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A newsletter of WWF - Pakistan

# Panda Post

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## International Vulture Awareness Day

International Vulture Awareness Day was celebrated on September 5, 2009 to highlight the ecological importance of vultures in our environment. Conservation Department designed and printed posters and banners to raise awareness about vultures among general public, students, academia and government and non - government departments. Banners were displayed in Lahore city on renowned *chowks* and roads. Posters on the endangered species of vultures were disseminated to Zoo, SOS Village and many different schools. A poem writing competition was also announced for the age group of 10 -18 years on WWF - Pakistan's website. Minahil Safwan was selected as the winner in the competition and was awarded with a certificate. Her poem was also displayed on WWF - Pakistan's website and will be published in the quarterly magazine *Natura*.

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## FEJP Meeting held at WWF - Pakistan Head Office



FEJP meeting for election of new President and General Secretary

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Pakistan (FEJP) Meeting was held at WWF - Pakistan Head Office on September 30, 2009 at 3:00 pm. President FEJP, Mr. Shoaib Ahmed of Dawn News presided the meeting. After a lot of discussion, the new President of FEJP was selected with the consent of all the FEJP members. The new president of FEJP is Raja Riaz of "Star Asia" and the new General Secretary of FEJP is Imran Ahmed Sheikh of "The News".



G. Secretary Imran Ahmed Sheikh (Left) & President Raja Riaz (Right)

It was also discussed in the meeting that the previous FEJP list would be reviewed as both electronic and print media has been expanded. The new president with the newly appointed General Secretary seems motivated to expand and promote FEJP so that Environment is given coverage justly and awareness level of the audience can be increased.

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## International Conferences and Workshops

Ms. Kaif Gill presented a paper entitled as 'GIS as a Tool of Resolving Protected Area Boundary Issues, Machiara National Park, Pakistan (Western Himalayan Ecoregion)' in the workshop "Northern Eurasia High Mountain Ecosystem" held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 8th till 15th of September, 2009.

Mr. Naeem Shahzad attended the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (IEEE) 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Emerging Technologies (ICET) in Islamabad. He presented a paper entitled as 'Pre and Post Earthquake Forest Damage Assessment - A Case Study of 2005 Earthquake Impact on Forest of Machiara National Park, Pakistan'.

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## Monitoring Cotton Boll Worm Complex through Pheromone Traps

WWF - Pakistan for the first time has installed pheromone traps to monitor boll worm complex in cotton crop in 12 different villages of Ghotki & Sukkur. Cotton crop is mostly damaged by variety of sucking & boll worm insects. If these are not monitored properly, they can cause heavy loss to the crop. The traps were regularly checked by field facilitators & farmers. This technique provided an opportunity for the cotton farmers to identify the adults of different cotton boll worms. The farmers found those adults dead with the water placed in the container. They were encouraged to apply this method as a useful technique for controlling boll worm population.

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## WWF - Pakistan's Stall at SAMAA TV Live Festival

WWF - Pakistan in coordination with the Indus for All Programme (IFAP) and Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP) participated in a two day SAMAA TV Live Festival organised by SAMAA TV on 10th and 11th October 2009. The festival was organised under the theme of "Celebrate Life" covering four important forums: Health, Education, Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Stalls were arranged accordingly for dissemination of messages to the general public. Different organisations including Multinational Companies, Government, Non Governmental Organisations, Banks and Financial Institutions also participated in the event.

WWF - Pakistan's stall was a star attraction in the Environment Pavilion as hundreds of people visited the stall during the event. Interactive games, drawing competition, panda products and a variety of information materials were on offer for the public. Mr. Ali Hassan Habib, Director General, WWF - Pakistan and Uzma Khan, Manager Conservation Programmes visited the stall and distributed prizes among the winners of drawing competition.



Director General WWF, Mr Ali Hassan Habib giving away gift to the winner of drawing competition at the SAMAA TV Live Festival

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## Certificate Distribution Ceremony for BSS Interns



BSS Interns with their coordinators & parents

WWF - Pakistan organised a certificate distribution ceremony for the BSS Interns at WWF - Pakistan Head Office on Friday, 9 October at 3:30 p.m. About 40 students along with their parents attended the ceremony.

Earlier, WWF - Pakistan initiated an Internship Programme in collaboration with Beaconhouse School System on 19 May, 2009. The main objective of this internship programme was to increase the capacity building of the students for nature conservation.

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## Dead Fin Whale found in East Bay, Gwader



Stranded Blue Whale at East bay, Gwadar

A dead 45 feet long Fin Whale was found on the beach of East bay Gwadar on September 19, 2009. The whole specimen was fresh and injured from fluke (Tail) to snout. Technical experts of Pakistan Wetlands Programme observed that the sub adult whale got some injuries in the fluke and head region and cause of mortality was due to by-catch of gill net large boat or maybe due to illness. A number of

trapped Dolphins and Whales are being observed on the coastline of Balochistan and this mortality usually occurs due to unsustainable fishing methods used by the fishermen.

As per International Standardized Guidelines, team member of PWP - Makran Coast Wetlands Complex (MCWC) site office, took full measurements of the species, collected stomach materials and tissue samples to trace out the cause of mortality and species identification.

On interviewing some local fishermen about this incident, they replied that they observed this whale since last week and maybe it was caught up in the net.

The team members of PWP involved both electronic and print media to highlight this issue in local and national media to stop such victimization in future.

The Ministry of Environment, Pakistan Wetlands Programme, MCWC site office, conducted a broad study of research survey on stranded cetaceans and their threats. On the basis of this study, Pakistan Wetlands Programme is trying to develop a better management plan for conservation of dolphins and whales in Balochistan coast.

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## JAXA Mini Project Kick off workshop at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Under the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) sponsored Mini Projects (Phase-I), a training and project formulation workshop was held at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand from September 21 to October 15, 2009. Twenty participants from 11 Asian countries with their respective projects attended the workshop. Mr. Hassan Ali and Rashid Saleem from GIS Laboratory WWF - Pakistan attended the workshop and presented their project background and objectives. The workshop agenda included the exposure to GIS modeling and integration of optical and microwave remote sensing and use of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) images for real-world applications. The participants formulated their respective project plans during this phase. They refined the project objectives, methodologies and identified the data requirements for accomplishing the project goals.

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## Promoting Indus Journalists Forum



Group Photo of the participants of Indus Journalists Forum

A one-day consultative workshop, organised by Indus for All Programme on environmental Journalism was held on September 29, 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. 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.

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## Fish Assessment Training held for Sindh Fisheries Department and Other Stakeholders

A twelve - day training workshop for the officials of the Fisheries Department on Fish Assessment was held from 10<sup>th</sup> till 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2009 at Keenjhar Lake, Thatta. The training was organised by WWF under Indus for All Programme which was attended by 20 participants including three females from various departments and academia viz Sindh Fisheries Department, Marine Fisheries Department, Punjab Fisheries Department, Zoological Survey Department, Sindh Wildlife Department, University of Sindh Jamshoro and Karachi University. The training was aimed to increase capacity building of Sindh Fisheries Department and other stakeholders in the field of fish stock assessment.

Dr. Prof. Upali. S. Amarasinghe from University of Kelaniya and Dr. Elmo Weerkoon from Ministry of Fisheries, Sri Lanka were engaged to conduct the training. Prof. Upali being expert in the field of Fish Stock Assessment conducted the training course. However, Dr. Elmo demonstrated and installed the Pen & Cage Culture in Keenjhar Lake near Jhmipir with active participation of The Keenjhar Maroara Development and Welfare Organisation which is a local Community Based Organisation. The installation of Pen & Cages was also attended by the Community Based Organisations and staff of Programme Implementation Unit, Chotiyari, Sanghar. Mr. Waheed Ahmed, Director General, Sindh Fisheries Department was the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony. He appreciated WWF - Pakistan's Indus for All Programme for organising such a constructive training course for the officials of his Department and for other stakeholders.

Mr. Rab Nawaz, Natural Resource Management (NRM) Coordinator, Indus for All Program, said that with the help of The Sindh Fisheries Department and consultants from Sri Lanka we are able to organise a training programme on this subject. This is first time in Pakistan that WWF has organised training on "Fish Stock Assessment" as well as demonstration of the "Pen & Cage Culture" to enhance the income of poor fishermen communities in the province.

Mr. Zahid Jalbani, Manager Indus for All Programme, WWF-Thatta during his welcome address congratulated the participants on the successful completion of the workshop.

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Participants of the training

## Re-notification of Ayubia National Park

WWF - Pakistan is executing the "Boundary Delineation and Re-notification of Protected Areas" project. The project aims to delineate and re-notify the boundaries of seven priority protected areas across Pakistan. GIS Laboratory developed proposed notification formats of seven protected areas after consulting more than 30 notifications available globally. Government of NWFP re-notifies the first GIS based notification of Ayubia National Park on October 13, 2009. This is the first ever notification format that replaces the conventional notifications with boundary translation through detailed references of land features and geographic coordinates. Now the current legal document comprises of three different parts i.e. Textual Description, Map and Geographic Coordinates.

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## Workshop On Recommendations For Water Polic Reforms

The Freshwater and Toxics Programme (FTP) held three consecutive workshops in the month of October in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad on Recommendations for Water Policy Reforms. People from Government, Private sector, local and International NGOs, and Multilateral institutions took part in the debate that focused on the major water issues pertaining to allocation, infrastructure and environmental flows. The process was facilitated by Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, Director FTP, Mr. Ele Jaan Saaf, International Water Resource Management Consultant from Netherlands and Ali Hasnain Sayed, Manager Policy, FTP. Our colleague Ms. Rebecca May from WWF-UK (Freshwater Programme) also attended the workshops.

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Participants attending the workshop