

Activity Report

RAHIMABAD – Resources & Need Assessment Exercise



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Table of Contents

Summery	02
Rationale	02
Introduction	03
Purpose	03
Specific Objectives	03
Process and Proceedings	04
Results	05
For Follow up	05
Annexure	
1 Village Social Organisation	06
2 Water	07
3 Agriculture	08
4 Pastures and Livestock	09
5 Forests	13
6 Wildlife	15
7 Resource Map of Rahimabad	19

Summary

WWF – Pakistan, Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the implementing partners in Social, Economic and Environmental Development (SEED) project, being carried out with the buffer zone communities of Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) since July 2010, with the financial support of the governments of Italy and Pakistan. Principle applicants of the project are Ev-K2-CNR Committee and Karakoram International University.

Resources and Needs Assessment (RNA) exercise in the selected villages/valleys is an important activity under Social Mobilization component of SEED project, devised as the first step towards participatory conservation planning.. The exercise helps both professionals and the villagers to deeply understand the potentials and the needs to conserve the Natural Resources for sustainable development of both the community (users) and the resources. The activity provides a framework for CKNP partners towards rehabilitation and conservation of resources.

In Rahimabad, the WWF – Pakistan’s team in collaboration with CKNP partners adopted the customized approach of participatory conservation planning that i.e., project introduction; soliciting willingness resolution from communities, signing of partnership agreement, participatory situation analysis and conservation planning. The partnership agreement has been signed with the Village Conservation Committee “Conservation and Social Development Organization Rahimabad” (CSDOR) members selected by the general community.

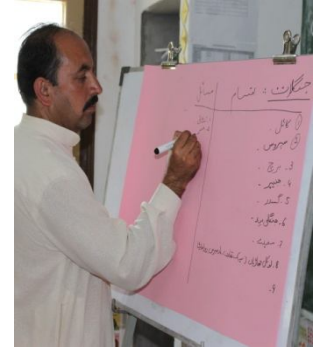
1. Rationale

The central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) is the largest and high altitude protected area of Pakistan. Boundaries of CKNP fall within four districts Gilgit, Hunza-Nagar, Skardu and Ghancha of Gilgit-Baltistan, covering an area of 10,000 km² more than 200 villages within its buffer zone (www.cknp.org.pk); It was officially notified in 1993. CKNP harbors rich and unique wildlife biodiversity of global significance such as Snow Leopard, Ladakh Urial, Markhor, Musk Deer, Himalayan Lynx, Brown Bear and Himalayan Ibex etc. whereas floral diversity include blue pine, spruce, birch, juniper and variety of medicinally important shrubs and herbs (Haggler Bailey 2005). CKNP is exclusively featured with the world’s second highest peak K2 and several other peaks which host largest concentration of glaciers outside of polar region and ultimate destination for trekkers and mountaineers.

Initiated in 2010, the Social, Economic and Environmental Development (SEED) Project aims at sustainable management of the CKNP by working on socio-economic and environmental development in the buffer zone of the Park. WWF – Pakistan is an implementing partner in the SEED project, , mandated to motivate and organize the mountain communities (selected) in the buffer zone of CKNP for participatory conservation planning and sustainable development.

2. Introduction

Resources and Needs Assessment (RNA) exercise of the selected villages/valleys is an important activity in Social Mobilization component under SEED Project. The exercise helps both professionals and the villagers to deeply understand the potentials and the needs to improve the Natural Resources for wider and sustainable development of both the community (users) and the resources. The activity provides a way out for all concerns towards rehabilitation and conservation of resources. The data generated during the exercise provides basis for developing Valley Conservation Plan.



3. Purpose

The activity is aimed to explore the resource potential, threats faced by the resources, possible solutions to mitigate the threats.

4. Specific objectives



Main objective is to find the potential resources, their history, and current condition and to frame a work plan for integrated, visible and sustainable development of the communities living there.

Specific objectives of the exercise were to identify;

- a. Social organization, current socio-economic condition of the Village
- b. Decision-making fora/personalities
- c. Resources above the water channel
- d. Resources below the water channel
- e. Community perception and willingness to go into a participatory action plan



5. Process and Proceedings

WWF Pakistan, GB is very closely working with communities, government and non-governmental organizations working in the CKNP buffer zone valleys; and invited all concerned stakeholders for their participation in the RNA exercise of the Village Rahimabad. (Annexure)



About 120 active community members (both ladies and gents) committed for active participation in the exercise welcomed the WWF team in the DJ High Secondary School, Rahimabad. After introduction and brief on purpose of the exercise, the participants were requested to brainstorm and identify potential resources. Through a plenary session following resource sectors were prioritized:

1. Village social organization
2. Water
3. Agriculture
4. Forest
5. Wildlife
6. Pasture and Livestock



Community nominated members having proper knowledge and experience in the relevant sector to go for a group work and deliberate on, a) status of the resource, b) issues faced by resource with caused and effects, c) proposed solutions to overcome the issues.



Activity started at 10:30 and lasted by 19:30 hours.

6. Results

In the debriefing session each team presented the outcomes of the exercise. Attended by more than 120 community member, the participants commented on each other's group presentation and suggested to include the missing information.

This was a very successful event and the objectives of the exercise were fully achieved. The key results of the exercise in each sector will be further used in Participatory Conservation planning of the village.

Outcome against each sector exercise as presented by the group leaders is attached as annexure.



7. Follow up Timely PCP, VCP and DCC

Annexure 1 Social Organisation of the Village

RAHIMABAD VILLAGE DECISION SUPPORT INSTITUTIONS - FORA

Institution	Natural Resources Management	Social Development	Conflict Resolution	Total Score
1. Namarari	5	2	5	12
2. Union Council	2	5	5	12
3. V/WOs	3	5	1	9
4. Ismailia Council Jammat Khana	1	3	4	8
5. Anjuman-e-Imamia Mosque	1	3	4	8
6. Youth Association	1	3	1	5

Annexure 2 Water

Water Resources

S #	Resources	Status	No.	Name	Trends	Issues	Reasons	Effects	Solutions	Strategy
1	Glaciers	Present	one	Barter	Decrease	Glacier Retrieval, Less Snow Falls Increase Temp	Climate change & global warming	decreased irrigation & drinking water, droughts, less crops production, destruction & less grasses in pastures, increases soil erosion and mud flow	Water shed management Afforestation Water Management	Water shed management interventions & climate change adaptation ideas
2	Nullahs	Present	one	Rabab	Increase	Flash Floods, Sediments, natural and man made pollution, solid waste, animal waste, less water availability in winter, mud flow, High turbidity & less vegetation in water shed, high requirement & increase population	climate change, human activities, droughts, deforestation, hydro-metrological hazard, population increased & lack of awareness, lack of water and sanitation system	destruction of water irrigation system, drinking water sources, increased decreased trends, destruction home, agri-land, fruits gardens, decreased livelihoods options	Water shed management, irrigation schemes, Afforestation, Water supply schemes, climate adaptation ideas, protected boundaries, awareness	established committee & operation and maintenance cost for water & sanitation projects, water filtration plants, water irrigation maintenance committee
3	River	Present	one	Hunza	Increase	High turbidity, Natural and man made pollution, flash floods, less in winter & depth for access is issue	No Forest in watershed area, lack of awareness, climate change	destruction of river bank plantation, crops, land & sedimentation on agriculture land	Protected bounds & awareness	knowledge networking and vulnerability studies
4	Springs	Present	three	Tepri, Malchi & khokarbar	Same	less in quantity, decreased in winter, man-made contamination, specific in location & right of specific people	increased demand, lack of awareness and rights	diseases & conflicts	water and sanitation ideas to distribute fresh water	Water supply schemes

Annexure 3 Agriculture

S.#	Resources	Status	Trends	Issues	Reasons	Effects	Solution	Strategy
1	crops, fruits and vegetables	present	increase	1-unavailability of good quality seeds,	lack of information	decrease in crop yield	provision of good quality seeds	AKRSP, WWF,
				2- expensive fertilizers	economic problems	decrease in crop yield	provision of fertilizer at reasons rates	Govt
				3- shortage of water	improper irrigation system, flood	decrease in crop yield	repair of water course	Agriculture Department , BACIP
				4- expensive agri equipments	inflation		provision of agri equipment at reason prices	Govt
				5-expensive transportation	expensive fuel, bad condition of road	increase in selling of land	good condition of road, accessible to market	Govt
				6-lack of agri land	increase in population	decrease in crop yield	adopt family planning methods	Govt, NGOs
				7- Diseases	climate change, expensive agri drugs	attack of pest	provision of drugs at reasonable rates	Govt, NGOs
				8- decrease in agri trends	education	migration		

Diseases of crops, fruit and vegetables

CROP	DISEASES
Wheat	Pest Attack - Kinaro
Maize	Pest Attack - Kinaro
Potato	Pest Attack
FRUIT	
Cherry	Blink katis, pest attack
Apricot	Pest attack
Grapes	pest attack, insect attack
VEGETABLE	
Onion	Pest attack in between stem and root
Okra	Root fragmented
Karam	Pest attack in leaves
Cucumber	Pest attack/other insect attack

Annexure 4 Pastures and Livestock

Name	Status	use period (months)	Issues	Causes	Solutions										
Gashi Tair	<p>some 7 hours from village at altitude of over 2000m this pasture has limited forest patches however rich in grasses. Moreover water from the snow capped peaks is available right from early spring to autumn in lower . Plant species include Gal, Gashi, Tal and Qaxu etc. there is no glacier but springs feed the stream. but for the last two years scarcity of water is faced by the glacier and it is hardly used as summer pasture now.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>livestock heads</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>70-80 (cattle)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>not used</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July</td> <td>not used</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August</td> <td>10-20 (cattle)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	livestock heads	May	70-80 (cattle)	June	not used	July	not used	August	10-20 (cattle)	<p>Forest cover is decreasing. Vegetation growth has reduced livestock loss scarcity of water</p>	<p>Deforestation. Less snowfall in winters. Water infiltration Snow leopard predation heavy rainfall in summer which triggers landslide and rock fall</p>	<p>construction of poney trek structural measures to divert the direction of water to reduce water infiltration</p>
Month	livestock heads														
May	70-80 (cattle)														
June	not used														
July	not used														
August	10-20 (cattle)														

Moshquz Tair	situated below Gashi Tair at lower altitude this pasture has less grazing pressure as rarely used due to scarce vegetation and predation by ferrel dogs. Gasundar plant is found here. Spring s are source of water on this pasture.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Livestock heads</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>100-150 goats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>not used</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July</td> <td>not used</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August</td> <td>not used</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Livestock heads	May	100-150 goats	June	not used	July	not used	August	not used	Forest cover is decreasing. Vegetation growth has reduced High predation rate in this pasture	Deforestation. Less snowfall in winters. Presence of Ferrell dogs in the pasture.			
Month	Livestock heads																
May	100-150 goats																
June	not used																
July	not used																
August	not used																
Bar Tair	the largest pasture of Rahimabad at 6 hours walking distance up the valley. Glacier water is available and grass vegetation is thick and rich along with forest. Wolf and other fauna species are present.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>livestock heads</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>300 small 80 large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>300 small 80 large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July</td> <td>300 small 80 large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August</td> <td>300 small 80 large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sept</td> <td>300 small 80 large</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	livestock heads	May	300 small 80 large	June	300 small 80 large	July	300 small 80 large	August	300 small 80 large	Sept	300 small 80 large	Flood prone. Forest cover is decreasing. Reducing vegetation growth rate blockage of pony trek	Climate change(heavy rains in summer). Deforestation. Less Snowfall in winters. floods	Help for construction and repair of pony trek watch n ward for forest conservation
Month	livestock heads																
May	300 small 80 large																
June	300 small 80 large																
July	300 small 80 large																
August	300 small 80 large																
Sept	300 small 80 large																

Shatobar Tair	a small pasture with healthy thick vegetation on small slopes. Accessibility is difficult and only small livestock including sheep and goats are taken to this pasture. It is the habitat of ibex and presence of markhore is also claimed by the locals. Glacier water feeds the small stream down the hill.	Month May June July August Sept	livestock heads 100-150 100-150 100-150 100-150 100-150	accessibility is difficult	no poney trek	Help for construction and repair of pony trek food of wildlife should not be exhausted (regulated grazing system).
Haronaq Tair	At 4 hour trek from the valley floor, this is a hilly pasture with less forest and no glacier. Water spruce is spring and many wild species like, ibex, wolf and there are present there. This pasture is used as grazing area by goats and sheep only.	Month May June July August	livestock heads not used not used 100-120 not used	Forest cover is decreasing. Reducing vegetation growth rate wildlife population has decreased alarmingly	Deforestation. Less Snowfall in winters. Illegal hunting	watch n ward to stop illegal hunting of wildlife species help for repair of herders huts in summer pasture

Holtar tair	vegetation rich pasture with no glacier but a few springs. It is at 7 hours walking distance from the main village.	Month May June July August	livestock heads not used) 70-80 (cattle) 70-80 (cattle) 70-80 (cattle)			help for repair of herders huts in summer pasture
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winter pastures	
Tipri	these are the lower slopes in the village vicinity used as grazing area in the months from January to April and November, December
Jara Bach	
Derbaz	
Biranch bach	
Shorabaz	
Malchi	

Medicinal Plants	Usage
Shari jo	for Sugar, heart and stomach diseases
Tomoro	For flue
Hayao	As flavor in food
Makhoti	Fever
Gulgul	Eye infection
	Joindus
Palamating	
Saspas	tooth treatment

Annexure 5 **Forests**

S. No.	Types	S. No.	Problems
1.	Kail	1.	Deforestation
2.	Spruce	2.	Illegal cutting
3.	Birch	3.	Lack of rainfall
4.	Juniper	4.	Over- cutting of Birch to get paper
5.	Kassonar	5.	Natural disaster such as flash floods and avalanches
6.	Wild willow	6.	Lack of awareness
7.	Popular	7.	Ill management planning
8.	Sea buck thorn, wild rose, berberis lycicum	8.	Over-grazing
		9.	Unavailability of alternative sources
		10.	Weak laws/ policies
		11.	Lack of interest of Forest Department
		12.	Lack of management planning from Forest Department
		13.	Poverty
		14.	overpopulation
		15.	

Forest Trees	Status	Threats	Causes	Effects	Solutions	Strategies
Kail	Declining	Free cutting	Fuel, timber	Environmental pollution	Public awareness regarding reforestation	The community organization will create awareness with co-ordination of NGOs, Forest department and other environmental organization
		Floods, avalanches, land sliding	Economic problems	Land erosion	Establishment of local nurseries	CBO will establish nurseries With co-operation of Forest department, AKRSP, WWF and WCS
Spruce		Over-grazing	Lack of collective thinking	High rate of flash floods and avalanches	Strict reinforcement of rules to stop illegal deforestation	The organization (Rahimabad Conservation Development Organization), with co-ordination of Forest department, will restrain the illegal cutting and foster the reinforcement of laws
Birch		Timber mafia	Lack of reinforcement of laws	Lack of breeding in wildlife	Restriction on over-grazing	With co-operation of GOs, organization will ban on free grazing
Kassonar		Drought	Over-population	Possibility of high speed wind flow	Communication among public and Forest Department	CBO will foster the co-ordination among public and Forest department
Wild willow		Over dependence on forests	Slow breeding due to over-grazing	Effect on livestock due to lack of food	Training of local people	The CBO will enhance capacity of local people with the co-operation of WCS, WWF, PMAC and other organizations
Popular		Use of advanced equipments for cutting			Lack of natural beauty	Alternative sources of fuel
Sea buck thorn	Lack of tourism				Public awareness about their ownership	

Annexure 6 Wildlife

Specie	Status	Trend	Issues	Effects	Proposed Solutions
Ibex	According to community around 100 ibexes in different pastures of the cvalley.	Population has decreased in the past few decades, particularly due to illegal hunting besides other reasons	Uncontrolled hunting deforestation mining lack of awareness ferrel dogs	fast decrease in population increased predation of livestock deterioration of ecology	ban on illegal hunting recruitment of wildlife watcher guards awareness raising in the community regarding ntural resource management and conservation of biodiversity formulation of community conservation committee ban on forest cutting aforestation Local Government oto take action regarding the preence of feral dogs in the pastuer town planning to avoid unnecessary encroachment introduce livestock insurance system to stop retaliatory killing through poisoning and shooting introduce regulated and rotaional grazing system.
Markhore	The community members also claimed that a population of around 50 Astore Markhore is present in the valley . Status is rare.	Markhore population has decreased alarmingly and just a few number of the specie are present in the valley	Uncontrolled hunting deforestation mining lack of awareness Encroachment	fast decrease in population increased predation of livestock deterioration of ecology	
Snow Leopard	Snow leopard is present in the valley and livestock fell prey to the wild cat. Two leopards have been noticed in the high pastures of the valley.	Population of snow leopard is constant, according to locals, leopards live separately and one leopard holds a large area of around 60 miles	retaliatory killing/poaching lack of awareness poisoning lack of interest from concerned departments	deterioration of ecology food competition resulting in livestock predation economic loss	
Ladakh Urial	Distinct	Ladakh urial also called Orin in local language was one abundantly found in lower pastures of the valley but now totally disappeared.	Uncontrolled hunting deforestation habitat loss mining lack of awareness Encroachment	deterioration of ecology food competition resulting in livestock predation economic loss	

Wolf	present on the mountains and usually predate the small animals but population is not known.	Population has decreased as compared to the past	retaliatory killing/poaching lack of awareness poisoning lack of interest from concerned departments	deterioration of ecology food competition resulting in livestock predation economic loss
Lynx	Presence of Himalayan Lynx was also claimed by the respondents	Population has decreased as compared to the past	poisoning habitat loss food competition	deterioration of ecology food competition resulting in livestock predation economic loss
Fox	Fox inhabits on the lower slopes of the mountains in Rahimabad like other valleys.	Population has decreased as compared to the past	poisoning habitat loss food competition	deterioration of ecology food competition resulting in livestock predation economic loss
Cape Hare	the valley provides habitat to more than 50 cape hares.	Population has decreased as compared to the past	habitat loss food competition hunting	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Ferrel Dogs	more or less 100 ferrel dogs rule one of the pastures in the valley	their population has increased		livestock predation economic loss
Kashmir Flying Squirrel	Present	unknown	habitat loss human interference	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Shonot (local name)	Present	unknown	habitat loss human interference	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Common Otter	Present	unknown	habitat loss human interference	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Snow Coak	Present	unknown	encroachment causing habitat loss uncontrolled hunting	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology

Chakuar	Present	unknown	encroachment causing habitat loss uncontrolled hunting	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Pigeon	Present	unknown	encroachment causing habitat loss uncontrolled hunting	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Crow	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Red Billed Chough	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Alpine Chough	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Vultures	Present	decreased		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Golden Eagle	Present	unknown	Poaching	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Sparrow spp	Present	decreased	Use of pesticides	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Magpie	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Thrush spp	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Dove	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Owl	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Wood Picker	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Swift	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Tits	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Winter wrins	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology

Kites	Present	unknown		fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Crain	Present	decreased	uncontrolled hunting	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology
Duck	Present	decreased	uncontrolled hunting loss of staging grounds	fast decrease in population deterioration of ecology

Annexure 7 Resource Map of Rahimabad

