



for a living planet®

A newsletter of WWF - Pakistan

# Panda Post

www.wwfpak.org

January - February 2009

## What's Inside !!!

- Farmers Gathering/Outreach Programme in T.T. Singh
- Indus Dolphins are tagged with Radio transmitters
- Visit of Mr. Fikret Akcura to WWF - Pakistan
- WWF - Pakistan Watershed Improvement & Environmental Awareness Project.
- Virtual Library on Environment

## Botanical Garden Conference



GIS staff at Botanical Garden Conference

Botanical Garden Conference was held at GC University Lahore on 2nd to 4th February 2009, to strengthen Public/Private/NGO Partnership for plant conservation activities. WWF - Pakistan presented two case studies in the conference titled as "Botanic Garden: A vehicle." The case studies represented the GIS work done under Indus for All Programme which included "Remote Sensing Based Forest Change Trend Analysis - A Case Study of Mangrove Forest of Keti Bunder, Indus Delta" and the second case study was titled as "Identifying Temporal Change Through High Resolution Satellite Images - An Example of Pai Forest Irrigated Plantation".

Contact Person: **Urooj Saeed**,  
usaeed@wwf.org.pk



## People Thronged to WWF Nature Carnival



Symbolic face painting at the Nature Carnival

Thousands of people, including school children, thronged to WWF - Pakistan's Annual Nature Carnival in Karachi on Sunday 15th February, 2009. The Carnival proved to be a colourful event to educate and sensitize the masses, especially school children, on environment as well as on the importance of natural resources, through a healthy mix of informative and entertaining activities. WWF - Pakistan's Indus for All Programme and the Ministry of Environment

Pakistan Wetlands Programme joined hands in collaboration with the ICI - Pakistan Limited. Among the dignitaries attending the Karachi Carnival included Ms. Fouzia Wahab, Chairperson, National Assembly on Finance & Revenue, Ms. Shehla Raza, Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly and Mr. Jahanzeb Khan, Vice President ICI - Pakistan Ltd.

A similar WWF Nature Carnival was held in Lahore at Ali Institute of Education on Sunday 22nd February. Mrs. Tehmina Doultana, a renowned politician was the Chief Guest who graced the occasion with her presence.

A large number of schools and their students took part in the Carnivals by preparing 3D models on various themes. The main point of attraction was the competition among students in preparing their exhibits on the given themes. Other activities included puppet shows, magic shows, bouncing slider, quiz programme, live musical performance, a cleaning  
*continued inside...*



A Project displaying the effects of Climatic change on marine life



Prize distribution among school children

## Farmers Gathering/Outreach Programme in T.T.Singh



Outreach Programme in session

WWF - Pakistan started the Farmers Gathering/Outreach Programme, in different cotton cultivated villages in T.T.Singh, for the dissemination of BMP message under its project PSCI (Pakistan Sustainable Cotton Initiative). To accomplish the BMP dissemination message, the farmer gatherings are arranged in different villages. The main aim of these farmer gatherings is the introduction of WWF - Pakistan and BMPs of Cotton, introduction of FFS approach in newly selected villages and OVOF approach in the already selected villages by the technical team. The current problems and issues of the farmers are also discussed in these gatherings. At the end of the session, open discussions containing questions and answers started among the farmers and project team members. The project team has conducted 50 farmer gatherings in different villages of T.T.Singh.

Contact: **Mohammad Irfan Shad**  
E-mail: [ttsingh@wwf.org.pk](mailto:ttsingh@wwf.org.pk)

*Continued from the front page*

ground activity and kids' singing performances. The carnival also included snack bars and food stalls. An estimated 10,000 to 12,000 individuals visited the Karachi Carnival and about 4,000 visitors attended the Lahore Carnival. A panel of judges from environmental background evaluated each stall. Posters, bookmarks and booklets concerning environmental issues were also distributed among participants. Shields and prizes were distributed among the winners and runner up participants at the end of the day. The Islamabad carnival is scheduled to be held on 29th March in collaboration with Nestle Pakistan Ltd.

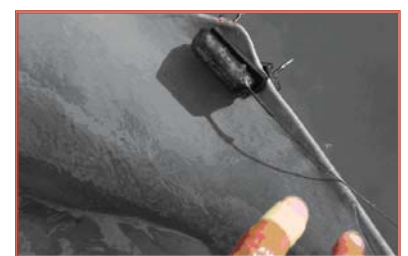
Contact: **Omar Zakria**  
E-mail: [ozakria@wwf.org.pk](mailto:ozakria@wwf.org.pk)

## INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN TAGGED WITH RADIO TRANSMITTER



Indus Dolphin is being Tagged

First time in Pakistan, an Indus River Dolphin was tagged with a radio transmitter. Rescued from Mirwah Canal on January 13, 2009, a young 2.5 year old male weighing approximately 18 kg was tagged with a radio transmitter. An expert veterinarian Dr. Arshad Toosy from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi was requested to facilitate the process of installing transmitter on the Dolphin. Tracking of tagged Dolphin gave important information on the movement of this endangered species in the river. The movements of tagged Dolphin are now being monitored and recorded on regular basis.



contact: **Rizwan Mahmood**,  
E-mail: [rmahmood@wwf.org.pk](mailto:rmahmood@wwf.org.pk)



## Members of National Assembly Standing Committee on Environment visited Keti Bunder

Ms. Marvi Memon, the Convener of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Environment's sub-committee of the Indus Delta Mangroves visited the WWF Indus for All Programme's site office at Keti Bunder on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2008. She stated that Indus Delta is a significant ecosystem and 10 MAF water below downstream Kotri is necessary to curb sea water intrusion in the Delta. The member of sub committee, MNA Tayab Hussain was also present on the occasion. She further said that socio-economic conditions of the people of Indus Delta have been badly affected as sea intrusion has not only damaged the ecology of the area but have also deprived people of their livelihood. Fast depleting mangrove forest would further contribute in degrading this fragile ecosystem. She urged that illegal fishing nets should be banned as the poor fishermen are deprived of their only livelihood. She allocated Rs. Five million for the development schemes in Keti Bunder and Manchar Lake area from the MNA fund. She said that sea has invaded about 1.2 million acres of fertile land of Thatta and other adjoining areas and this has been confirmed by the Sindh Revenue Department in 1992. She stressed on the need to make efforts to avert the crisis and save the remaining Delta.

The Programme Coordinator of WWF's Indus for All Programme, Nasir Ali Panhwar in his presentation highlighted that Indus Delta being Ramsar site is home to a variety of fish, agriculture, livestock, mangroves and abode of more than two million people.

The site manager of Indus for All Programme, Keti Bunder, Zahid Jalbani informed about different initiatives being undertaken by the Programme including socio-economic & ecological assessments, development of livelihood and natural resource management plans for the area. He said that vocational center for women has been established in Keti Bunder while provision of wind and solar energy and mangroves rehabilitation has also been undertaken. The committee was briefed about the rehabilitation project activities such as construction of thatched hut houses, provision of water tanker boat, fixed fiber water tanks and repair of fully damaged boats.

Earlier the committee members visited the village, Tippan in Hajamaro Creek, where they observed the degradation of the Delta. They also visited various initiative programmes of WWF such as mangrove plantation, solar and wind energy system, and women vocational centre. Members of the Committee met the community to get an insight about the problems being faced by them. Abdul Munaf Qaimkhani from Federal Ministry of Environment, Riaz Wagan, Agha Tahir from Sindh Forest Department and Irfan Abbasi from Sindh EPA also accompanied the Committee during the visit.

Contact: **Abdul Karim Gabol**,  
Communication Officer, Sindh.  
WWF - Pakistan



The Member of WWF - Pakistan taking boatride survey at Keti-Bunder

## Workshop on Management Planning for Deosai National Park



Workshop in progress

WWF - Pakistan has recently initiated the park management planning process for Deosai National Park, on the request of the Directorate of DNP. After holding a series of preliminary consultations with the stakeholder communities and partners, a daylong consultative workshop was held at Rupal Inn Gilgit, on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to share the draft as well as proposed management prescriptions and other relevant secondary information to finalize recommendations for future management planning of the Park. Ashiq Ahmed, Special Advisor to WWF - Pakistan facilitated the workshop. Thirty-two people, representing the stakeholder communities of Astore and Skardu,

government, non governmental organisations and media participated in the workshop. Secretary Environment and Secretary Finance attended the opening and closing sessions, respectively, and assured of their optimum cooperation and support for future implementation of the Management Plan.

Contact: **Babar Khan**  
Email: [babarwwf@yahoo.com](mailto:babarwwf@yahoo.com)

**PLAY YOUR  
PART IN  
SAVING  
NATURE WITH**

**WWF  
PAKISTAN &  
Become a  
Member**