

Newsletter Wet Notes

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The quarterly newsletter of the Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP) is published to inform donors, scientists, academics, researchers, environmentalists and environmentally concerned individuals of all qualifications and ages about the Programme, its projects and upcoming events while giving insights and updates on research, education and habitat management activities. The PWP's objective is to conserve the globally important wetlands biodiversity in Pakistan while alleviating poverty. It is a progressive initiative of the Federal Ministry of Environment and is being implemented by the World Wide Fund for Nature, Pakistan (WWF-P). It is funded by a consortium of national and international donors including, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Embassy of Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN) and WWF Global Network.

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Programme updates

» Sindh blind dolphins found dead!

More than six rare blind dolphins of the Indus River were found dead at the surroundings of Sukkur. The death of four Sindh dolphins was confirmed through photographs and detailed reports by the program officials.



» Solar Equipment installed for flood affected

Solar equipment including solar geysers, solar lanterns and household modules were installed in the homes of the deserving flood affected people of Sukkur area. Solar street lights were also installed in the flood affected localities.

The list of the deserving people for receiving solar energy support was developed and approved by the PWL head office.

» Alarming Typha growth at Lungh Lake!

Sindh Wildlife Department shared problem of intensive growth of Typha at Lungh Lake with Pakistan Wetlands Program. The situation was assessed by the program officials during the two visits to the lake. A case study on the issue was

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prepared and shared with the officials of PWP and SWD for further actions. A draft of project proposal is ready for submission to WWF Small Grants Program, requesting support for management and protection of Lungh lake.

» Indus Dolphin Survey 2011

As part of the Indus Dolphin Survey 2011, the first section of survey initiated from Chashma on March 30th was completed on April 7th. The survey for Ghazighat to Guddu section was not approved due to security situation. Guddu to Sukkur section survey conducted through mutual collaboration of PWP and Sindh Wildlife Department, began on April 16th and completed on April 20th at Sukkur Barrage. The survey data entry was completed by April 29th and later initial analysis was carried out at GIS lab, Islamabad. A brief presentation on survey proceedings was delivered at Islamabad PWP head office. Copies of hard data sheets and soft data have been delivered to WWF-IRDPC for compilation of reports and final results.

Initial planning meetings for survey were conducted at Lahore and

Islamabad. The boats for the survey team arranged in Kot Addu area were sent to Chashma. Coordination and contacts were developed at Chashma, Taunsa, Ghazighat, Jampur, and Rajanpur area before survey.

» Locals trained on Solar lights installation



World Wildlife Fund's Pakistan Wetland Programme (PWP) as the implementing partner of the ILO project, Promoting Gender Equality for Decent Employment (GE4DE), funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), installed various solar and wind hybrid systems in 10 rural communities of Gwadar, on request of the local communities. Need was felt to train community members in maintenance and installation of the installed alternate energy systems. The community members were

trained to assemble the solar torch, emergency lights, loop telephone/mobile charger, solar fan and Hybrid UPS with solar energy, during a training delivered from April 9th -14th, by a Master Trainer on solar and alternate energy sources.

The training comprising the theoretical as well as practical demonstration of solar energy mainly covered the maintenance and installation of solar energy and also enhanced the marketing skills of participants. The learning through training should be replicated in nearby villages for the promotion of alternate energy utilization in rural areas. This environment friendly intervention will also support in helping resolve the power shortage crises.

» Wind turbine, solar system installed in Jiwani information centre

Pakistan wetlands program, MCWC site office, successfully installed a wind turbine with hybrid solar system at Jiwani Wetlands information centre, Jiwani. The Hybrid system at the information centre aims to educate the visitors and other residents on alternate sources of energy in the area. This



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1,000 watt wind turbine comprises two plates of solar panels, 120 Watt each. The total power is 1,240 Watt for JWIC centre, fulfilling the requirement of the centre.

Jiwan wetlands information and resource centre is one of the most unique information centre in the area where researchers, students, local and national visitors come to get information about Jiwan and its biodiversity. The information centre is operational for more than ten year in the area for spreading knowledge to common people. Introduction of alternate energy for the centre is a step to green energy in such remote area.

» **Satellite transmitter mounted on Marine turtle**

Pakistan Wetlands programme, MCWC site office, Gwader, installed a satellite transmitter on a marine turtle at Daran village, through the professional support of PWP marine biologists.

Daran conservation Society, Daran and community turtle watchers also helped the PWP staff in catching the turtle while it released its eggs into the nest. The 15 satellite transmitters (PWP-15) have been installed on turtles to monitor the daily movement of marine turtles and their migration from Balochistan coast to other country.

Satellite transmission results revealed very intriguing findings that turtles travel from Balochistan coast to Iranian coast and this kind of information indicates the migration of marine turtle depends on the pattern of wind. The winds blow from south west monsoon winds from Iranian side to Pakistani coast. The marine turtles being not very active swimmers depend on the mercy of wind and water current pressures during their movements. The data of mounted satellite transmitters is available on PWP official websites for general public. The data of all transmitters with digital maps is uploaded in official websites and a scientific paper was also developed on the success stories of marine turtle conservation at Balochistan coast.

» **Two women CBOs registered as**

Conservation Committees

MCWC site team successfully registered two women VWCCs of Surbandar and Gwader as Conservation based Community Based Organizations (CBOs) under Government Social Welfare Act 1961. Program also organized field training for their capacity building initiatives like record keeping, meetings, running small demonstration and developing

small scale project proposals.

The local community involvement is a pre-requisite for conservation of Wetlands. Site Social Mobilization is crucial in sensitizing the community on Wetlands and biodiversity. Conservation management among the Wetlands user groups at MCWC site is being achieved through an institutional framework for co-operative planning affected at Village level through formation of VWCC. The Social Mobilization teams need capacity building.

PWP site team is conducting social mobilization and institutional development sessions for these VWCCs. Another factor for recognition and association of these VWCCs with conservation is to register these organizations as Village level Conservation Organization. During the last few months social organization team organized three more communities to enable them to plan, implement and manage their own developmental and conservational activities for sustainable program achievements.

To ensure sustainability of the programme and handing over project activities to VWCCs, capacity building of existing VWCCs was accomplished through community meetings and brainstorming sessions.



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Public events



» Students Celebrate Migratory Bird Day at Lungh Lake

The bird lovers of Sukkur and Kot Adu, celebrated World Migratory Bird Day at Central Indus Wetlands Complex. About 50 students and teachers from local APWA schools visited Lungh Lake near Larkana during an exposure visit organised by Sind Wildlife and WWF-IRDPC on Migratory Bird Day. The importance of migratory birds was shared with the participants at the lake bird centre.

» World Environment Day Celebrations

"Forest: Nature at Your Service" - was the theme of The World Environment Day 2011 (WED), celebrated worldwide on June 5. The theme emphasized the intrinsic link between quality of life and health of forests ecosystems strives for sustainable forest conservation practices, and also supports this year's UN international year of Forests.

Pakistan Wetlands Programme WWF celebrated the World Environment Day by conducting seminars, walks and rallies, competitions, games and other activities to popularize the notion of environmental degradation and increase debate in the society about, with a view of diverting collective attention towards finding of strategies and resources for saving the planet under immense

stress due to depletion of resources, pollution of air and water and the resulting change in global temperature, having the potential to wreak havoc with human settlements and populations, a process also known as "Climate Change".

» WED: Drawing campaign, nature walk at Koramber valley

WWF Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP), Northern Alpine Wetlands Complex conducted an awareness raising drawing campaign and nature walk on WED, for school students at Borth village of Koramber valley. More than 100 school teachers, students, community members and representatives of relevant government departments

participated in the event, which provided an insight into the biodiversity of the proposed Koramber national park, with special attention to natural forest resources.

WED was also celebrated at Khabbeki Lake, Salt Range Wetlands Complex

» Soon Valley Teachers discuss environment on WED



More than 100 male and female teachers from elementary and high schools of Soon valley actively participated in WED celebration event organized by PWP in collaboration with SVDP at Government High School Naushehra. Awareness on environmental and natural resources of the area and concept and purpose of school Nature Clubs was inculcated during participatory and group work

» World Oceans Day 2011: "Youth: the Next Wave for Change"

Children clean beach, plant mangroves on WOD

"Youth: the Next Wave for Change"



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is the theme of World Oceans Day 2011. World Oceans Day is celebrated worldwide every year on June 8th.

PWP-MCWC site office, Gwader celebrated the World Oceans Day 2011(WOD), with young school children, the future guardians of the wetlands resources, on June 8th, 2011. The beach cleaning and mangrove plantation during the event developed awareness and delivered practical lessons on the conservation and importance of forests and nature.

» Competitions, walks on International Biodiversity Day

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme organized competitions among students, advocacy walks and campaigns on the importance and conservation of biodiversity. The program also distributed awareness material across Pakistan, during International Biodiversity Day, May 22nd celebrations at SRWC, MCWC and other site offices throughout Pakistan.

May 22nd is declared as an International Day for Biodiversity Diversity (IDB) by the United Nation to increase understanding and awareness about biodiversity issues. The United Nations announced 2011 as the International Year of Biodiversity.

» Training workshop on Seafood Cooking

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme-Gwader organized a Training workshop on Seafood Cooking at



Trainings

Gwader from April 28th - 4th May 2011. The training was initiated with the collaboration ILO-Pakistan and Pakistan Wetlands Programme –WWF Pakistan. While the COTHM Institute of Culinary and Management provided technical expertise. The Master Trainer Chef Mansoor from delivered the training. The training aimed ensuring the involvement of men and women in Hospitality and Eco-tourism. PWP-Gwader office team facilitate for training arrangement and logistics.

» Women observe NRM best practices

Pakistan wetlands programme Makran Coastal Wetlands Complex (MCWC) management team site office, Gwader, organized an exposure visit of selected women from various WVCCs to NRM best practices at Zarinbugg Dasht and Palleri areas. About twenty selected Women from Various communities from Gwader, Surbandar, Pishukan and Palleri participated in the visit and observed the best practices, including bio gas project established with the support of local communities. The exposure visit's aim was to show the best natural resource management practices and community participation for the sustainable management of their natural resources.

The community members of Chatty and Zarinbug Dasht briefed participants about their active participation and ownerships.

Intern corner

My name is Amina Khalid, student of Fatima Jinnah Women University. I am doing bachelors in Environmental Sciences. As per requirement of the degree i had to work in any organization related to my field for month tenure. I chose Pakistan Wetlands Programme WWF for my internship. I have been assigned with the task to give a survey report on Socio-economic impacts of Uchchali Complex. It contains three wetlands which are included in the list of Ramsar convention. I had to make a questionnaire for that purpose. I made alterations many times as the one I made had direct and technical questions, I didn't know about indirect questions to be asked from a lay man. Staff of PWP helped me in giving professional stroke to the questionnaire. My supervisor Mr. Najam helped me in every step and gave me tips about professional work. Mr. Nasir our Communication Coordinator also supported me in this regard. PWP staff and environment is helpful, friendly, productive and comfortable. The best thing in my internship is the survey. It is the most interesting part of my internship. Usually in universities such type of trips are not arranged and organizations don't offer survey trips to their interns, they don't give them importance in that respect but PWP gave respect to my ideas, corrected me at every step. It was difficult to adjust in the early days as I was new but the attitude of the staff was so friendly that it didn't take long for me to adjust.

Crux of the above paragraph is I loved to be a part of PWP though it is for two months but my experience of working here is really good.

Amina Khalid,
Intern, Student BSc

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The Pakistan Wetlands Programme's Site Offices

Salt Range Wetlands Complex
Conservation & Information Center,
Khabbeki
Soon Valley, District Khushab.
Tel: 0454 209100

Central Indus Wetlands Complex *
Nizami House # 02, Bhukki Road
near KAPCO Power Plant Kot Adu,
District Muzaffar Garh.
Tel: 06622 39553

Central Indus Wetlands Complex
Indus River Dolphin Conservation Centre
Lab E Mehran, Near Madrissa
Faiz Ul Uloom, Bandar Road, Sukkur.
Tel: 071-5630687

Makran Coastal Wetlands Complex
Bungalow # M-74 Phase-1,
New Town Housing Project,
Gwadar.
Tel: 086 4211500

Northern Alpine Wetlands Complex
NLI Colony, Near Imamia Eid Gah,
Shahrae Quaid-e-Azam,
Jutail, Gilgit.
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