Atlas of Wetlands of Pakistan

Draft Compilation of selected Wetlands















ATLAS OF WETLANDS OF PAKISTAN - Draft

GIS Laboratory, WWF-Pakistan

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Photo credit: PWP/WWF/Ghulam Rasool/Hassan Zaki/Ahmed Khan

Citation: WWF Pakistan (2008). Atlas of Wetlands of Pakistan, Pakistan Wetlands Programme, Islamabad.

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Pakistan Wetlands Programme

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP) aims to promote the sustainable conservation of freshwater and marine wetlands and their associated globally important biodiversity in Pakistan. The Programme will create and implement a National Wetlands Conservation strategy. Sustainable wetland conservation measures will be developed at each of the four demonstration sites, carefully selected to represent conditions in four broad wetland ecological zone of Pakistan including coastal wetland zone, arid wetland zone, semi-arid wetland zone and alpine wetland zone.

Pakistan Wetlands Inventory: Pakistan possesses a great variety of wetlands distributed throughout the country. However, the only comprehensive source on the existing resources of wetland ecosystems in Pakistan was the Directory of Asian Wetlands (Scott, D.A., 1989) where only 48 significant wetlands have been discussed. In order to fill the information gap Pakistan Wetlands GIS-based Wetlands Inventory (PWGIS) is being developed under the PWP to serve multiple scientific, decisions making and awareness purposes.

Inventory Approach: Asian Wetlands Inventory guidelines (Finlayson et al., 2002) are being followed to develop multi-scale database at three levels mentioned below:

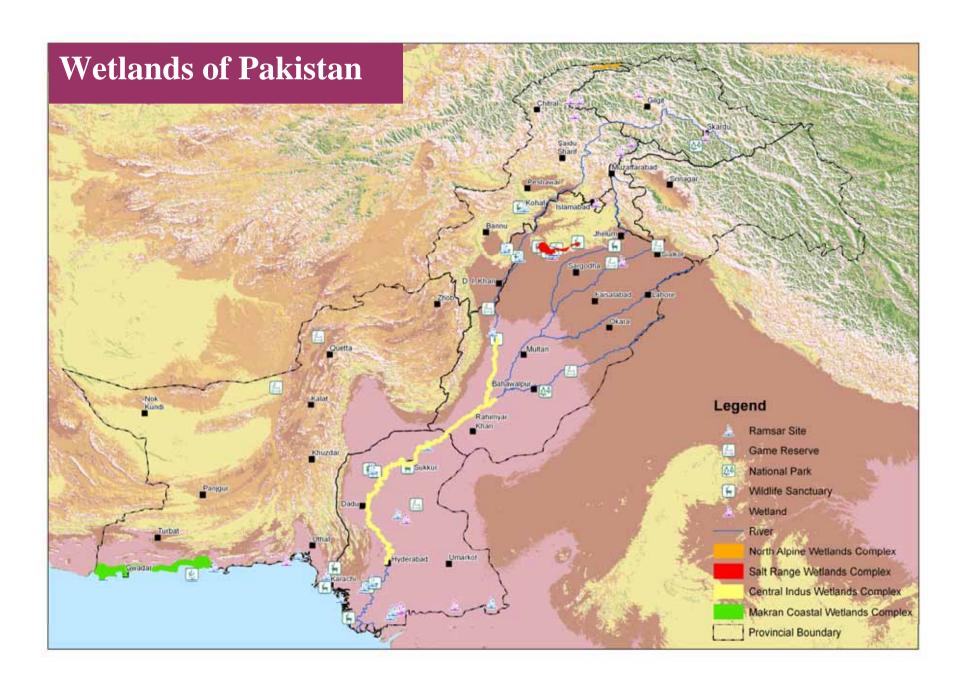
- 1: 250,000 scale mapping for 170 significant wetlands
- 1:50,000 scale mapping for four PWP demonstration sites and 47 Protected Wetlands designated either under Ramsar Site, National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, or Game Reserve and
- 1:10,000 scale mapping for at least six selected highly significant wetlands

Respectively, ASTER (15m), SPOT (2.5m) and Quickbird (0.6m) satellite images are being used for landcover delineation. FAO's Landcover Classification System (LCCS) was adopted to harmonize the legend at all the scales.

Multi-scale watershed database: A standardised watershed database of Pakistan has been developed that can be used for in situ watershed management and can also be aggregated with global and regional databases (e.g., WWF-HydroSheds, Watersheds of the world).

Sub-basins were delineated from elevation data of the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) for all the country. Watershed and sub-watershed for 150 significant wetlands were delineated based on the high resolution DEM derived from Advance Space borne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) images.

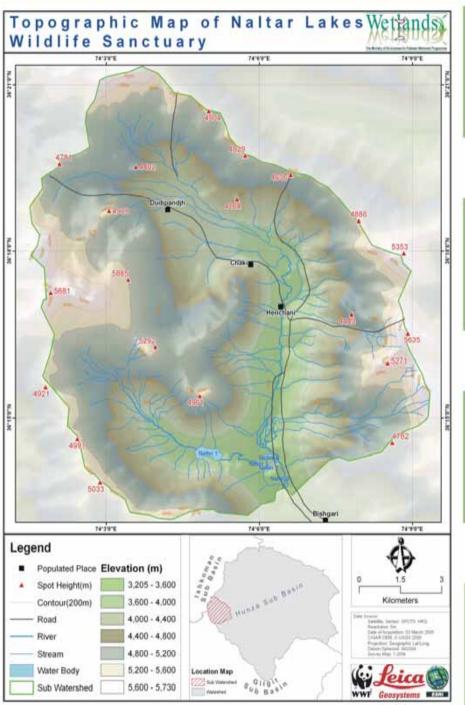
Landcover Mapping and Change Analysis: Landcover studies of 28 out of 47 Protected Wetlands have been completed. Theses studies describe habitats through geographic, physical, and biotic components. Remote Sensing based tools provide efficient means of identifying and delineating vegetation types and their respective densities. Historic data of some selected areas is being acquired for temporal change analysis of highly significant areas.



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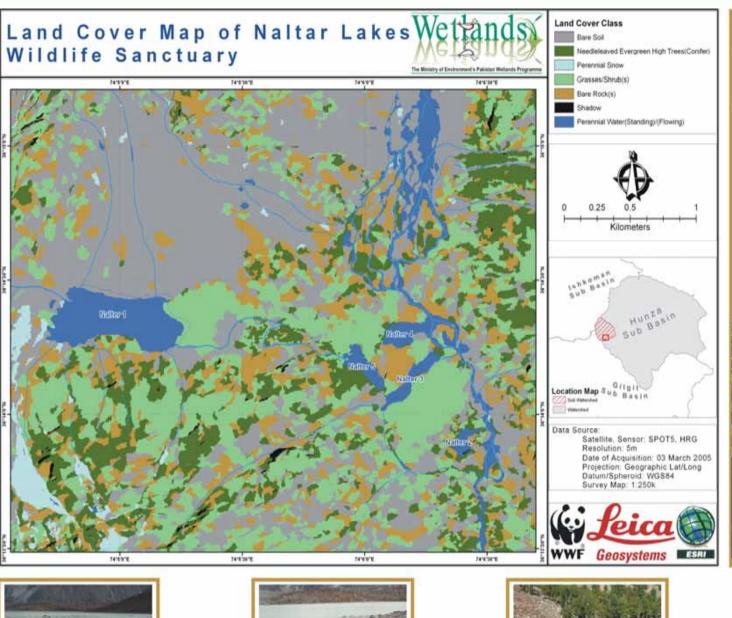












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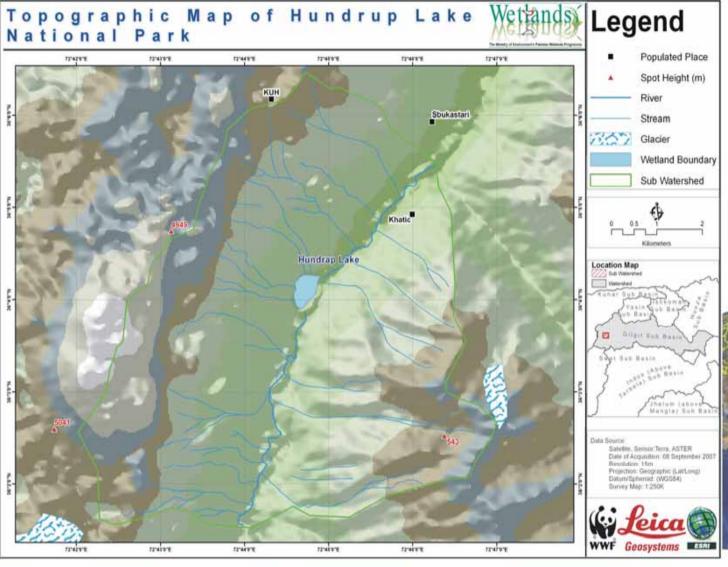




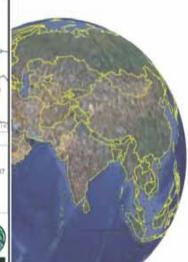








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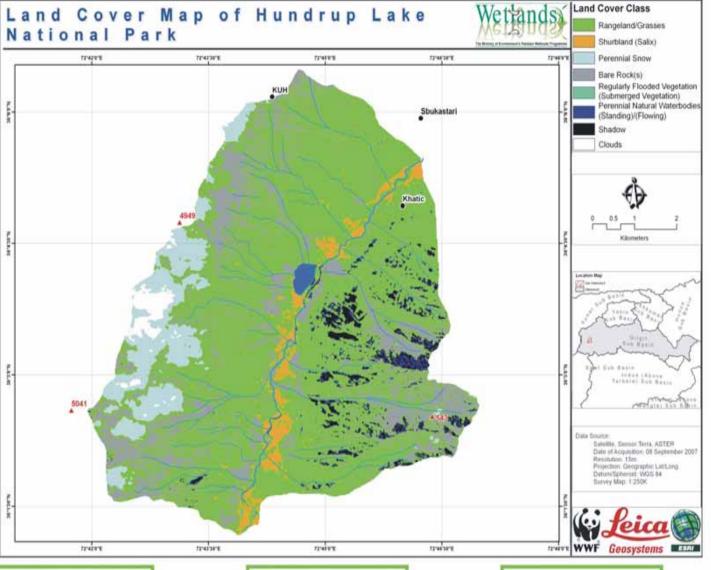




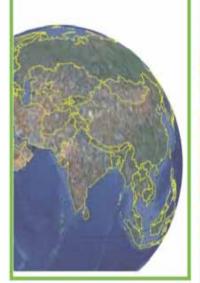








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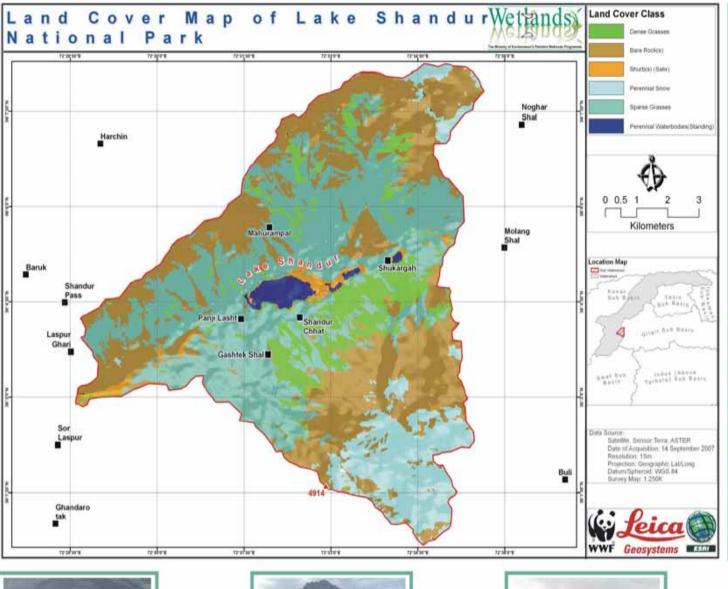












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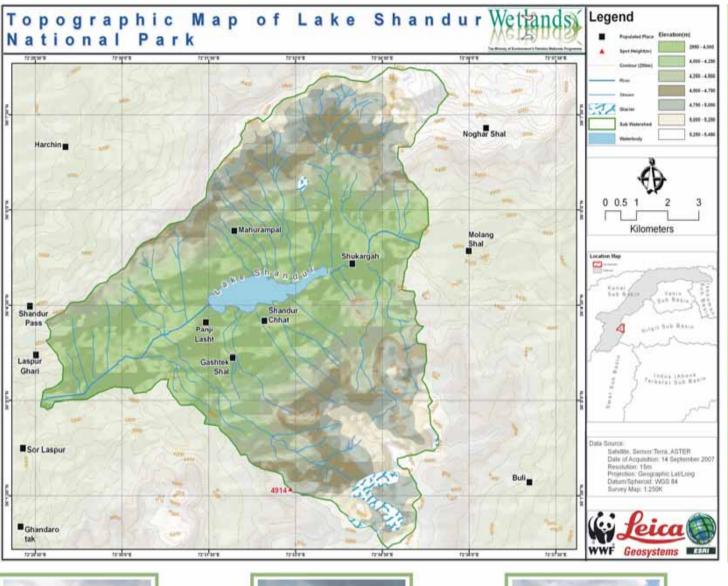












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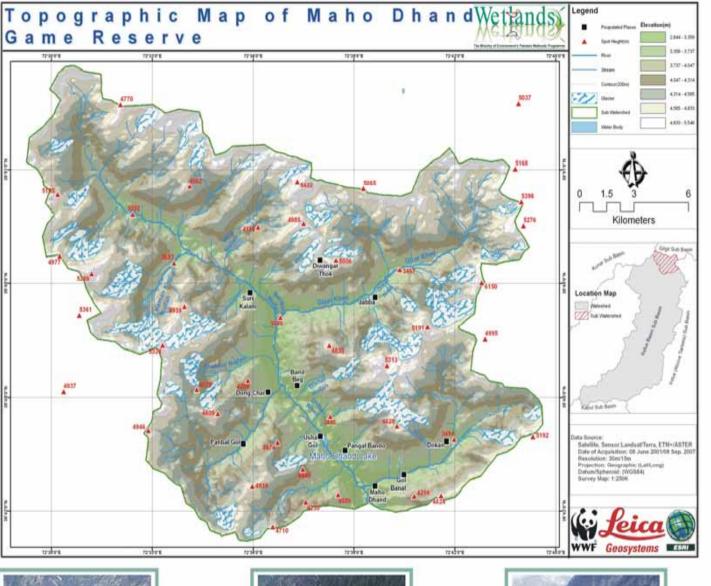




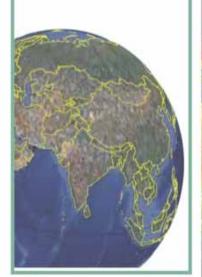








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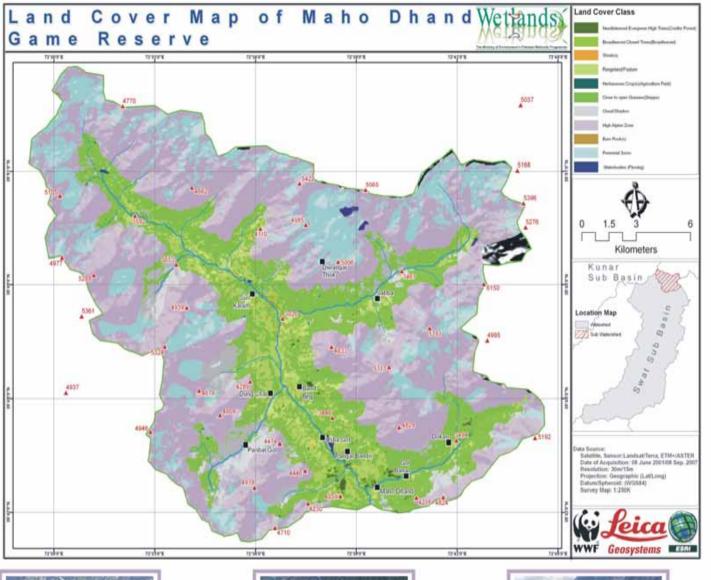




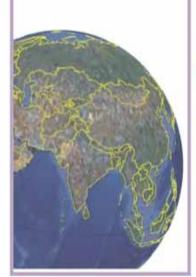








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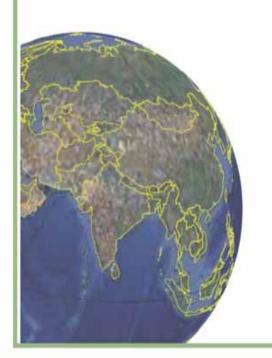


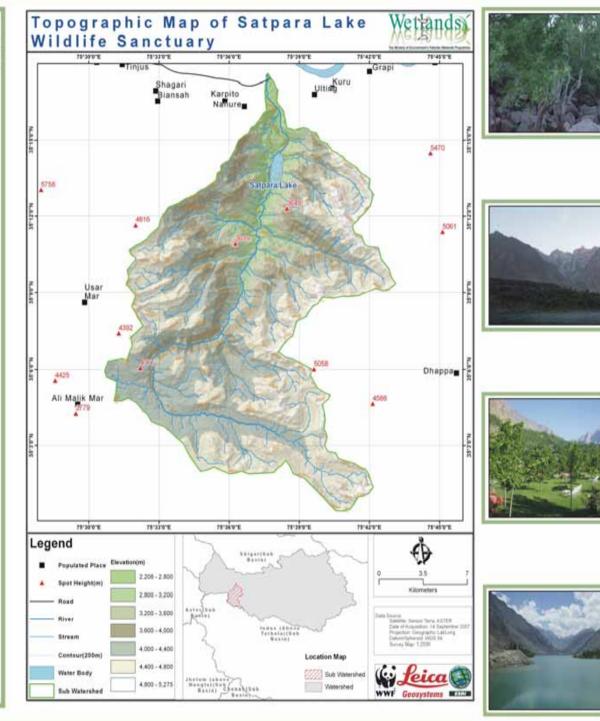




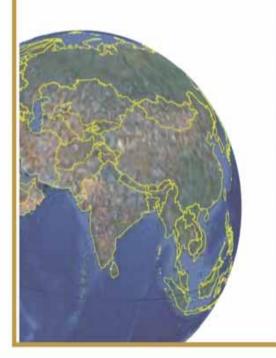


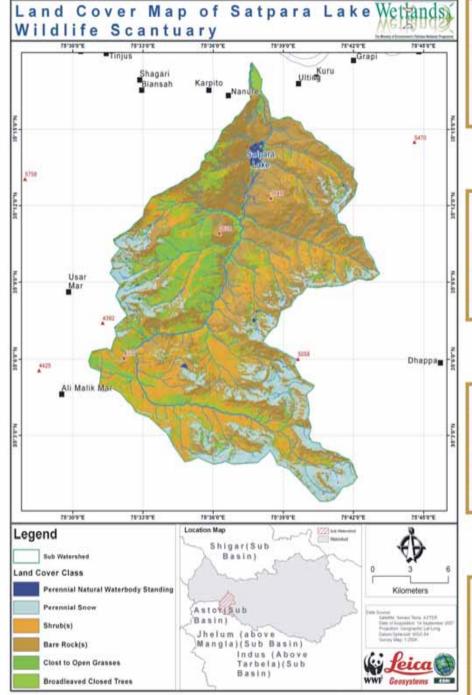
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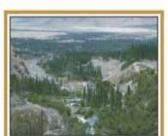


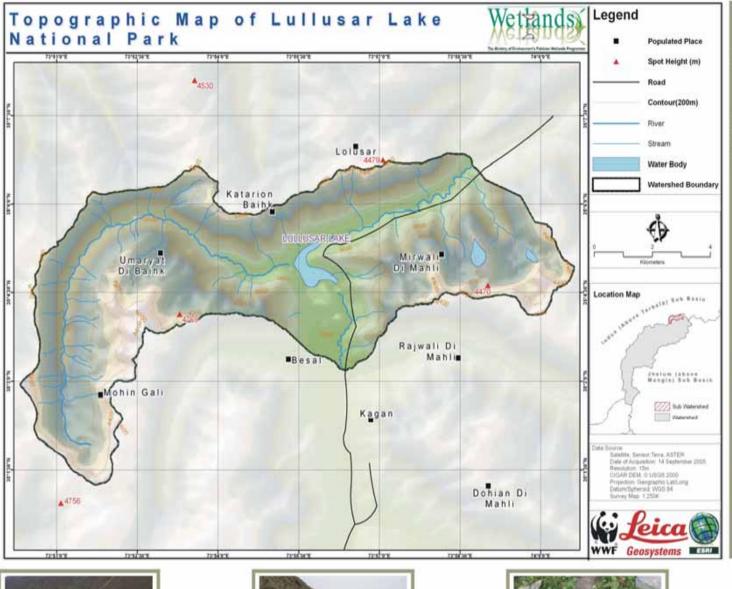












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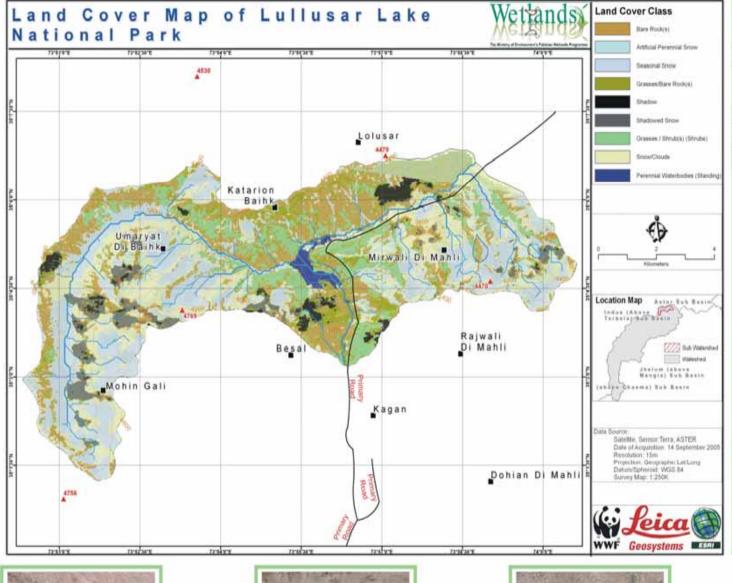






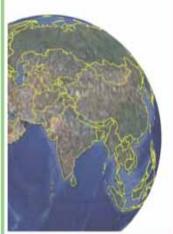






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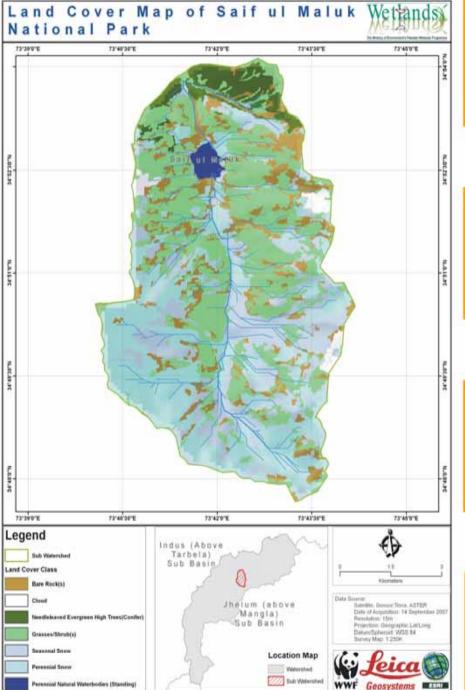




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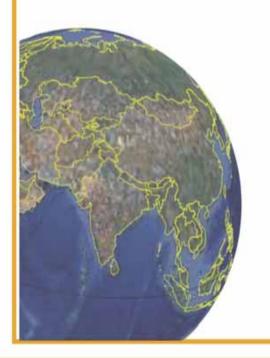


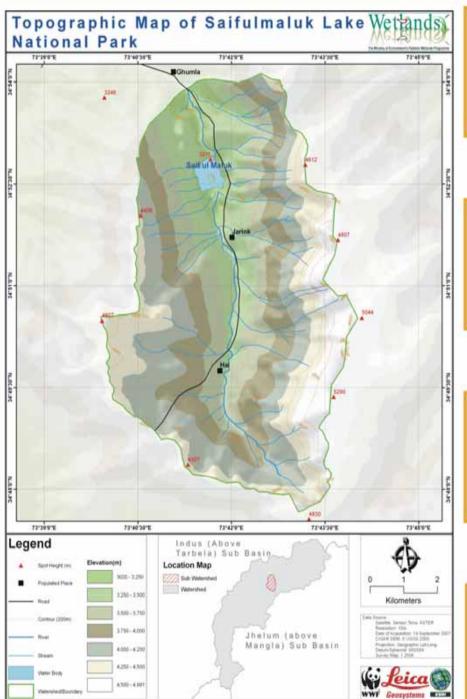




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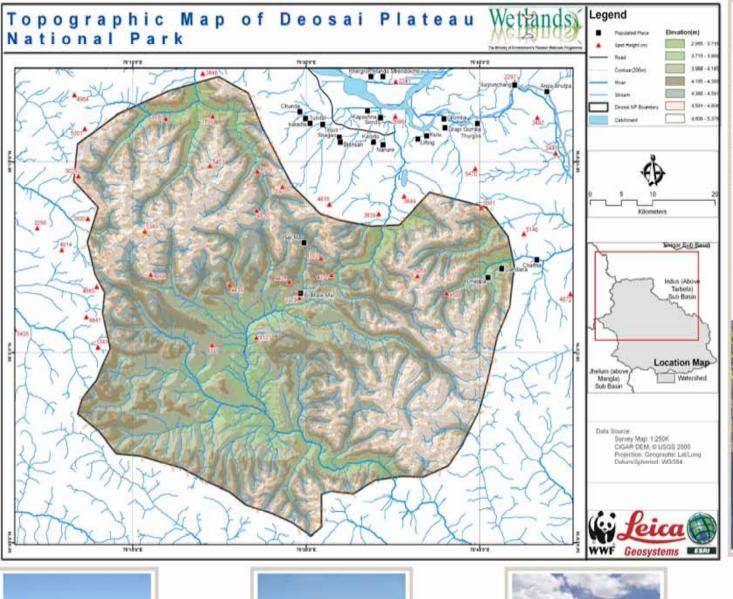












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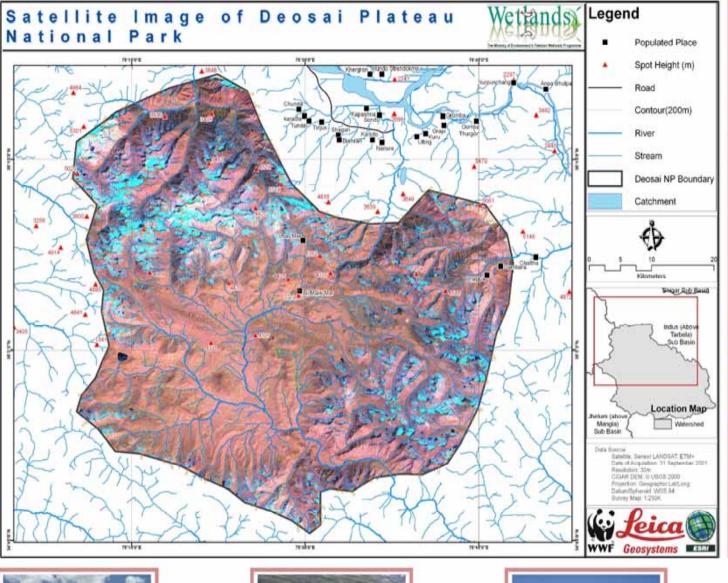












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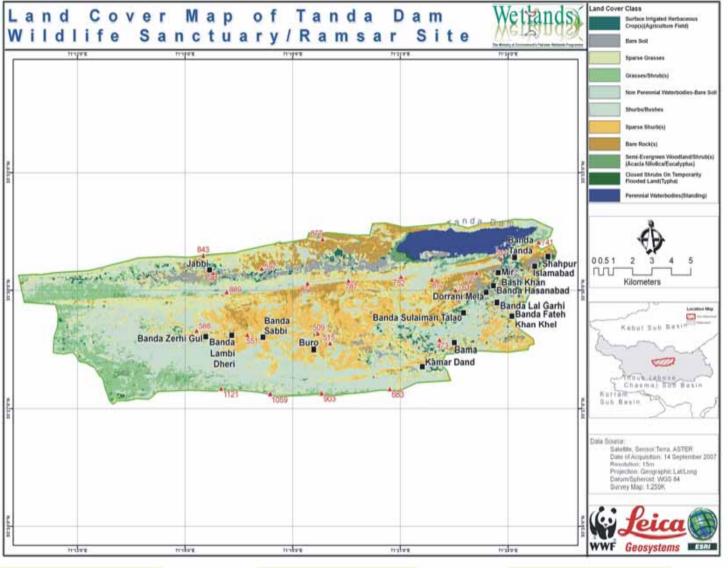
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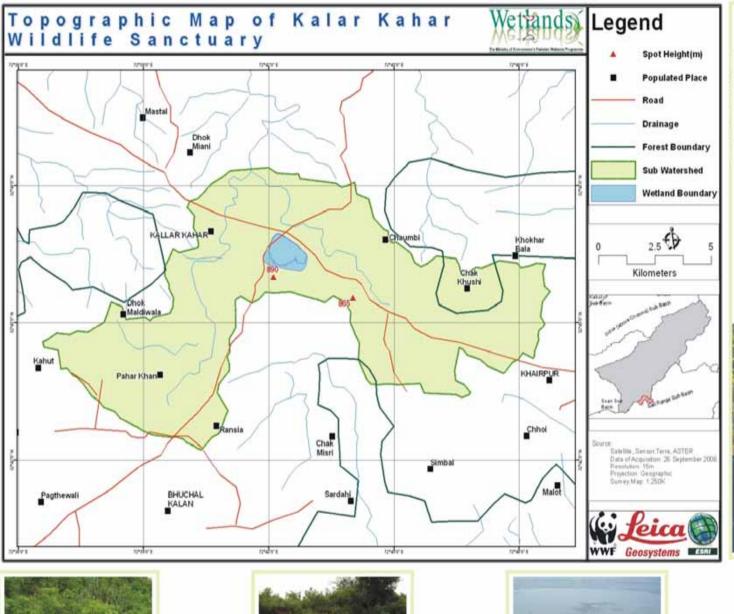
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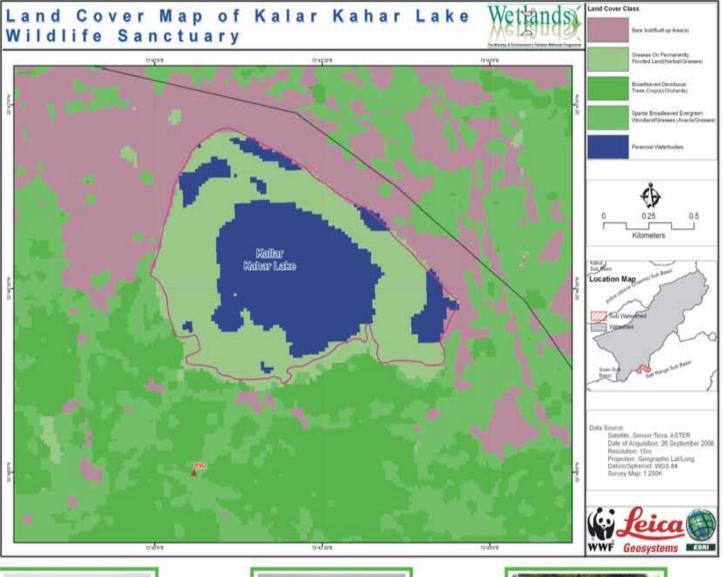




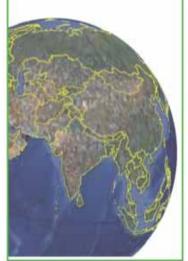








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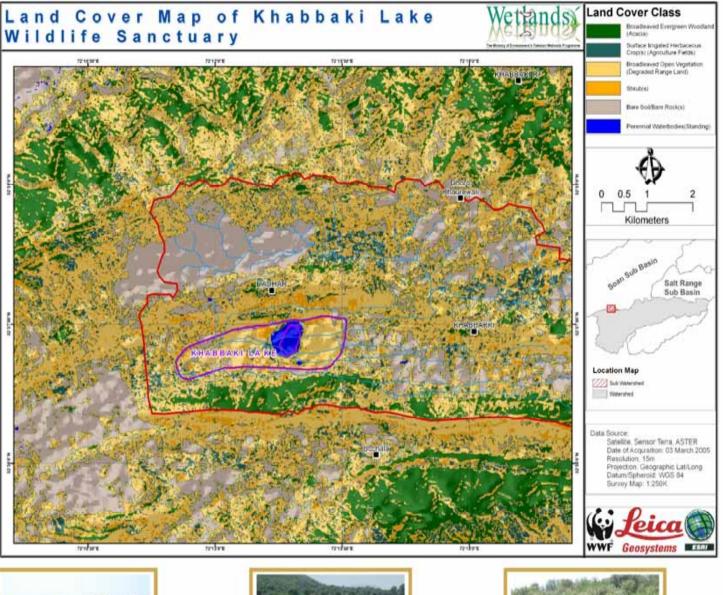












habbaki Lake is physically categorized into mid land lakes and is the part of arid sub-tropical forest eco-region of Pakistan. The Khabbaki Lake was declared as Wildlife Sanctuary, covering an area of 283 hectares, in 1966 by the Punjab Wildlife Department. The area was declared as Wetlands of international significance by the Ramsar International in November 1975. The Wildlife Department de-notified the lake from Wildlife Sanctuary category in 1987; however the lake was again notified as Wildlife Sanctuary on recommendation by the Ramsar Convention monitoring mission in December 1992.

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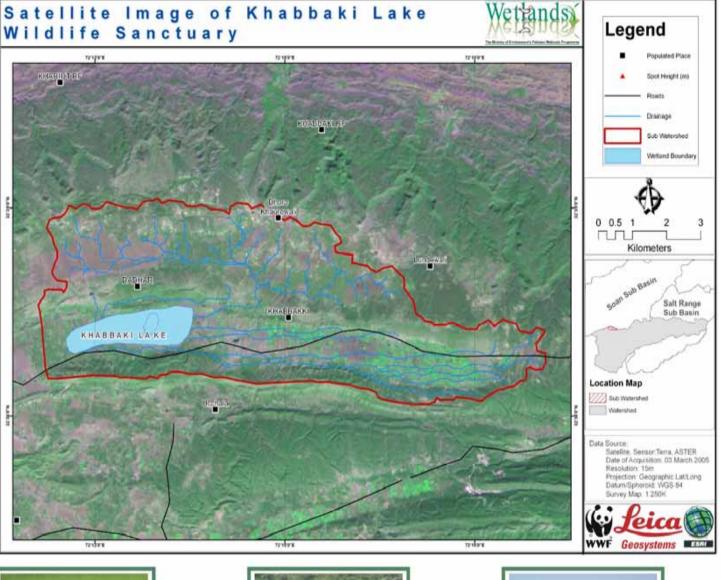


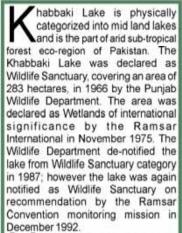




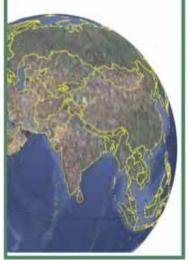








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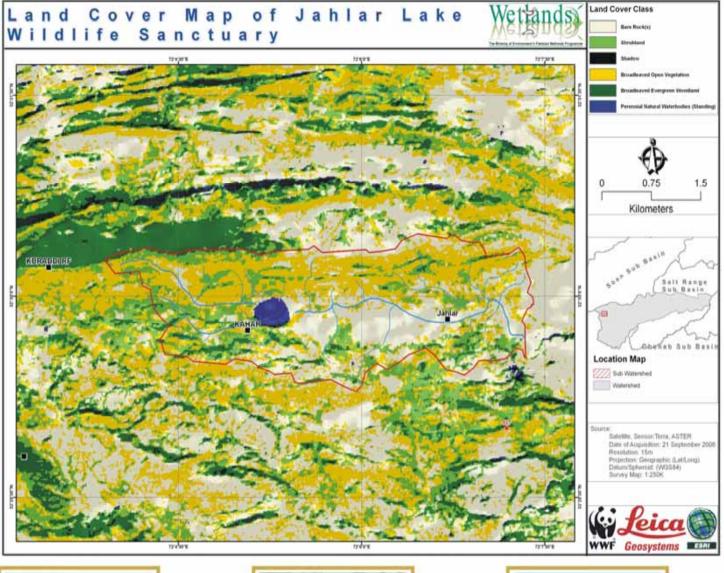


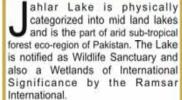












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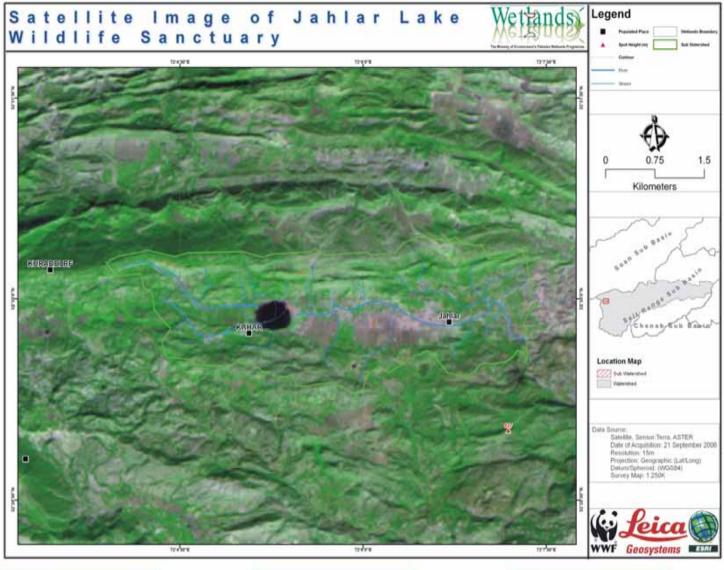


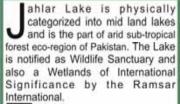












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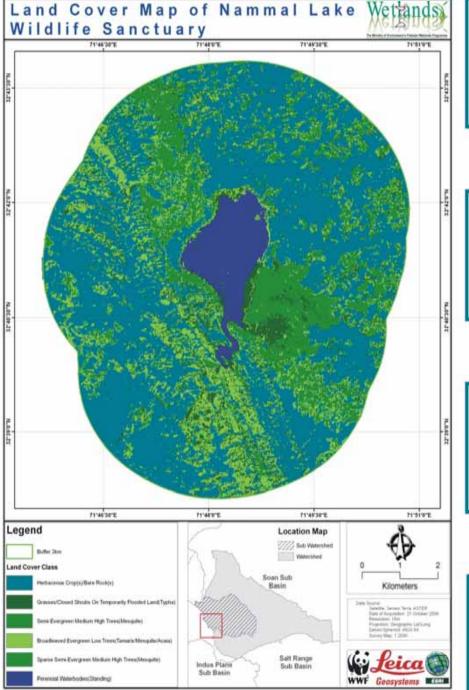


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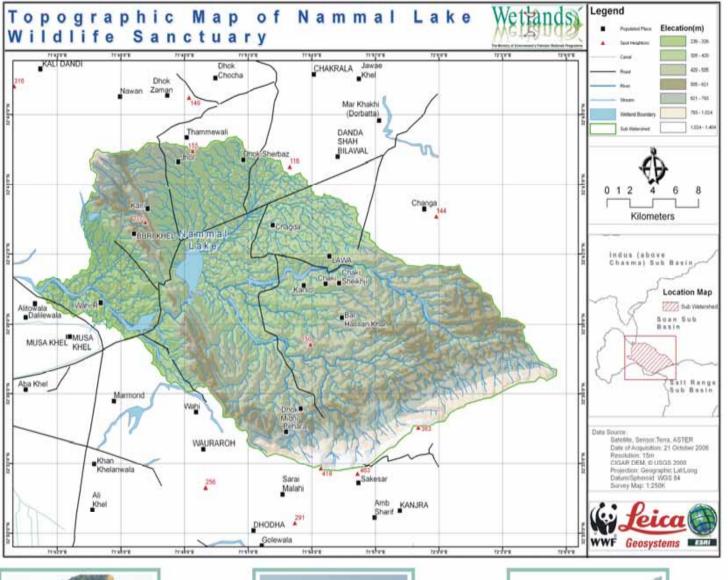








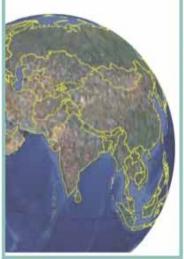




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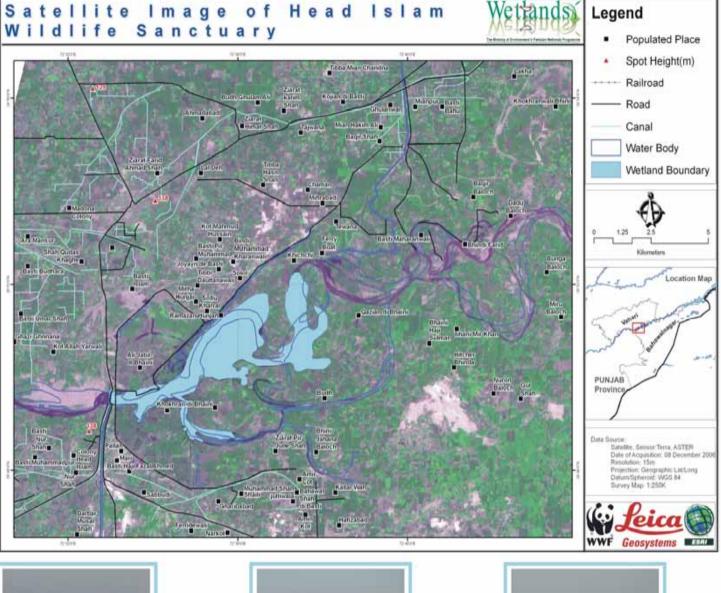


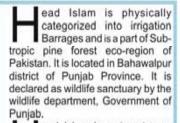












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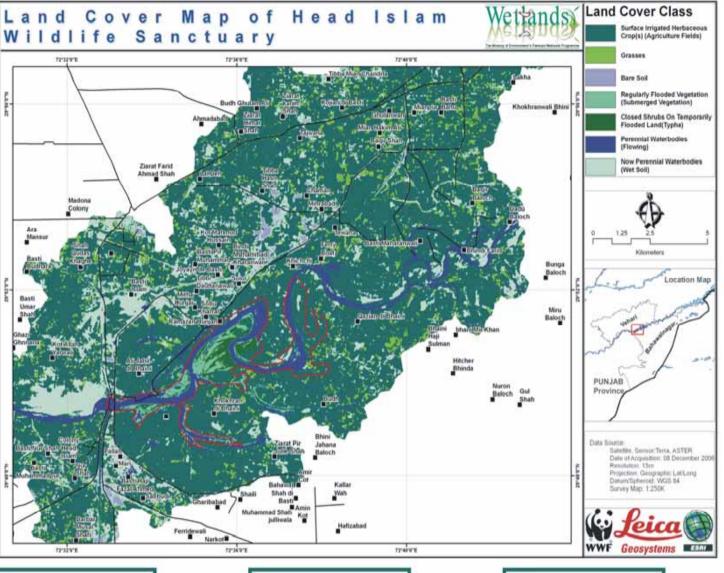


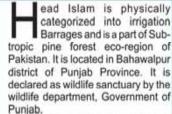










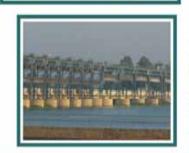


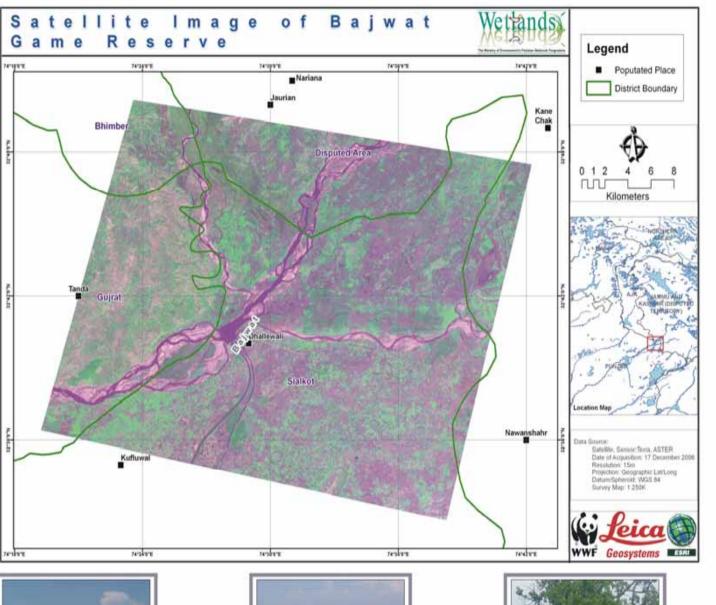
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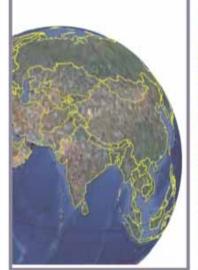








Bajwat is physically categorized into irrigation barrages and is a part of Sub-tropic pine forest eco-region of Pakistan. It is located in north side of the district Sialkot, Punjab Province, It is declared as Game reserve by the Government of Punjab

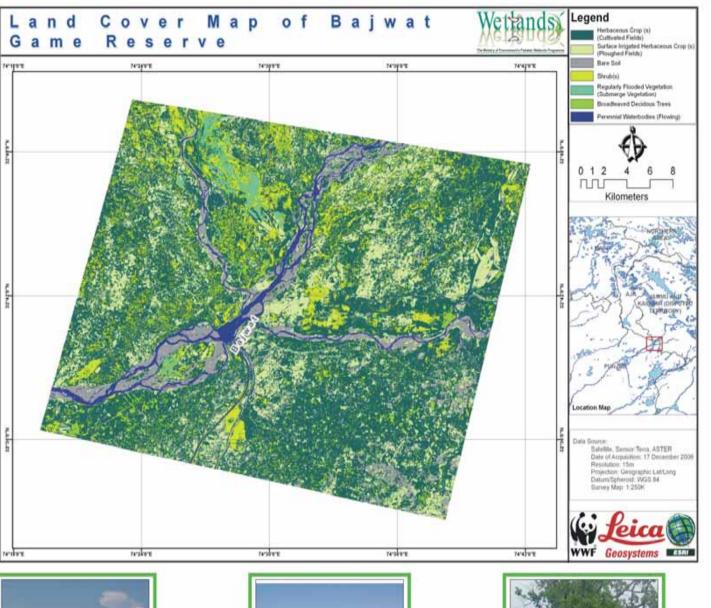




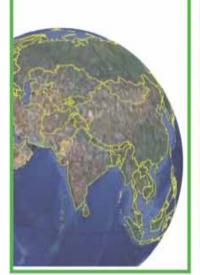








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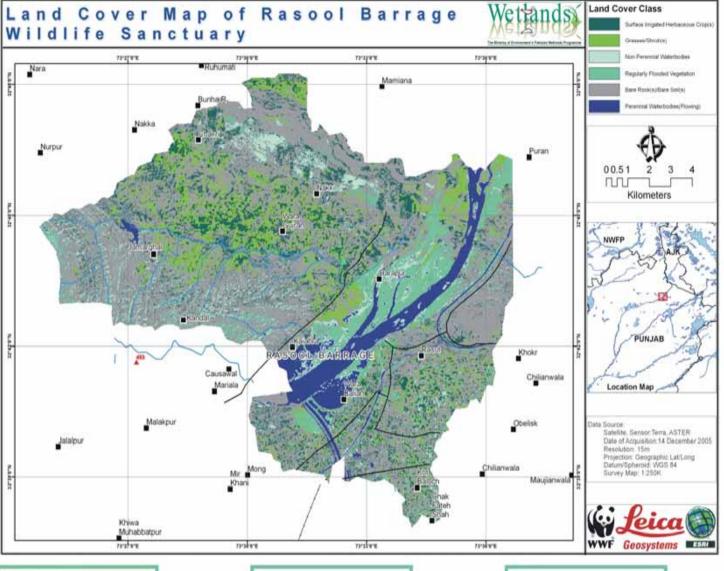


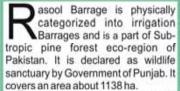












water storage reservoir with associated marshes and extensive sand banks, created by the damming of the Jhelum River for irrigation purpose. The water level fluctuates by about 2m, and the maximum depth is 6.5m.

hragmites karka, Hydrilla verticillata, Nymphaea Lotus, Potamogeton crispus, Typha angustata. Vallisneria Spiralisare the main aquatic vegetation at Rasool Barrage.subtropical semi-evergreen forest dominated by Olea ferruginea, Acacia modesta, and Dodonea viscose. Prosopis cineraria, Acacia nilotica, Capparis deciduas, Tamarix aphylla, Zizyphus mauritiana, Zizyphus nummularia, Saccharum spontaneum have been extensively planted along roads and around the agriculture fields.

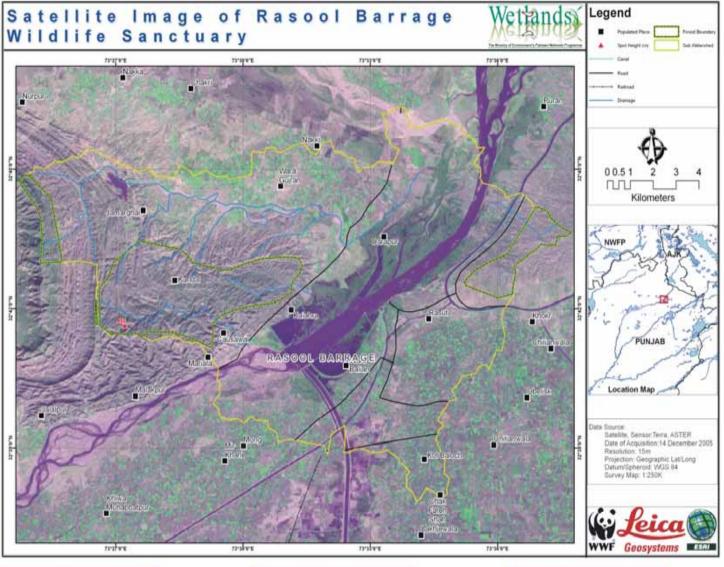


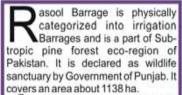












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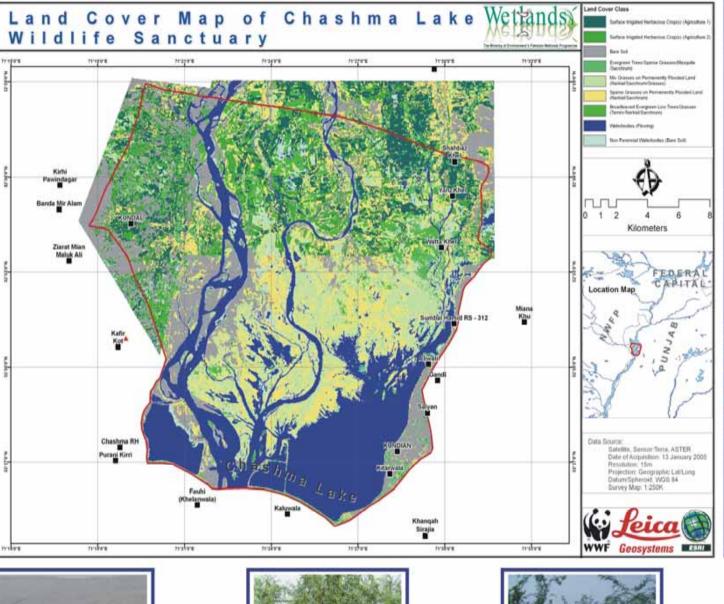






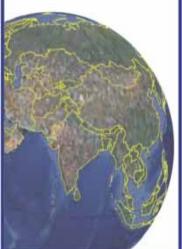






hashma Lake is physically categorized into Irrigation Barrages and is the part of tropical thorn forest eco-region of Pakistan. The Chashma Barrage is also an officially designated Wildlife Sanctuary since 1974 by the provincial wildlife department of government of the Punjab. The total area of Chashma Barrage Ramsar Site is approx. 341 Km.2

The site comprises a large barrage, a water storage reservoir and a series of embankments which divide the reservoir into five shallow lakes at low water levels. The climate of the area is dry-subtropical and the natural vegetation is a mixture of subtropical semi-evergreen scrub and tropical thorn forest.

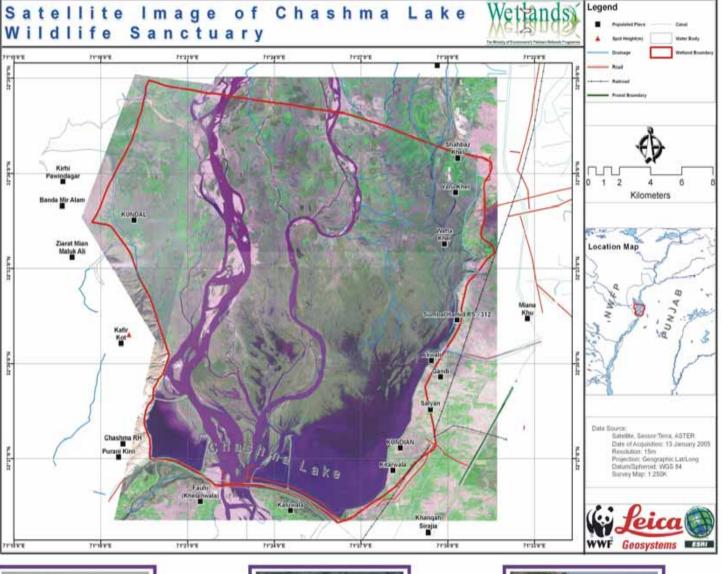












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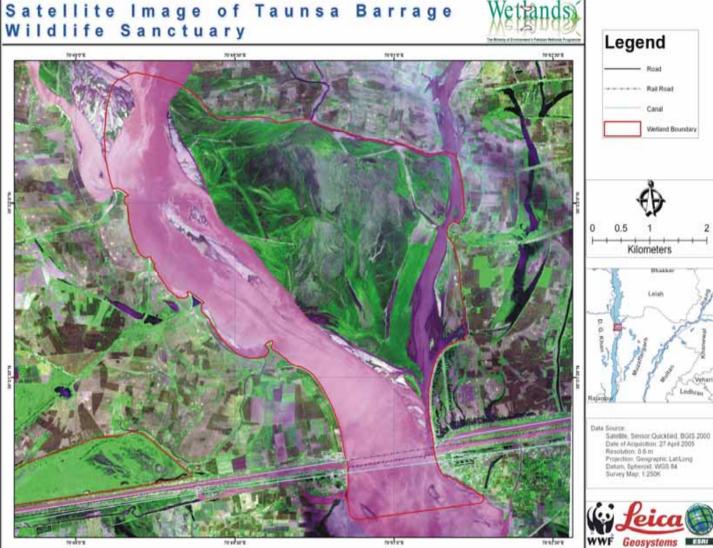


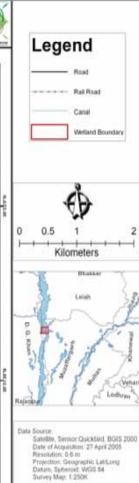












Taunsa Barrage is physically categorized into Irrigation Barrages and is a part of tropical thorn forest eco-region of Pakistan. Taunsa Barrage was constructed in 1959 on River Indus, 18- miles downstream of Chashma Barrage in district Muzaffargarh. It feeds the DG Khan and Muzaffergarh canals. Pond area above Taunsa barrage was declared as wildlife sanctuary in 1972 under Punjab Wildlife Act 1974. It is also one of the 19 Ramsar wetland sites in Pakistan.

Taunsa Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) was declared under the notification No. SOFT (EXT) XII-8/72 dated: 21-4-98 declaring 16,225-7-18 acres of land as protected area. Afterwards this notification was amended under the notification No. SOF (WL) 12-1/02-II dated: 24-03-99 and 9225 Acres of land were no more part of TWS; this land was given to local people on lease for 99 years. Thus presently TWS covers 7,000 acres

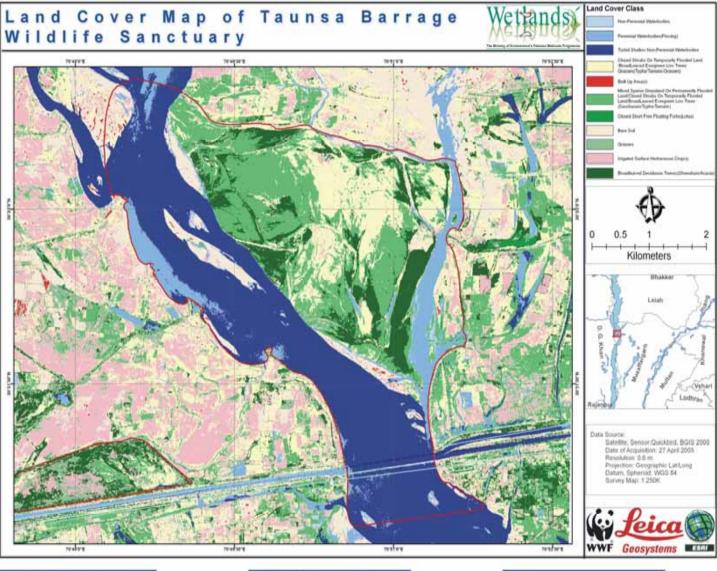












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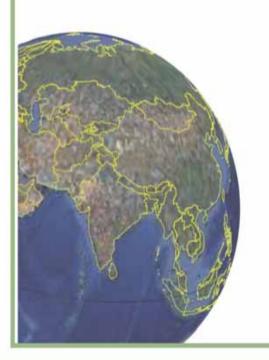


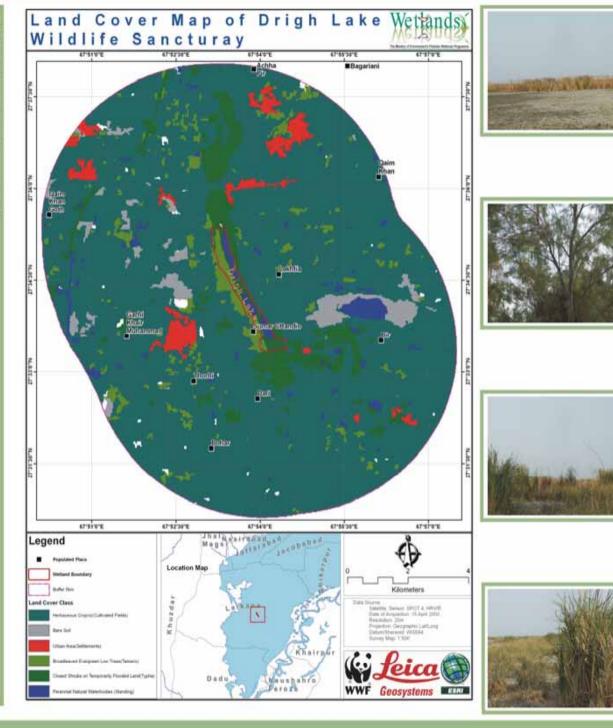


righ Lake is physically categorized into rice paddies and is a part of tropical thorn forest eco region of Pakistan. It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1972 under notification No. 26(2) SWL&FT/72, dated 21st October, 1972. It covers an area about 450 hectares. Drigh Lake is situated on the silts soils of the Indus flood Plain. Drigh lake lies in shallow depression.

t is partially covered with Typha. Main vegetation at Drigh lake includes Tamarix dioloa, Nymphaea Lotus, Typha angustata, Hydrilla verticillata, Maritimus, Phragmites karka, Potamogeton pectinatus, Najas minor and Scirpus Littoralis are mainly present at Drigh lake.

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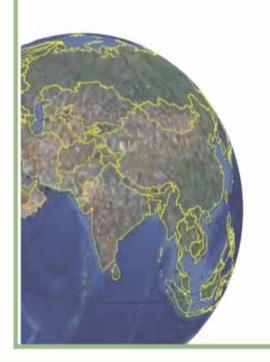


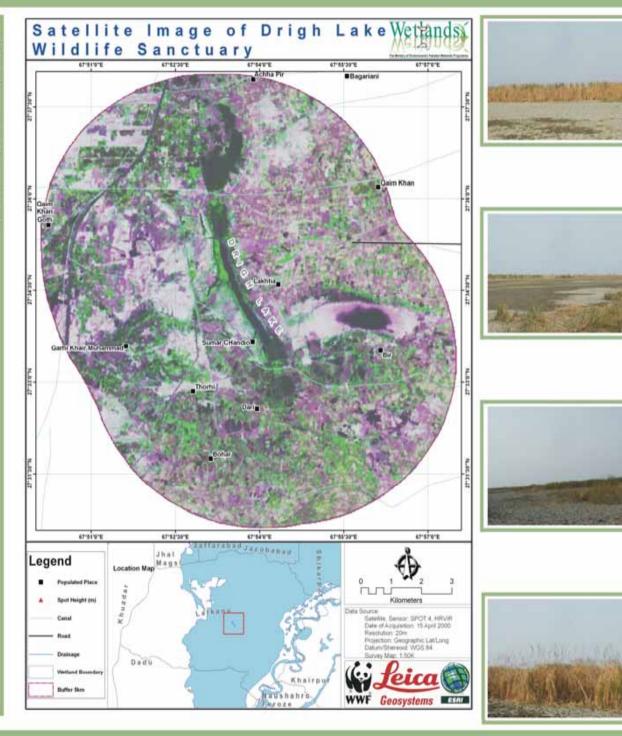


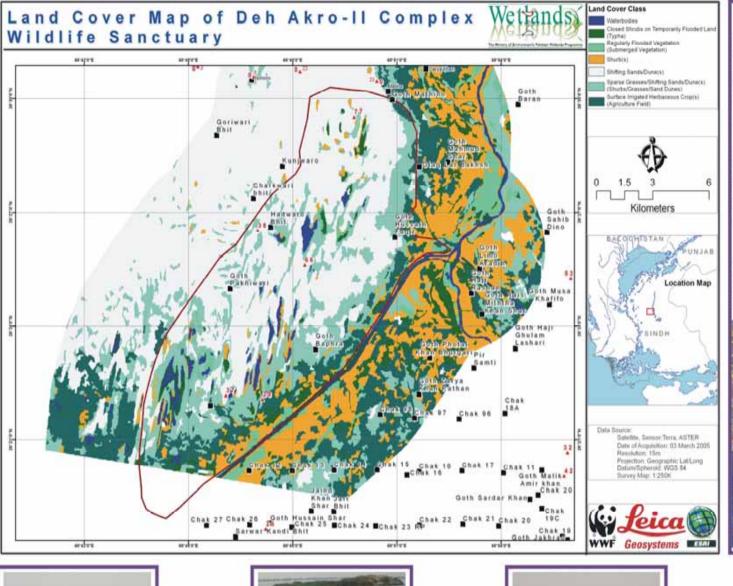
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eh Akro-II complex is physically categorized into oxbow lakes and is a part of tropical thom forest eco-region of Pakistan. It is declared as wildlife sanctuary by the Government of Sindh under notification No.SOI(IMP)S&GAD/WL/4-88 dated 11 May 1988, with having an area 20,243 hectare.

eh Akro-II complex is typically stable sand desert covered with sand dunes extended in the east-west direction. Sand dunes vary in height from 5 to 10 m. There are typical flat-bottomed valleys between the sand dunes, which contain perennial lakes. There are about 36 lakes. Five lakes are sweat and 31 lakes are brackish.

Prosopis cinerariea, Prosopis juliflora, Acacia jacquementii, Acacia jacquementii, Acacia jacquementii, Acacia nilotica, Aerva javanica, Salvadora oleoides, Capparis decidua, Cassia italica, Calligonium polygonoides, Aristibla funiculata, Enpharibia prostrata, Saccharum spontaneum, Saccharum benealensis, Tamarix aphylla, Zizyphus numularia, Alhagi maurorum, Indigofora nochaletterii, phyla nodiflora, Typtia omingensis, Typha elephantica, Achygranties, aspera, Calotropis procera Tamanx Indica are main vegetation at Deh Akro-II complex.

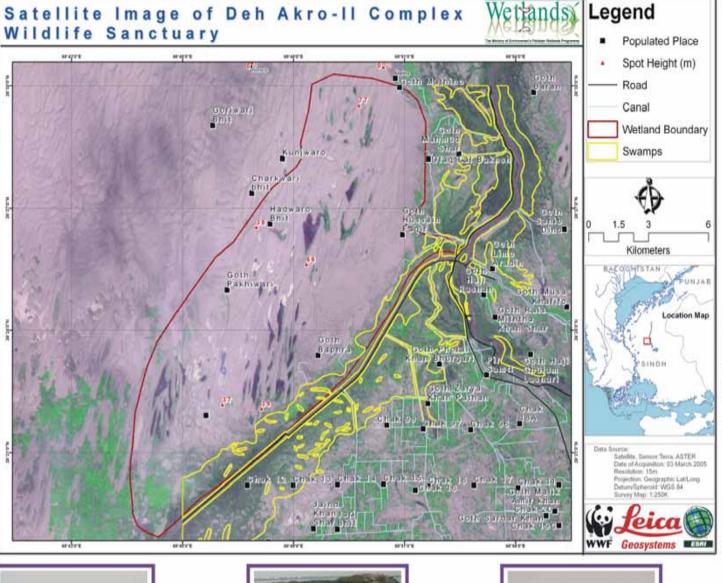
idilite mainly includes Asiatic Jacket, Desert Fox, Jungle Cat, Desert Haro, Desert Heogenog, Wild Boar, Crested Poron Pine. Marah Crocodile, Monitor Lizard, Indian Cobra, Sand Boa Marbled Teal, Lesser Whistling Teal, Cotton Ieal, Common Teal, Pintall, Mallard, shoveller, Common Pochard, Darter, Indian Shag, Little Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Black Ibis, White Spoonbill, Black Partridge











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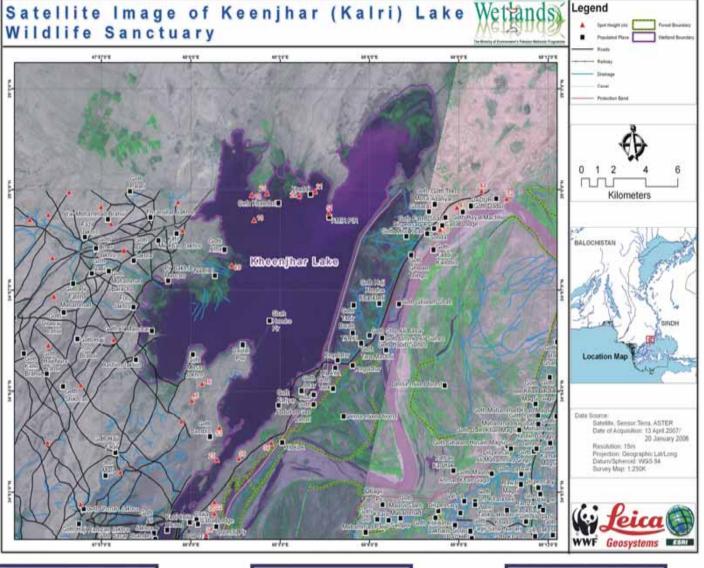
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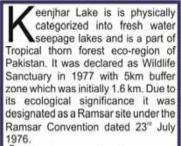












t occupies approximately an area of 14,000ha with 24km length, 6km width, 6m depth and 0.58 million acre water storage capacity.

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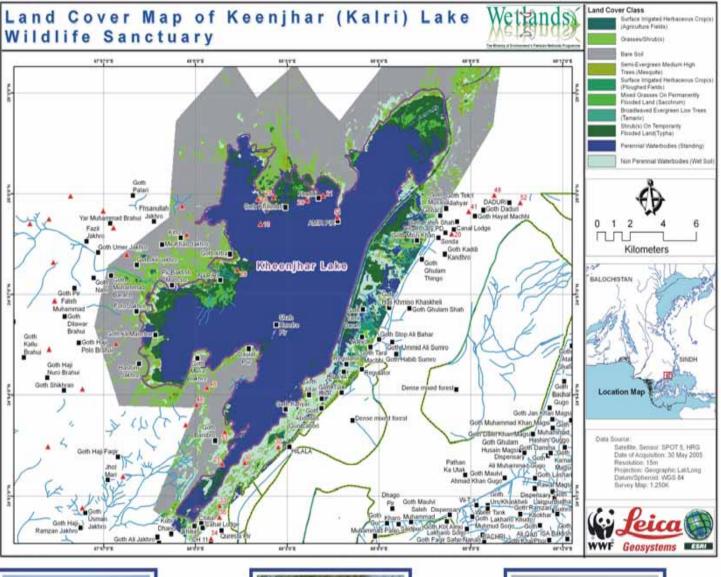








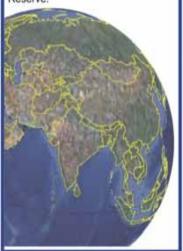




eenjhar Lake is is physically categorized into fresh water seepage lakes and is a part of Tropical thorn forest eco-region of Pakistan. It was declared as Wildlife Sanctuary in 1977 with 5km buffer zone which was initially 1.6 km. Due to its ecological significance it was designated as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention dated 23" July 1976

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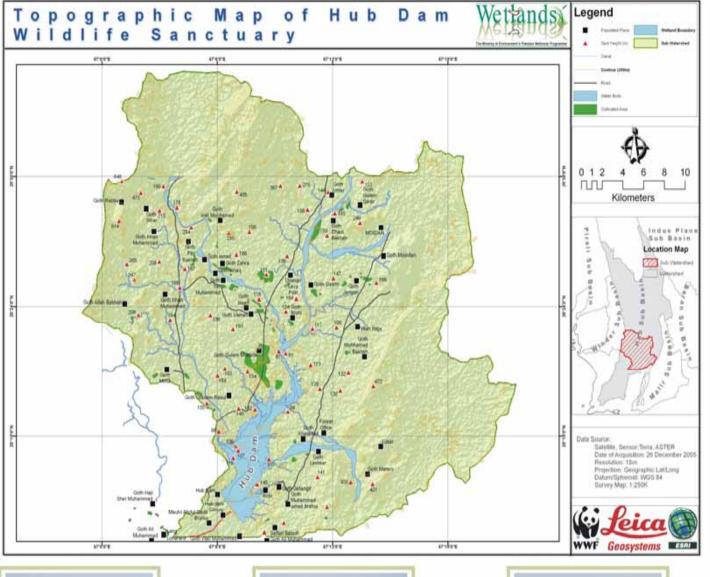


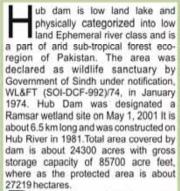












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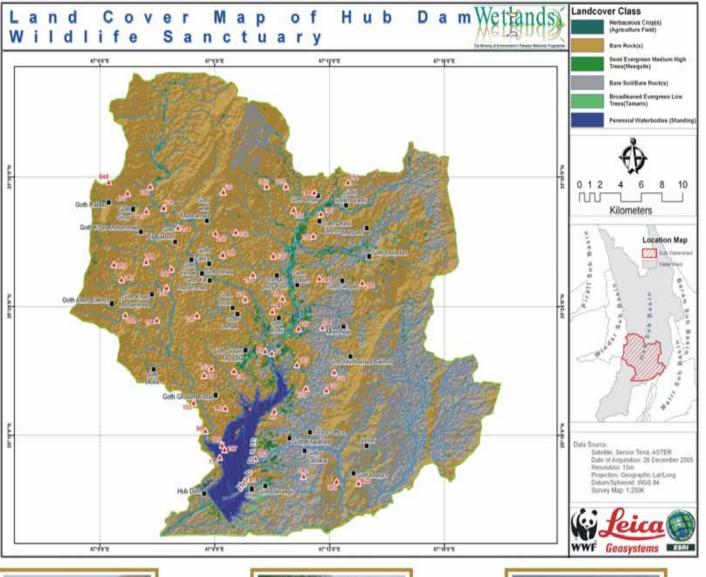






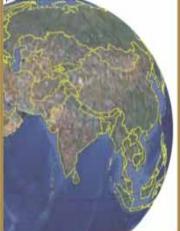






ub dam is low land lake and physically categorized into low land Ephemeral river class and is a part of arid sub-tropical forest ecoregion of Pakistan. The area was declared as wildlife sanctuary by Government of Sindh under notification, WL&FT (SOI-DCF-992)/74, in January 1974. Hub Dam was designated a Ramsar wetland site on May 1, 2001 It is about 6.5 km long and was constructed on Hub River in 1981. Total area covered by dam is about 24300 acres with gross storage capacity of 85700 acre feet, where as the protected area is about 27219 hectares.

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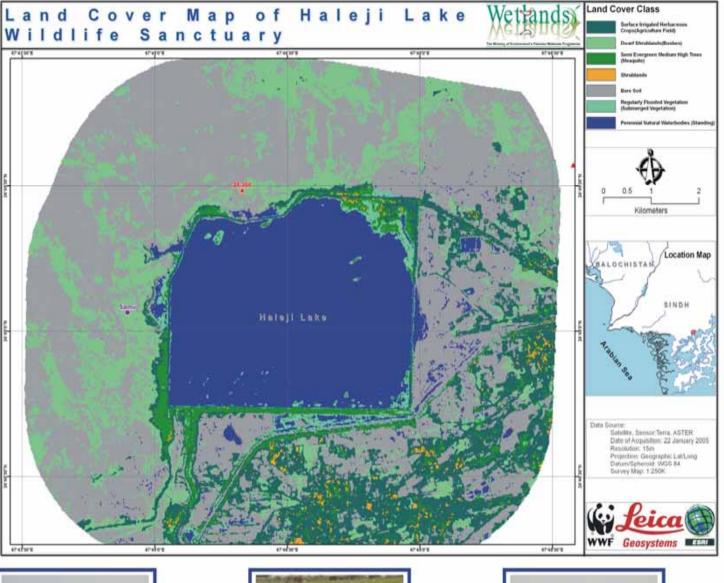












aleji lake is a low land lake and physically categorized into low land Ephemeral river class. It is also the part of tropical thorn forest ecoregion of Pakistan. Haleji Lake has been declared as Wildlife Sanctuary and later on as a Ramsar wetland site in 1977. A complete perimeter of the lake is about 12 miles. The main water reservoir covers an area of 1704 hectares and the maximum depth of the lake is 17 feet. Water level in the lake is deceasing due to insufficient supply of water from t keenjhar lake. There are three islands in the lake.

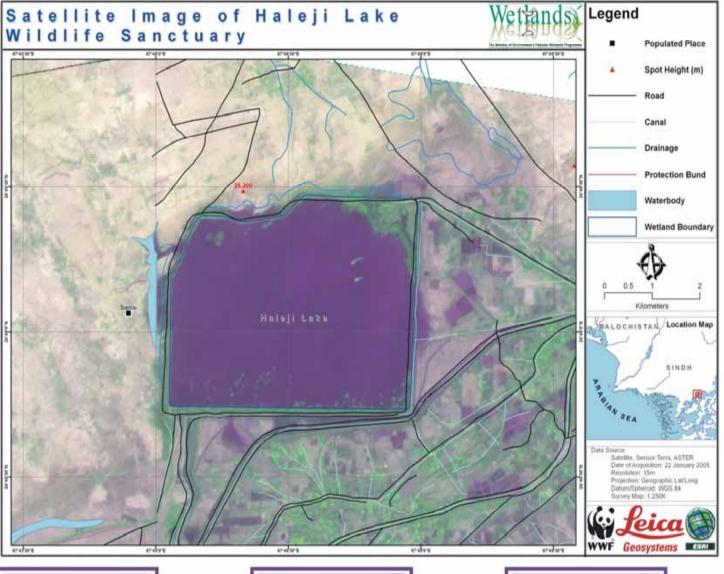
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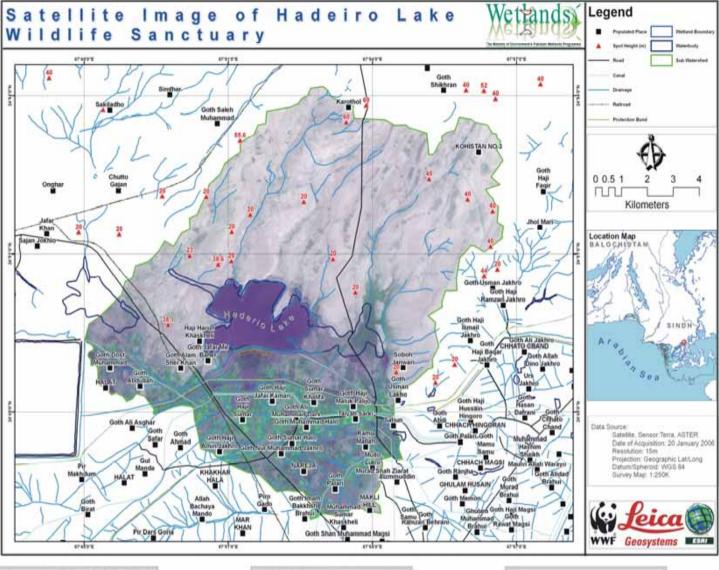
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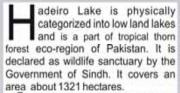












natural brackish lake present between Kheenjhar Lake and Haleiji Lake. The maximum depth of the lake is about 1.7 m. The lake is fed by the SLM drain which links up with the Jam branch canal, and several seasonal streams entering on the north side of the lake. There is no outlet of the lake.

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Spotbill Duck, Spoonbill, Common Crane, Curlew, Great Black-head, Black headed Gull, White petican, Houbara Bustard, Cinerous Vulture.



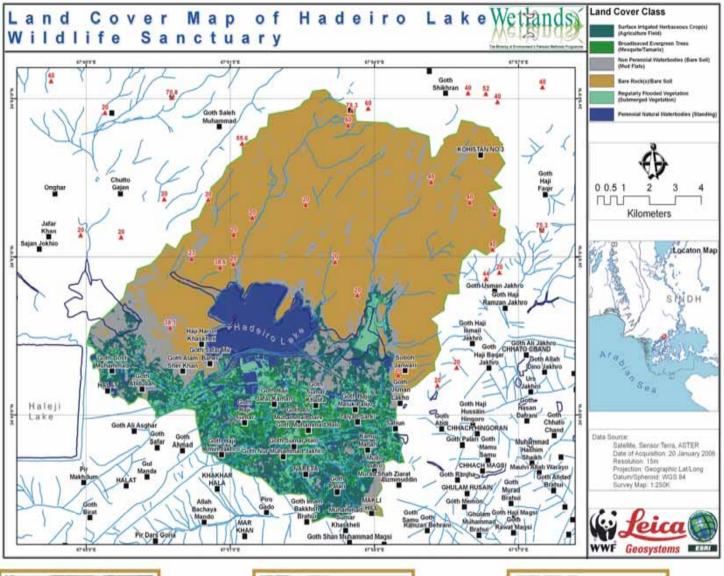


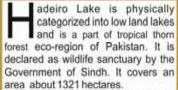












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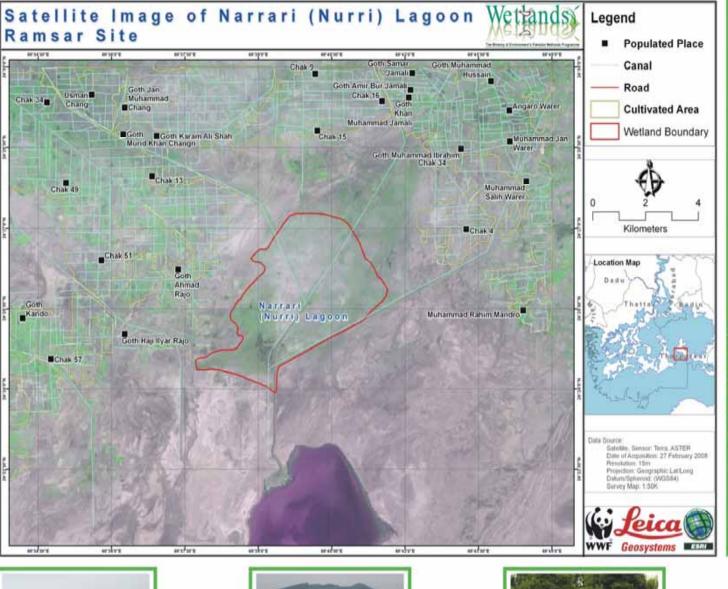














hragmitus, Temarix, acacia sanigal, Sueda, Prosopis are mainly found in the lagoon area.

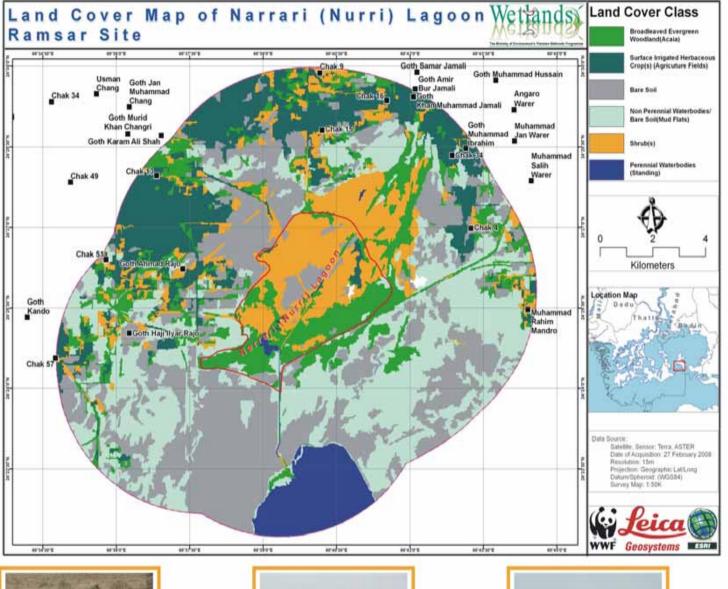






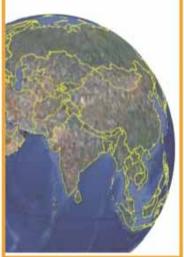






arrari (Nurri) lagoon is physically categorized into Estuaries and Bays without Mangroves and is a part of tropical thorn forest eco-region of Pakistan. Narrari (Nurri) lagoon declared as a Ramsar wetland site on April 24th, 2001. Narrari (Nurri) Lagoon is present in coastal area of Sindh. Two drains are passing through the Narrari (Nurri) lagoon directly fall into the sea. These drains contain brackish water discharged from sugar mills situated in Badin.

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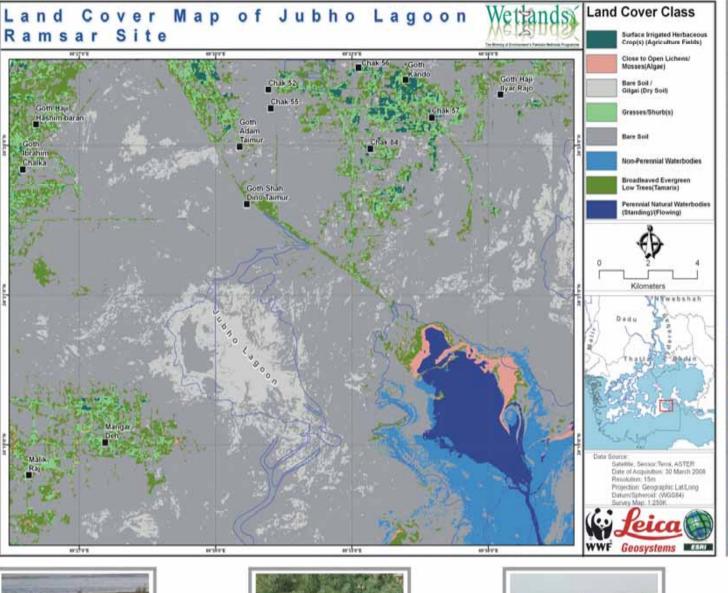












ubho Lagoon is physically categorized into Estuaries and Bays without Mangroves and is a part of tropical thorn forest eco-region of Pakistan. It is declared as Ramsar wetland of international importance dated April24, 2001. it covers an area about 706 hectare.

he shallow wetlands provide food and shelter for the migratory water birds. The fishes and crustaceans are also part of it. Few salt tolerant plants and aquatic plants are also found in wetland.

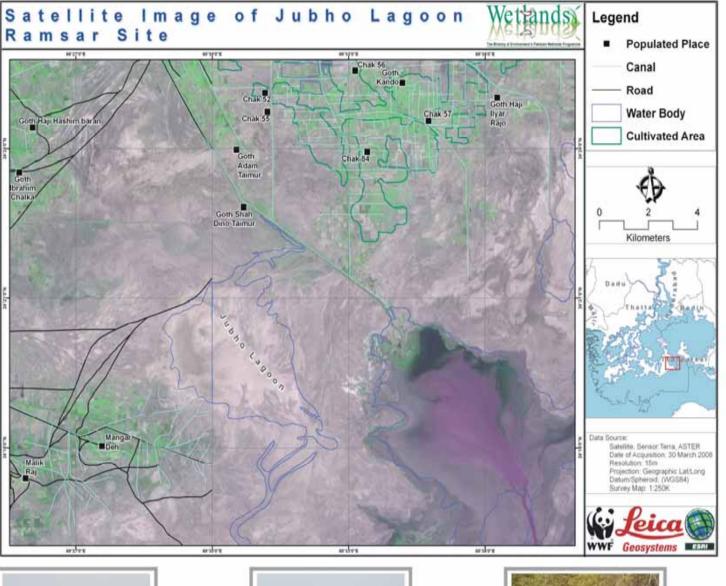












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