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Indus for All Programme launches documentary



Hyderabad, June 25: The Indus for All Programme launched its documentary *Flowing Indus River Forever*, a study on traditional ecological knowledge and two manuals on *Better Management Practices for Wheat, Cotton and Vegetables*. The documentary aims at raising awareness about the Indus Ecoregion and Indus for All Programme including its priority sites. The study deals with different aspects of traditional ecological knowledge that exists in the ecoregion, and elaborates how people in this region have lived in harmony with nature for centuries. The two manuals have been developed with the purpose of promoting better management practices in the crops already mentioned, with greater emphasis on wise use of water resources. These manuals are also useful for farmers, agriculturists and academicians.

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WWF - Pakistan Board meeting held



Lahore, June 5: The Board meeting, held at the WWF – Pakistan head office, was an eventful one. The founder President of WWF - Pakistan Syed Babar Ali, and Ex-President Brig (r) Mukhtar Ahmed were also present. During the first half day, a special orientation session was held for the Board members who had newly joined; Dr Anwar Nasim, Dr Zabta K Shinwari, Mr Hamid Zaman, Mr Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Ms Rameeza Majid Nizami and Syed Mehmood Nasir. Syed Babar Ali started the orientation session with an insightful history of both WWF International and WWF - Pakistan, remembering the time when in the late 1980s there was only one person in WWF - Pakistan! Now the organisation has over 350. The President Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Qarshi chaired the Board meeting. Amongst other issues, the Board took strong notice of the rapid conversion of natural forests across the country, and endorsed the various WWF - Pakistan activities to conserve forests, including supporting the Lahore High Court in recovering forests of Murree from illegal encroachers.

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Pakistan Wetlands Programme holds workshop on 'Let's Conserve Our Natural Resources'

Muzaffarabad, June 9-10: A two-day workshop on 'Let's Conserve Our Natural Resources' was organised by the Pakistan Wetlands Programme for the Police Training School (PTS). It was attended by about 395 constables, trainees and instructors belonging to PTS, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police Force (AJK). The

BCI establishes office in Pakistan

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) exists to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in and better for the sector's future. BCI has established its office at the WWF - Pakistan Head Office, Lahore, where Dr Shafiq Ahmad, Pakistan Regional Coordinator; and Muhammad Shuaib, Pakistan Supply Chain Coordinator have recently joined their duties.

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WWF - Pakistan's Facebook page is back in business!

After an absence of two weeks when Facebook was banned in Pakistan, WWF - Pakistan's Facebook page is back! All team members will be glad to know that the WWF - Pakistan Facebook page has surpassed the two thousand 'fans' mark and is now a hotspot of discussions related to the environment, sustainable development, species conservation and much, much more. Activists, journalists, students and WWF - Pakistan representatives freely share valuable opinions and their enthusiasm for the environment.

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first day was dedicated to presentations on: 'Introduction to Pakistan Wetlands Programme,' 'Biodiversity of AJK,' 'Birds of AJK,' 'Environment Protection Programme in AJK' and 'Wildlife Laws and Implementation.' Among the resource persons were Dr Siddique Awan (Head of Zoology Department, AJK University), Naeem Akhtar Dar (Project Manager, AJK Wildlife and Fisheries Department), and Shafique (EPA AJK). The participants displayed keen interest and enthusiasm during the presentations.

On the second day the participants were taken for a visit to Patehka Wildlife Captive Breeding Centre. The staff at the Centre briefed the participants on the ongoing expansion and renovation work at the Centre. Detailed information was provided about the fascinating birds held in the breeding centre. Dr. Siddique introduced the concept and benefits of ecotourism. Later, a solid waste management exercise was held. PWP provided the polypropylene bags and gloves to collect trash thrown by the visitors in the park premises. The police personnel were provided guidance in segregating solid waste collected into degradable and non-degradable categories. They were also given a demonstration on how to make a compost pit.

After their return to PTS a verbal quiz comprising questions based on the presentations and the visit was held. A certificate giving ceremony was held at the end of the day. In a speech afterwards, the principal of the school, Superintendent of Police, Haji Riaz Mughal applauded the fact that during the quiz answers had come fast and accurate. He congratulated PWP's team and requested that they continue such programmes in future.

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WWF - Pakistan special supplement on World Environment Day, 2010



Lahore, June 5: WWF - Pakistan celebrated the spirit of World Environment Day by coming out with a nationwide supplement on June 5, 2010, World Environment Day. The special supplement was printed in collaboration with *The News*, which is widely read across the country. The three-pager contained information about WWF - Pakistan's various projects and programmes, as well as information regarding the organisation's long history of commitment to nature conservation and preservation of our natural resources. The supplement included a brief summation of the local and global environmental challenges in the past year, with a message of hope and direct action for the coming year.

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PSCI holds seminar on World Environment Day

Faisalabad, June 5 – A seminar was held on World Environment Day 2010 at the Serena Hotel by the Pakistan Sustainable Cotton Initiative (PSCI). There were about 200 participants including Junaid Ashraf, GM, Serena Hotel, Faisalabad; Lall Khan Babar, WWF – Pakistan; Javed Iqbal, DO



Environment, Faisalabad; Abdul Qayum, Manager, Nishat Group, Faisalabad; and Mubasher Sadiq Butt, Regional Secretary, City Rotary Club, Faisalabad, with Liaquat Ali Chattha, EDO, MS as the chief guest. The seminar began with Junaid Ashraf giving a briefing on the hotel's environmental conservation programme, followed by Javed Ashraf and a discussion on biodiversity, and Lall Khan Babar giving information on WWF – Pakistan and its various conservation programmes. Mubasher Sadiq Butt offered the Rotary Club's services in improving the environment of Faisalabad, after which Abdul Qayum discussed the Nishat Group's activities, including their Corporate Social Responsibility and activities under this head. After the speeches children presented a tableau about the environment, and at the end the chief guest spoke of different initiatives taken by the district government on issues like solid waste management. He also praised WWF – Pakistan's efforts on environmental conservation.

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PWP helps in rescue efforts as cyclone hits Makran Coast

Makran Coast: The Pakistan Wetlands Programme helped in rescue efforts of the coastal communities when Phet, a category 2 tropical cyclone hit Jiwani and Gwadar on the Makran Coast on June 5. Floods in Gwadar and Jiwani damaged infrastructure and livelihood sources such as the agricultural embankments and fields, made houses and boundary walls collapse, and cut the coastal highway at several places. Waves smashed boats in the Gwadar Fish Harbour. This resulted in losses of about Rs 1 billion. Several people were drowned. The cyclone also hit the livestock, one of the major sources of local livelihood, and resulted in a number of mortalities. It affected the mangrove forests in Shabby Creek, brought shifting sand dunes in the coastal areas, caused erosion of the coastline, landslides in the mountains and uprooting of forest trees. The winds brought garbage e.g., broken pieces of boats/ships. The flood caused outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP) assisted the Gwadar district government in emergency rescue efforts, providing its resources. PWP teams provided food items to the communities in Paleeri, and Dasht Village. The teams provided medicine for medical camps. PWP has also conducted a preliminary damage assessment report to help in launching early rehabilitation efforts.

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Pakistan Wetlands Programme celebrates World Environment Day 2010



June 5, 2010 – The Pakistan Wetlands Programme celebrated World Environment Day 2010 by carrying out an array of activities in a number of cities. They organised walks for schoolchildren, and visits to places of environmental concern, speeches and art competitions. They also arranged fisherfolk's debates, media journalists' visits to places of environmental concern, religious leaders' outreach, disaster awareness on Hunza Lake and awareness on turtle killings, Indus dolphins and migratory birds, and reports in the media.

These activities mostly took place among the wetlands communities at Gwader, Balochistan; Chitral, Khyber-Pukhtunkhwa; Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan; Kalar Kahar, Salt Range, Punjab; Kot Adu, Central Indus Wetlands Centre, Punjab, and Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad.

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PPMS training workshop held

Lahore, May 5-6: The Programme Development Department conducted a two day training on Project and Programme Management Standards (PPMS) at the WWF – Pakistan head office in Lahore. Seventeen focal persons from different offices of WWF – Pakistan participated.

The standards are a set of best practices that conservation practitioners can use. They are meant to help conservation projects describe their long-term vision and key assumptions, develop effective activities, measure their success, and adapt, share, and learn over time to practice adaptive management to make projects more effective and efficient. The training was conducted to roll out the PPMS, so that the standards can be applied by the project managers/focal persons to all WWF – Pakistan's projects and programmes by 2011.

Apart from PPMS, the training also briefly covered the new Technical Progress Format, Conservation Key Performance Indicators. A half day session covering the Operation Standards was also held.

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Indus for All Programme forms CBO network

District Shaheed Benazirabad, May 11: The Indus for All Programme has facilitated fourteen local communities living around Pai Forest to form community based organisations. An Area Coordination Committee has been formed which will ensure community participation in effective management of natural resources and bring improvement in livelihoods. It will work for networking, and build linkages and raise awareness through advocacy to protect Pai Forest, which is threatened by water scarcity, land encroachment, habitat degradation and illegal hunting of wildlife.

These community based organisations have already gone through a series of training sessions and have actively been participating in development interventions such as alternate energy schemes, constructed wetlands, a vocational centre, tree plantation and better management practices in agriculture.

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WWF People

WWFer wins Erasmus Mundus scholarship

Uzma Saeed, Conservation Officer has received the Erasmus Mundus scholarship for Masters in Applied Ecology, session 2010-2012. She is ranked third in the main list getting full scholarship worth 48,000 euros. The European Masters in Applied Ecology is taught by four universities under the mobility programme by the University of Poitiers in France, University of East Anglia in the UK, University of Kiel in Germany and University of Coimbra in Portugal. Congratulations!



New joining

Dr Shafiq Ahmad has joined the Better Cotton Initiative as Pakistan Regional Coordinator, and is based at the WWF – Pakistan head office in Lahore. He has a background in plant breeding, and comes to BCI from a career in managing the breeding programme for a number of seed companies, including Pioneer Hi-Bred International. He has had a long association with the cotton industry, growing up in the cotton town of Multan, studying cotton in his thesis and being involved in the breeding of cotton varieties. Welcome!



Muhammad Shuaib has also joined the Better Cotton Initiative as Pakistan Supply Chain Coordinator, and will be based in WWF – Pakistan's head office in Lahore. He comes to BCI having worked for IKEA as a Project Specialist / Supply Chain Specialist in their work in cotton in Pakistan. Shuaib has a strong background in cotton as well, having also grown up in the Multan area, worked for the FAO as an IPM facilitator in the FAO - EU IPM Programme for cotton, as an IPM trainer for the National IPM Programme and in a community IPM Programme for cotton and wheat. Welcome!

