



Quarterly Updates for WWF Board Meeting April – May 2011

GILGIT-BALTISTAN

The report covers an update on the progress made by the WWF-P, Gilgit-Baltistan regional programme team under various project during the period April 6 May 2011.

A. SAVING WETLANDS SKY HIGH (PAKISTAN)

Joint Advisory Group Meeting:

The project organized 12th Joint Advisory Group (JAG) meeting of SWSH at Ghizer on April 1, 2011 to review progress and review progress and provide technical guidance to SLSO and PIDO for better implementation of the project interventions at field level. Reps from AKRSP Ghizer, Animal Husbandry department, Fisheries department, DFO Ghizer, Chairman SLSO, and Vice Chairman PIDO attended the meeting. On request, DFO Ghizer agreed to provide 5000 forest saplings to SLSO for spring plantation in Shandoor and Hundrab areas. Fisheries department Ghizer agreed to sign an agreement with SLSO and PIDO for community based conservation of fish resources in Hundrab-Shandoor and Utter Lake areas.

Training Workshop on Proposal Writing:

A two days training course on proposal writing was organized for mid career professionals of the local government, non government and community organizations at Gahkuch on May 5-6, 2011 to improve basic understanding and skills of the participants in proposal writing. A total of 18 professionals from Shandoor local support organization, Proper Ishkoman development organization, Qurumbar Social Welfare Conservation & Development Organization, LSO Qurumbar, LSO Chitorkhand, Sungam LSO, Phandar LSO, Hilbush Development Organization, and Ghizer rural Advancement Foundation (GRAF) attended the course.

Spring Wildlife survey held in Hundrab-Shandoor area:

The project led three-days spring wildlife survey was conducted in Hundrab-Shandoor area from May 18-20, 2011 wherein, a total of 157 Ibex, including 7 trophy size, were sighted in six nullahs.

Quiz competition on wetlands and biodiversity at Hundrab-Shandoor:

In commemoration of the International Biodiversity Day 2011, a quiz competition was held amongst students of on wetlands and biodiversity in F.G Boys High School Ghulakhtori, Hundrab on May 21st 2011. The purpose of event was to raise awareness about wetlands and biodiversity amongst students, teachers and other elements of the society. Some 200 students, teachers and community members attended the event. Certificates were distributed among the winners at the end.

HAW Conservation Fund:

The project has been able to establish worth 1.00 million PKR HAW Conservation Fund as financial support mechanism for the communities of Utter and Handrab-Shandoor wetlands, with a 20% community contribution. Agreements have been signed between WWF, Chairman DCC Ghizer and the project CBOs on behalf of their respective communities. Profit from the principal amount shall be invested on care and conservation of wetlands species and habitats.

B. SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CKNP)

Social mobilization and Conservation Planning:

The programme was introduced in one new valley, i.e. Nagar proper. Three VCCs were formed in Upper Braldo-II (Teste side) Haramosh, Bagrote and Terms of Partnership (ToP) were signed with the said VCCs. One new VCP was drafted in Markunja and draft VCPs were reviewed in Tormik, Baghicha- Khumra and Wazirpure.

Training on Wildlife identification and survey techniques

A five-day intensive training course on wildlife identification and survey techniques was organized by WWF under SEED project for CKNP staff and community watchers at Skardu on May 7-11, 2011. Some 22 participants from the CKNP Directorate, buffer zone communities and GB Wildlife department attended the training. Experts from WWF, GBFWD, CKNP Directorate and Evc2cnr Committee of Italy conducted the different sessions. Participants were taken to the field for demonstration and awarded with certificates at the end.

Joint Spring Wildlife Surveys in Nar-Goro valley

Spring wildlife census was carried out jointly by WWF, Evk2cnr, GBFWD and Directorate of CKNP in Nar-Goro valley, and sighted around 100 Ibex in the area.

Social Forestry schemes in CKNP Buffer zone valleys:

Plantation campaign is in progress in two valleys (Keris and Baghicha-Khumra). So far in Keris valley 9000 plants have been planted, while at Baghicha-Khumera the plantation activity will be completed by first week of June 2011, where about 8000 plants are expected to be planted.

Pasture Management intervention in CKNP Buffer zone:

Sites for fodder cultivation have been identified in two prioritized valleys, i.e. Hisper and Basha. Identification and selection of rural youth for joint watch and ward mechanism is in progress. So far the nominations have been received from Tormik, Thalay, Basha, Hushey and Haramosh, Bagrote and Hisper.

Mass awareness on CKNP Issues:

The draft Communication and Awareness strategy was shared with the SEED partners and PMU, in a meeting held on 05 April 2011 in SEED Office Gilgit. SEED PMU is facilitating to share the strategy with all the key partners for assigning of different components to different stakeholders for implementation. One radio programme on afforestation campaign was aired from Radio Pakistan Skardu in Urdu and Balti languages. An Environmental Film Festival on CKNP was organized at Gilgit to commemorate the International Biological Diversity Day 2011.

Campsite plantation in Hisper:

In collaboration with conservation committee Hisper, 9000 plants (Salix and poplar) have been planted at Gurbon campsite in Hisper. In addition, a nursery of fast growing multipurpose trees species has been established on 2 kanal farmland at Minapin Nagar, to provide planting stock for campsite plantation in future.

C. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION THROUGH WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN SHIGAR VALLEY, SKARDU

Construction of Diversion Wall along Shigar River

The project constructed a 60 ft long, 6-7 ft wide and 6 ft high protective wall along left bank of Shigar River to combat accelerated erosion of fertile agricultural land caused by climate induced floods in the river. So far a total of 14,500 cubic feet stone gabion masonry has been done against the target of 13000 cft, protecting more land under severe threat of erosion.

Watershed protection through plantation

Jointly with the local communities and the GB Forest department, a total of 14000 plants of local species *i.e.*, Sea buckthorn, Russian olive and Poplar have been planted on the community and government owned waste lands over 48 acres in Kothang village, mainly as an effort to establish sod and plantation on the reclaimed soils behind the spurs.

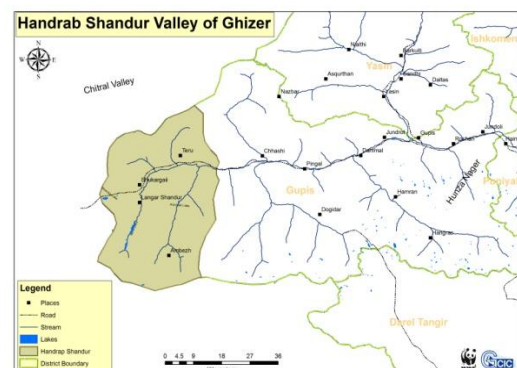
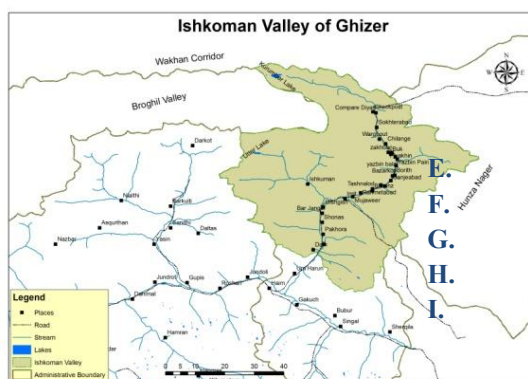
Introduce livestock breed improvement through Artificial Insemination

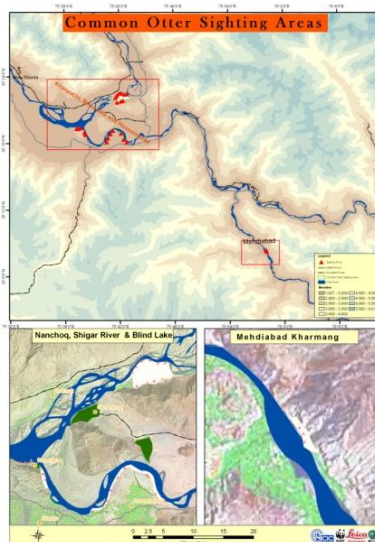
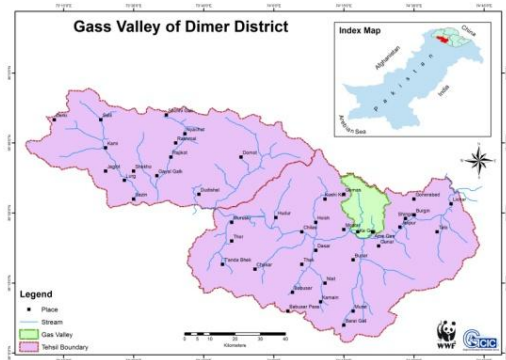
To increase dairy production as well as to minimize the pressure on natural pastures in the project area, with coordination of Livestock dept Skardu a synchronization programme has been started in the project area. So far 30 animals (cows) have been inseminated the dose of Jersey and Frozen breed and the campaign will continue till July 2011.

D. GILGIT CONSERVATION AND INFORMATION CENTRE:

GIS Lab

GIS team developed the following maps for different projects:





J. REGIONAL CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION PROJECT

RCRRP final Consultation with Stakeholders at Gilgit

The final stakeholder consultative session on UNDP BCPR funded "Regional Climate Risk Reduction Project" was held at Gilgit on May 9, 2011, to share the progress being made and experiences acquired by the project team on climate induced hydro metrological hazards like floods, avalanches, extreme weather events, Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) and land sliding in Gilgit-Baltistan. Representatives from GB provincial government, district administration, GBDMA, FOCUS, PRCS, PMAC, SLF, GBEPa and KIU attended the session. The participants were briefed about the project, key achievements and experiences acquired from Nomal, Naltar, Hisper, Hoper, Bobin and Darley of Gilgit, Hunza-Nagar and Astore districts. They were told that the project devised methodology for Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HRVA) for GB for the first time and conducted a rapid HRVA in twelve Union Councils of the Gilgit district, based on which develop hazard profile and maps for major hazard areas. Apart from that, the team also developed VDRM plans for six most vulnerable villages of Astore, Gilgit and Hunza-Nagar districts. He said the team also mobilized local media and radio to record and air programs on CRR in local languages.

Reducing climate risks through NRM in Naltar Paen:

Under the Regional climate risk reduction project, an NRM demo project has been initiated in Naltar Paen to demonstrate how NRM i.e., slope land plantation can help manage climate induced flood risks in mountainous areas. The project will help understand its efficacy towards stabilizing active slopes by mitigating soil erosion, rock falling, mudflow and land sliding, so that NRM could be recommended for disaster risk reduction in mountainous areas.