, Pakistan Wetlands Programme

### Indus For All Programme, WWF - Pakistan

#### Programme Management Unit (PMU)

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Tel: 021-4544791-92, Fax: 021-4544790  
www.foreverindus.org www.wwf-pak.org

#### Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)

##### Chotiari Wetlands Complex

House # 129/2, Housing Society,  
Shaheed Benazirabad 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

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

##### Pai Forest

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

"Man has probably always worried about his environment because he was once totally dependant on it"

-Anthony C. Fisher and Frederick M. Peterson.