



## Final Report

1. **Project Number**  
50033301
2. **Project Title**  
An up graded model of Joint Forest Management with “integration” of indigenous biodiversity conservation in upper Tanawal.
3. **Project Start Date**  
February 2002
4. **Project End Date**  
February 2003
5. **Report Prepared by**  
Mohammad Shoukat together with HAASAR team and edited by Muhammad Ayaz Khan.
6. **Reporting Period**  
February 2002 to February 2003
7. **What is the long-term goal of the Project?**  
An up graded model of Joint Forest Management with “integration” of indigenous biodiversity conservation in upper Tanawal NWFP Pakistan.
8. **List Significant Changes to the objectives during the reporting Period**  
***Objectives-5 (partially)***  
Safeguard information and networking with the masses of people in the project area and with other organizations/persons for increased ecological, social and political awareness and complementary interventions for biodiversity conservation program  
  
***Reason (No funds available for the activities like)***  
A quarterly newsletter/ A website to transmit the issues etc.
9. **What have been the important developments during the period under review?**

### **Summary**

With the assistance of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Pakistan, HAASHAR Association, together with the community of *mouza* Fateh Bandi, District Mansehra and NWFP Wildlife Department has made a “benchmark” in the history of Joint Forest Management (JFM) in Pakistan by developing “an integrated biodiversity conservation model”.

In February 2002, a proposal for setting a model for the integration of biodiversity conservation in to the JFM concept was initiated. After its acceptance by Scientific Committee of WWF – Pakistan, Fateh Bandi was selected as the potential project site. This selection was made in view of the considerations like forest homogeneity, vegetation, wildlife availability and stakeholders’ recommendations. These considerations were also in line with Pakistan Protected Area Review and Action Plan. Further more, Fateh Bandi was considered as environmentally significant area in NWFP, where in 1994 the first participatory agreement of JFM system was concluded between Forest Department and the forest users.



Fateh Bandi is located within close proximity of Agror-Tanawal protected forest, sustaining heavy usage pressure of local communities. It is comprised upon seven compartments. The entire *mouza* is further sub-divided into 12 hamlets. The total numbers of faunal species in project area are 36. Whereas floral species are 99, out of which 60 species are of medicinal value. Both floral and faunal species are locally threatened due to habitat loss, free grazing, cutting of trees for timber, fodder and fuel wood, forest encroachments for agricultural land, hunting and absence of community participation, especially in biodiversity.

In order to define and execute the project concept, detailed socio-economic surveys were conducted for forest use, biodiversity and ethnobotany. Based on such investigative methodologies, tailor-made community awareness campaigns were designed. A series of workshops for (i) JFM system, (ii) wildlife conservation, (iii) environmental awareness and (iv) indigenous knowledge were conducted. The process of community mobilization facilitated the target groups, where a series of meetings of individuals as well as of groups were arranged. On-going initiatives like training in afforestation, fire control, medicinal plant cultivation, off-season vegetable cultivation and land husbandry were also imparted, where capacity building in wildlife conservation was a new subject for the communities as well as for HAASHAR, in totality.

For sustainable conservation, management and development of forests, wildlife and other natural resources, a basic degree of collaboration, cooperation and liaison between target communities and different stakeholder was a profound feature of the project. Although during initial phases, the response was not up to the mark. However, with the passage of time and through consultative and collaborative strives of different stakeholders, the project concept gained momentum. At the end of 12 months project time, community based forest management, conservation of forests and wildlife had amply been acknowledged, accepted and recognized by all stakeholders. As a testimonial to such a widely applauded acceptance, Wildlife Department has entered into a partnership with the local communities, where an agreement based on biodiversity conservation plan, has been concluded between the two. The project acted as a catalyst to initiate biodiversity conservation in the adjacent areas as well. As a result of spill-over benefits there are increased requests from the adjoining areas for initiating and replicating the same model in their areas too.

#### **Objective 1:**

Institutionalization of community organizations/groups at local level for biodiversity conservation

#### **Activities under taken to achieve objective 1:**

##### **9.1.1 Interfacing of the project concept with local communities:**

In order to involve the communities in the project, a pursuit for the trained staff and consultants was initiated soon after the approval from WWF- Pakistan. A series of interviews were conducted, where following professionals were recruited for the project:

- i. Social Organizer (Team Member)
- ii. Ethnobotanist (Consultant)
- iii. Wildlife Expert (Consultant)

An orientation was conducted to the project related personals both at field and at office. A series of solo and group meetings were held with the project beneficiaries and members of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC), which helped all alike for developing a perception and understanding towards the overall project concept.



### **9.1.2 Identification of active groups/ village activists:**

Literature review assisted HAASHAR to identify overall characteristics of the project area. Subsequent orientation sessions further helped to identify active groups and activists in the project area, which is divided into upper and lower Mouzas.

There is distinct land use, cropping pattern and interaction with natural resources in both parts. However, a buffers zone exists amongst the two, which have commonalties of both. Serrian, Sanjilala and parts of Fateh Bandi village constitute such buffer zone. Balolian, Khushal Doga, Seri, Doom Doga and Mukhan Gali village are representing upper Mouza whereas Thakra Paeen, Thakra Bala, Lus, Fateh Bandi are typical lower Mouza's villages. In each part active groups and village activists were marked as per overall objectives of the project. Hunters, medicinal plants collectors, vendors, fuel wood collectors, illicit forest cutters, grazers and tree fodder collectors were amongst the important groups identified by HAASHAR.

### **9.1.3 Institutionalization of village organization:**

A number of contacts were made with the line departments and related institutions. In this context Wildlife Department displayed keen interest in the project and assured his full support for the project. Conservator Wildlife has shown his commitment to work with HAASHAR and JFM for the overall aim of the project. Likewise contacts with Forest Department were also made and the project concept was shared with the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). Contact with Institutional Transformation Cell (ITC), Forestry Sector Project (FSP) and Forest Management Center (FMC) were also made.

To share the project objectives and to safeguard biodiversity of the area, HAAHSAR joined a number of national/international forums. Memberships were sought for World Mountain Forum and Sarhad NGO Ittehad. A Biodiversity Coordination Council (BCC) has been formulated, having representation of (i) Forest/Wildlife departments, (ii) JFMC and (iii) HAASHAR Association.

Community of the Fateh Bandi was contacted and JFMC was made aware about the project objectives. The newly elected office bearers of JFMC have initiated a number of initiatives including regular forest patrolling, actions against the illicit timber cutters and ban over all types of hunting.

Womenfolk of Fateh Bandi were also contacted who have formed a woman committee, started savings on monthly basis and have opened a bank account. HAASHAR's Social Organizer has played a pivotal role in organizing women and local community has showed full trust and confidence.

The main goal of the project has been achieved and JFMC has been awarded another legal nomenclature by the Wildlife Department that is Biodiversity Conservation Committee. The new designation came into being after the mutual interaction among HAASHAR, JFMC and Wildlife Department in general and JFMC Wildlife Department in particular during the course of Biodiversity Conservation Plan development (for details please see Annex-1 Biodiversity Conservation Plan)

### **9.1.4 Scheduled meeting of village organizations:**

At times of WWF- HAASHAR agreement, considerable degree of irregularity existed in JFMC's monthly management meetings, mainly due to poor interest of the community and Forest Department. Though the situation has not improved to a satisfactory level but there has been a significant improvement. Current national/provincial elections, maize harvesting and grass cutting season were the major impediment for the irregular monthly meetings.



## 9.2 Objective 2:

To develop village based biodiversity conservation action plan and JFMC to undertake activities related to biodiversity conservation

### Activities undertaken to achieve objective 2:

#### 9.2.1 Overview of the Wildlife and ethnobotanical and other survey

The area is included as a hotspot in IUCN's Biodiversity Action Plan for Pakistan. The area represents moist temperate forests of high ecological value. The valley represents one of the sub-watersheds of greater Indus Basin, which drains into the Tarbela dam, being crucial for the national economy in terms of agriculture and hydroelectricity.

Ethnobotanical information of upper Tanawal valley was documented while the project for the biodiversity conservation was on at Mouza Fateh Bandi. Upper Tanawal valley is a moist temperate region of NWFP and is very rich in floristic composition. Altogether 79 species of plants belonging to 48 families have been recorded as ethnobotanically important. The locals used these plants for variety of purposes, like medicinal, fodder, food, shelter, ornamental etc. for each species possible, information regarding Latin binomial, synonyms, local names(s), use(s) was collected.

Tanawal flora shows affinities to one phyto-geographic realm. The wide altitudinal range in Tanawal supports a great diversity of plant communities, including deciduous, coniferous and mixed temperate forests; sub-alpine scrub and wet alpine meadows, fast flowing streams and waterfalls. Rarities include threatened West Himalayan Elm *Ulmus wallichiana* a tree species of potential economic importance and Thymus species. *Achillea millefolium*, *Geranium wallichianum*, *Rheum webbianum*, *Aconitum heterophyllum* and *Dioscoreaceae deltoide* are acclaimed vulnerable species whereas, *Juglans regia* (locally endangered) and *Taxus wallichiana* are among the endangered plants list

One of the main attractions of project area is faunal diversity and outstanding landscape. In order to confirm wildlife species in the area meetings were held with officials of relevant Govt. departments, hunters and members of local community. Based on the information provided, survey of the potential habitats was conducted, supporting important wildlife species. Seven compartments and the entire Mouza were surveyed according to the prescribed objectives. Survey equipment like binoculars, field book and still camera was used. Direct and indirect observations were made to confirm the presence of species in the area. During the detailed fauna survey it was found that Forests (Doga 1 to Doga 7) of Fateh Bandi which is a subpart of Upper Tanawal is the habitat of globally important pheasant species like *Koklass (Pucrasia macrolopha)* and *Khalej (Lophura leucomelana)* however, presence of *Monal (Lophophorus impejanus)* was not confirmed during the field survey. Other birds like *Chukor, black partridge* and many other species are found in the area. Among large animal's common *leopard (Panthera pardus)*, Wild Boar (*Screus scrosa*), Cape Hare (*Lupus capensis*), Hedge Hog and Himalayan palm civet (*paguma larvata*) are found in the area whereas *Himalayan Rhesus monkey, jackals, foxes* and many other are common in the area. Hunting, both by natives and outsiders, continues throughout the year. Pheasants are the most targeted victims including *Koklass* and *Khajej*.

For details please see annex-1 Biodiversity Conservation Plan, annex-2 results of the wildlife survey, annex - 3 results of the ethnobotanical survey, annex - 4 socio-economic data and annex-5 data related to forestry.

#### 9.2.2 Elaboration of biodiversity conservation plan at local level:



For elaboration of biodiversity conservation plan a number of activities were performed which include followings:

- i. Interaction with community of study area.
- ii. Review of all available literature.
- iii. Collection of required or missing information.
- iv. Land use, socio-economic, ethnobotanical and wildlife surveys.
- v. Introductory meeting with the relative departments and awareness campaigns at community level.
- vi. Capacity building of the target communities for the biodiversity conservation.
- vii. Training workshops at village level.
- viii. Institutionalization of community institutions.
- ix. Elaboration of biodiversity conservation plan at area and village levels.
- x. Joint Agreement between wildlife department and Biodiversity Conservation Committee (JFMC)
- xi. Initiation of biodiversity conservation activities

#### **Rapid Appraisal:**

At the time of initiating a consultative dialogue with the community, a team of HAASHAR's biodiversity experts conducted a rapid appraisal of the study area. During the course of appraisal all avenues of the project were deliberated within the team from the aspects of our basic proposal, agreement with WWF and the ground realities prevalent in the area. Likewise other surveys have also been conducted which helped to quickly analyzed the situation and initiate various steps needed to peruse the matter. For details please see annex-1 Biodiversity Conservation Plan, annex-2 results of the wildlife survey, annex - 3 results of the ethnobotanical survey, annex - 4 socio-economic data and annex-5 data related to forestry.

#### **9.2.3 Finalization/Approval of biodiversity conservation plan:**

At the time of project initiation the need of to formal involvement of NWFP Wildlife Department for the wildlife conservation initiatives were felt In this regard a number of initiatives were undertaken. Wildlife Department was approached and appraised about the latest situation of wildlife and its related threats. All staff of the department reacted positively and shown full support to the broad-spectrum project concept. Chief Conservator Wildlife played the role of anchorperson in this regard and displayed special interests towards wildlife protection of the area and appreciated project concept for assigning additional responsibilities to JFMC Fateh Bandi. In a nutshell the Wildlife Department started interaction with the local community of the Fateh Bandi, jointly developed Biodiversity Conservation Plan on the basis of which terms of partnership were developed and finally become partners of JFMC through an agreement. The JFMC has been assigned another task and a new a new identification as well BCC (Biodiversity Conservation Committee). The main emphasis of the agreement is a long-term partnership between Wildlife Department and BCC for the sustainable conservation, protection and development of biodiversity based on the Biodiversity Conservation Plan (For details please see annex-1 Biodiversity Conservation Plan)

#### **9.2.4 Execution of biodiversity conservation plan:**

Community of the study area, ever since they were apprised about the project concept has initiated activities towards biodiversity conservation as per their own simple understanding. In this regard their foremost initiative has been an increased and hyperactive forest patrolling leading towards better protection. After having a better realization for wildlife, JFMC has become vigilant observers towards any potential offenders. In one of their routine monthly



management meetings a local ban on all types of hunting, shooting or killing wildlife species has also been imposed. However, despite such courageous initiatives, there have been a number of cases of pheasants hunting by the outsiders in early spring. This was the time when the interaction between Wildlife and people of Fateh Bandi was at its initial stages but at the time of Biodiversity Conservation Plan preparation there were some remarkable initiatives were initiated from the corner of Wildlife Department. The residents of Fateh Bandi were designated as biodiversity watchers. They were provided with the Fine (Challan) Books to book any of the external or internal poacher. All legal and institutional support by wildlife Department was assured to stop any of the illegal activity.

During the course of project JFMC Fateh Bandi has made a number of attempts to halt the illicit forest damages. A number of donor funded forestry projects like FMC and FSP though have contacted the JFMC, but their programs could not be materialized.

An ethnobotanical survey has been conducted in the area, which has assisted in finding out a number of medicinal plants of significant importance, but as yet the overall conservation methodology still needs a far better refinement. This year though fire was set at few places for better grass yield, but its extent, quantum and magnitudes were very limited, as compared to the past years.

### **9.3 Objective 3**

Human resource development (HRD) of the community.

#### **Activities under taken to achieve objective 3:**

##### **9.3.1 Identify, liaise and collaborate with various institutions, project, individuals' etc for HRD activities:**

###### **Biodiversity Conservation Committee:**

Right at the outset of the study, during an internal meeting of HAASHAR opted to take along all the stakeholders together. For this purpose it was decided to formulate a "District Biodiversity Conservation Council" (DBCC). The DBCC will comprise upon representatives from (i) DFO Wildlife Mansehra, (ii) DFO Siran, (iii) JFMC and (iv) HAASHAR, with the main objective for steering the study in the right direction as per the bilateral agreement and to equip project area community as well as related stakeholders with capacity building initiatives as well. The salient features will include;

- Initiation of activities for the active involvement of village organizations/groups.
- Data collection and analysis of the biodiversity survey.
- Finalization and submission of biodiversity survey to relative institutions.
- Elaboration and preparation of village based biodiversity conservation plan.
- Implementation of training and extension activities.
- Identification of new community schemes.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Such a gesture was greatly welcomed by the respective DFOs, where both of them gave an all out willingness for their professional contributions. However, HAASHAR also made strives from other means and sources as well. WWF Ethnobotany project was the major institution, which not only showed interest in assisting HAASHAR for the current project but also initiated formal as well as informal dialogue with the HAASHAR. Mountain forum along with the NGO Network as well as Sarhad NGO Ittehad (SNI) have started a number of joint dialogues in this regards.



During the last quarter of the project Mansehra based forum comprises of all Non governmental institutions and governmental institutions was organized and HAASHAR is also a member of this forum and there is a great likelihood that this forum will not only address pertaining to remote areas of Mansehra district but also assist people of Fateh Bandi to share the experience in Biodiversity Conservation with adjoining areas as well.



### **9.3.2 Assess training need of the locals to prepare training approach, qualify participants of training for the Implementation of training Program along with the training institutes to supplement biodiversity conservation program:**

The detailed wildlife, ethnobotanical and land use survey along with the close interaction with the project community has assisted HAASHAR to identify training need of the locals along with implementation of training program along with the training institutes to supplement biodiversity conservation program. The training program for the community could be divided into following main categories

- i. Social institutionalization
- ii. Sustainable harvest of medicinal plants
- iii. Cultivation and propagation of the of the medicinal plants
- iv. Marketing of medicinal plants
- v. Wildlife conservation
- vi. Wildlife survey
- vi. Marketing of the wildlife products (at later stages of the Biodiversity Conservation Plan, at times when project area produces different game animals and birds substationally on sustainable basis.

### **9.3.3 Provide support to Village organization to develop and implement village-based projects in line with “felt needs” identified in the fields of NRM, and biodiversity conservation:**

The detailed wildlife, ethnobotanical and land use survey along with the close interaction with the project community has assisted HAASHAR to identify training need of the locals along with implementation of training program along with the training institutes to supplement biodiversity conservation program. The training program for the community has done following main training activities.

- i. **Social institutionalization**  
The Joint Forest Management Committee has been assigned another responsibility and designation by the Wildlife department. However, during the course of project people of Fateh Bandi were motivated, trained about the new portfolio
- ii. **Sustainable harvest of medicinal plants.**  
The people of the Fateh Bandi were uprooting most of the medicinal plants, likewise processing of the medicinal plants was poor and especially during the course of Morel collection eggs of the pheasants were damaged. Special awareness campaigns and medicinal plants collection training were imparted to the people of Fateh Bandi.
- lii **Cultivation and propagation of the of the medicinal plants**  
A number of informal and informal contact were made with Ethnobotany project to set trails of the medicinal plants. Though till now no programme could be initiated in this regards from the ethnobotany project but the people of area were apprised about the scope of indigenous medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation. Foeniculum, Hyosymus and Conium were the main cultivated medicinal plants which were cultivated ago but due to scarcity of water there is an increase decrease in the cultivation. Through the current project awareness among the masses has been increased and some of the people again started cultivation of medicinal plants.
- iv **Marketing of medicinal plants**  
Indepth market study was made. Oghi is the main market where most of the medicinal plants were sold. Though there is big Pansaar (herbal) market available at



Mansehra and Abbottabad but none of the project area resident is selling its products in the said markets. Like wise there is no marketing links between the community of Fateh Bandi and commercial institutions. Ethnobotany project is especially requested to help HAASHAR in this respect whereas community of Fateh Bandi will be made acquainted about Mansehra and Abbottabad Market, which in term is part of Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

v **Wildlife conservation**

Awareness campaign and training about the medicinal plants as well as various interactive workshops were part of this event. However, special trainings were conducted and messages were delivered to the people of hamlets living closer to the forests where common leopard made a lot of livestock damage.

vi **Wildlife survey**

The future Wildlife Group comprises of knowledgeable people and hunters along with people interested in the wildlife have accompanied consultant during the course of Wildlife surveys. The fellowmen were trained about basic concepts and skills of the wildlife surveys. However during the course of Biodiversity Conservation Plan elaboration a numbers of trainings were identified for future activities where Wildlife department has committed to impart the necessary trainings.

vii **Marketing of the wildlife products.**

Though marketing of the wildlife products will be initiated in future and at times when project area produces different game animals and birds substationally on sustainable basis as identified in the Biodiversity Conservation Plan but this is a new avenue in which people have no prior knowledge or skill.

**A special event of “training needs Identification Workshop”:**

A one-day workshop of JFMC members was organized at Government High School Thakra, being a central place for all residents of the area

Besides our partner JFMC Fateh Bandi, participants from the two neighboring JFMCs of Doga and Chamial were also invited as observers. The objective for such invitation was to enhance the circle of beneficiaries amongst the locals. By virtue of advance announcement, despite heavy rainfall, the gathering had a general strength of nearly 60 - 70 participants. Salient objectives of this workshop were to:

- Identify the flora and fauna, as per its categories, types and varieties.
- Identify traditional uses of flora in terms of its aesthetic, aromatic, decorative, medicinal, food and/or any other values/uses.
- Identify highly threatened, endangered and extinct categories, types, and varieties of flora/fauna.
- Identify training need assessment for biodiversity conservation and management at local level.

During the full day session all the participants displayed very keen interest in the entire workshop proceedings. Besides very useful identification exercise, the participants had also indicated floral/fruit-bearing seasons for herbs, shrubs and trees. At the same time useful data was also collected for birds, reptiles and mammals, along with details for egg laying, hatching and brooding seasons. At the said time various gray areas, where community needs capacity building, were also identified in a participatory fashion.

The gathering had also informed the workshop management for a large variety of herbs, mushrooms and other weeds of economical importance being collected by them for



commercial exploitation of the resource. A general assessment for the quantum and economical return was also made in the same gathering, including its marketing strategy. Some major gaps were identified in collection, preservation and marketing of medicinal plants. Likewise, there was also a major need about nursery growing techniques of various medicinal plants. Identification of valuable medicinal plants was another missing area.

The locals had greatly applauded HAASHAR's initiatives of rural development, its presence in area and advocacy for JFMC. During recent local body elections, eight councilors of the local union council belong to Fateh Bandi, where except one, all others are members of JFMC. A number of infrastructure schemes, having co-relation with biodiversity, were initiated with consultation of JFMC. One typical example is water supply scheme of Sanjilala and Serrian where women/children used to fetch water from a distant place in the forest. While doing so children used to damage bird nests/eggs.

#### **Pending Community Workshops:**

Like the previously held introductory cum identification workshops, HAASHAR hold two workshops. Salient objectives of such potential workshops were:

- Collect data pertaining to commercial collection and harvesting of medicinal herbs, mushrooms and other weeds of economic value.

- Ascertain the current financial return being received by the collectors and its prevalent marketing strategy.

- Deliberate ways/means and evolve out a collective strategy for sustainable conservation and propagation of such like herbs etc through cultivation and farming techniques.

- Impose a mutually agreed ban on the collection and harvesting of endangered/threatened species.

- Educate community at large for sustainable collection and harvesting techniques.

- Create a general awareness for the sustainable usage of such like resource.

- Collect information pertaining to wildlife in the area.

#### **9.4 Objective 4**

Safeguard information and networking with the masses of people in the project area and with other organizations/persons for increased ecological, social and political awareness and complementary interventions for biodiversity conservation program

##### **Activities under taken to achieve objective 4**

**9.4.1** Provide support and training to village organizations to develop project proposals and implement village based projects in line with "felt needs" identified in the fields of NRM, and biodiversity conservation.

##### **Natural Resource Management Plan of Fateh Bandi**

The Joint Forest Management Committee was trained for the record keeping, maintaining their minutes update and making resolutions. The people of Fateh Bandi were made acquainted with available institutions assisting communities for biodiversity development. A team of Forest Management Center was fully assisted by the community for the development of NRM Plan for Mouza Fateh Bandi but its execution will be project dependent. However the on going Forestry Sector Project did not include Fateh Bandi for the forthcoming Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP).

Despite the above mentioned external factors, Fateh Bandi is the first area in the entire NWFP where all kind of natural resources have a management plan namely.



- The forest and village areas have been catered through the Joint Forest Management Plan and Land Use management Plan.
- All wildlife animals, pheasants, birds and wild plants have been catered through the Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

#### **9.4.2 Secure linkages and contacts with donor and other institutions.**

The formation of Biodiversity Conservation committee has lead community of Fateh Bandi to have profound relations and interactions with stakeholders. Likewise Biodiversity Conservation Plan and other developmental initiatives have assisted people of Fateh Bandi to build partnership with new stakeholders.

#### **9.4.3 Facilitate and prepare terms of partnership between community and partner organization.**

Joint Forest Management Plan clearly depicts responsibilities between Forest Department and community. The Biodiversity conservation is a new voyage for the partnership as far as concept of Biodiversity is concerned.

#### **9.4.4 Elaborate articles/ news for press releases at local, provincial and federal level on quarterly basis.**

The matter has been dealt even before the arrival of project and material pertaining to Joint Forest Management and Biodiversity conservation is available at local and International newspapers. In fact there were no specific news originated by the HAASHAR for the said matter but there are many events that were published in the newspapers and HAASHAR participated in those events.

#### **9.4.5 Keep close contact with the institutions and persons involved in the ongoing process of devolution of power**

Fateh Bandi is the only area in the Upper Tanawal having a very strong representation in the union council and members of the Joint Forest Management Committees are members of the union councils as well. The situation especially helped to take action against timber Mafia and considerable decrease has taken place during current times. It is expected that poaching and ruthless hunting will also be stopped by intensive involvement of higher and lower tiers of Union councils

#### **9.4.6 Take proactive steps to identify other institutions and projects for securing synergy effects and for diversifying NGO activities on the basis of experience gained.**

Meetings and coordination with all NGOs and other institutions are continued about the programme and the project.

#### **9.4.6 Identify alternative sources of finance for securing the future operations of HAASHAR.**

HAASHAR has approached a number of donors for the assistance and so far UNDP/ GEF, Eco - Himal (An Austrian based NGO) and German government has shown interest to support HAASHAR's endeavors. Mean while HAASHAR has also forwarded another proposal to WWF Pakistan for the similar project in the adjacent area.



**9.4.7 Participate in forestry networks so as to join hands with all institutions interested in participatory and sustainable management of natural resources.**

HAASHAR is nominated for Sarhad Biodiversity Development Council, Sarhad Non Governmental Ittehad and Member of Community based Natural Resource Ownership Network and Mountain Forum.

**10 . What are the important activities or development do you expect in the next reporting?**

**10.1 to 10.4.8 Not Valid**

**10.4.9 Problems encountered during the period under review and measures taken to address the problems:**

**Problems:**

In the course of our on-going progress, the HAASHAR team did face some difficulties as well which were not anticipated at the time of submitting this proposal and concluding agreement with WWF. However, these impediments have not affected our progress to any alarming degree. But, never the less, some degree of delays has certainly retarded the same, which is being made good in the subsequent study time. Salient impediments had been as under:

- i. **Water Shortages due to Severe Drought:** This summer of 2002 has witnessed some of the worst drought during the current history of this area. Owing to its peculiar mountainous topography and soil stratum, this region had been hit far more severely than any other parts of the country. Due to lack of winter snows, hardly any spring season rains and late monsoons, the aquifers of the entire area had almost dried out. Such a catastrophic scenario, besides affecting the ecology, has also affected human beings and their livestock. People had to resort to water haulage from fairly far-off places, for themselves as well as for their cattle stocks. Families with larger cattle herds were even forced to migrate out temporarily close to perennial watercourses like Unhar and Siran Rivers.

Under such periods of intense engagements due to a natural calamity, population of the area did not pay adequate attention, merely due to a change in their priorities for their own and livestock survival. However, after the beginning of late monsoons, the situation gradually started improving and the desired work commenced at a satisfactory pace.

- ii. **Grass Cutting and Maize Harvesting Season:** The severe drought had adversely affected maize crop and the fodder grass. The moment monsoon rains stopped, farmer population got busy in grass cutting and maize harvesting. Their priority was to salvage the weak crop and lean grass for the winter stocks, taking no further chances with nature.

This type of extra peculiar situation pinned us down for further some time.

- iii. **Elections 2002:** Owing to high political awareness in the area mainly due to complex ethnic groups, this very population has always been hyperactive in any elections, starting from local bodies right upto national/provincial assemblies. At many occasions the balance turned due to their such like extra keen interests.

The current elections of October 2002 were certainly extra-ordinary exceptions. Entire atmosphere of the valley was highly charged with political activities and



slogans of a great variance. Engagement of JFMC members was far more than the common village folks. Hence, per force, HAASHAR had to curtail their activities.

**Measures taken to address the problems:**

In view of limited choice with HAASHAR's team, due to above enumerated impediments far beyond their control, they had to alter their planned schedule of activities. The community was given ample allowance for doing their needful. However, during such like dormant periods, the team resorted to other activities where community was either not required or its engagement was too thin and brief.

**11 What are the important activities or development do you expect in the next reporting?**

Execution of Biodiversity Conservation Plan

**12 Is there any thing you would like from WWF-P to help or facilitate you in your work?**

HAASHAR is too young an organization, still passing through embryonic stage, to deal with the massive subject of biodiversity conservation. Whereas WWF has the requisite degree of expertise, potentials and resources, which have been acknowledged at the global level. Hence, this new organization needs capacity building for its staff as well as partner organizations like JFMCs. This is proposed to be done through short training sessions at suitable forums.

There are a number of documents and other information sources available with the WWF, HAASHAR needs especial help in this regards and documents, newsletters and quarterly magazines of WWF to be provided to the HAASHAR.

WWF based ethnobotany project is endeavoring for the sustainable conservation of plant resources. In this respect capacity building and partnership program is major thrusts of the project. HAASHAR would like to develop a long-term partnership with the said project and through current project reports HAASHAR would like to invite the ethnobotany project also to assist community of Fateh Bandi for the sustainable conservation of plants resources.

Once again, resource limitation is the major limitation for a young and a small NGO like HAASHAR, which may also be taken into account.