

Newsletter
Wet Notes

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February 2009

Wetlands

The Ministry of Environment's Pakistan Wetlands Programme

Wetlands
Fiesta

2 February
World Wetlands Day

UPSTREAM
DOWNSTREAM

Wetlands CONN_{ECT} us all

Production Staff:

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The monthly 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 Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE), WWF Global Network and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF).



Opening ceremony of Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme and YOU: A Fiesta of Connections !

You can prevent water pollution

You can promote wetlands conservation

When **YOU** protect wetlands then you preserve **Up Stream----Down Stream** integrity. Wetlands connect us all and that was the theme for the World Wetlands Day 2009 which is entitled **Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands Connect Us All**, designed around the role that our wetlands play in their surrounding environments and hosted **Wetlands Fiesta** Events from February 2nd to 15th 2009. All the fiesta activities were dedicated to the **National Year of Environment 2009** as declared by the Ministry of Environment Government of Pakistan.

World Wetlands Fiesta 2009

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme hosted a wide array of activities from February 2nd to 15th 2009 to commemorate the World Wetlands Day marking the date of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on February, 2nd 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2009 was, **Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all**, designed around the theme: "The role our

wetlands play in their surrounding environments around the world." Moreover, all the celebrations were dedicated to Pakistan's National Year of Environment 2009 as declared by the Ministry of Environment.

Wetlands, though seemingly innocuous, are inextricably linked not only to the delicate ecosystem but also provide subsistence to the indigent and contribute to the overall health of the

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MoE representatives at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

economy. The water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat all have something to do with wetlands, water conservation and need our help in preventing water pollution in Pakistan. When we realise that everything is related to everything else then we begin to know the inter-connectivity of life and wetlands. Wetlands connect us all

The event served to stress

and reinforce the understanding that just as life and good health are connected with healthy wetlands so, too, are all members of the general public connected with policies which affect all in regards to water usage and good sustainable wetlands conservation. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme celebrated this day by organising a Wetland *Fiesta* with the objective to present activities aimed at organising colourful and educational depictions of the need to understand how wetlands connect us all.

Art, Essay, Story Telling and Snap Shot competitions were held simultaneously in Lahore, Karachi Islamabad, Gilgit, Rahim Yar Khan, Naushera, Peshawar, Kharian, Mardan, Gwadar, and Jiwani. These events provided an ideal

opportunity for participation in a positive mix of activities combining education, entertainment and promotion. In addition, they provided a multiple platform of activities for motivating young minds to demonstrate the wise-use of wetlands and, accordingly, also served to educate their families and friends. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme through these

and students along with school teachers, college and university lecturers and professors to take a proactive stance in the formulation and implementation of sound wetlands management and water conservation practices.

The message was simple:

Wetlands affect You, You affect wetlands and You have a say and stake in how this takes place. The Wetlands

Fiesta 2009 programme played a vital role in ensuring the future sustainability of environmental resources of Pakistan by bringing a positive change in the attitudes of society's young people and helped to promote a more mature, environmentally conscious generation. Under the auspices of, and designed by the Pakistan Wetlands Programme a series of events and initiatives were orchestrated to increase the public outreach potential and message bearing capabilities of participating schools, organisations, and concerned individuals.

activities and events motivated the general public,

corporate sector, government departments, media



PWP Team at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

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Two weeks Wetlands Fiesta Inauguration

To this end, more than 4,000 students, teachers, parents, government and private sector representatives, the media and members of the general public witnessed the inauguration of the two weeks nation-wide Wetlands Fiesta 2009 celebrations by the Federal Minister for Environment, Hameedullah Jan Afridi on February 2nd 2009 at CDA Rawal Lake view Park.

The Wetlands Fiesta inauguration featured an on-the-spot Wetlands Connect Us All Arts Competition, Essay Competition, Story Telling Competition, Snap Shot at Rawal Park Competitions with more than 3,800 students and others participating.



Marriyum at Fiesta inauguration 2009.

Because the celebrations of the Wetlands Fiesta 2009 were dedicated to the National Year of Environment 2009 as declared by the Ministry of Environment, an array of government and diplomatic personages were present at this event. The Federal Secretary for Environment, Khushnood Akhtar Lashari, Additional Secretary Imtiaz Innayat Elahi, Conservator NCCW, Umeed Khalid, Programme Officer, Environment, UNDP,



Honourable Federal Minister, Inaugural address. Abdul Qadir Rafiq and representatives of CDA were the special guests at the event.

Media Coverage and Wetlands Media Ambassador Award 2009

To increase its immediate public outreach, and to convey the message of wetlands conservation via a 'most direct' launching platform the PWP took



Media coverage at Fiesta Inauguration 2009.

put a one page World Wetlands Day 2009 supplement on February 2nd, 2009 in The News and Nawa-e-Waqt nation-wide as part of their mass media outreach. Special Messages by the Honourable President, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, Honourable Prime Minister, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Honourable Federal Minister for Environment, Mr. Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi, Federal Secretary for Environment, Mr. Khushnood Akhtar Lashari were published in the supplement explaining the importance of conserving this unique and threatened ecosystem of our country. Indication of the success and

Impact that the supplement had could be measured by the PWP receiving thousands of requests from all over Pakistan for the free turtle posters which were offered in the supplement.

Meanwhile, this year as part of its media coverage the Pakistan Wetlands Programme held a Wetlands Fiesta News Reporting Contest for maximum coverage in radio, TV, and newspapers. The winners of this event were PTV, FM 89 and Midas and they were awarded with the Grand Award, and were also acknowledged worldwide through the official website of the Pakistan Wetlands Programme and its monthly newsletter.

Other participating TV, radio and newspapers included INDUS TV, ARY One, GEO TV, Express TV, Dawn TV, Waqt TV, AAJ TV, Radio Pakistan, FM

100, FM 98, FM 101, and the BBC. Air time was provided free of cost and contributed to the success of the Wetlands Fiesta 2009. The print media included The News, Dawn, The Nation, Jang, Nawa -e-Waqt, Express, Khabrein, Ausaf, Waqt and many more reported on the pre and post activities of the Wetlands Fiesta 2009. The active and meaningfully extensive coverage helped the PWP to highlight the importance of wetlands conservation.

While the presence of Government of Pakistan officials, foreign donor agencies, participating private sector initiatives and individuals along with the media which provided exemplary means of conveying the message, it

Upstream – Downstream

Wetlands Connect Us All

2nd February
World Wetlands 2009



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
Government of Pakistan

The Ministry of Environment's Pakistan Wetlands Programme

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Asif Ali Zardari

President
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan has demonstrated its consistent commitment to the cause of global environmental conservation by entering into a range of

multilateral environmental agreements. Several of these, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Convention on Migratory Species and the World Heritage Convention deal broadly with the conservation of biodiversity. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, on the other hand, focuses specifically on the protection of freshwater wetlands such as Alpine and lowland lakes, streams and rivers, swamps, marshes, mangroves and other marine wetlands and all the associated life forms that these water bodies support. Pakistan has been a signatory to the Ramsar Convention since 1976 and has actively contributed to the international endeavour to conserve wetlands for more than three decades. As many as 18 of our country's wetlands have been recognised by the Ramsar Secretariat as being of global importance and a further five are being evaluated currently for Ramsar recognition. This is a record of which Pakistan can be justly proud as we celebrate World Wetlands Day 2009 and, in so doing, reaffirm our commitment to the conservation of wetlands in the community of nations.



Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani

Prime Minister
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan's boundaries embrace a surprisingly rich array of natural wetlands that extend from the highlands in the North to the coast of the Arabian Sea.

This God-given bounty of water has served our people well in the past but, in recent decades, the quality and quantity of our wetlands have begun to diminish. The decline is partially attributable to changes in the global climate but is due, also, to unsustainable and improper use by our own people. This has led to the degradation of catchment areas, over-extraction of riverine and underground water and increasing pollution of freshwater, in particular. The Government of Pakistan realises that our people will have to bear great loss for such unsustainable use, increasing salinity with the accompanying loss of productive arable land, dwindling availability of water for irrigation, displacement of communities from drought-stricken areas and the failure of agricultural crops point to the unsustainable utilisation of water. The behavioural and technical measures that are necessary to counteract the threats to our water supplies are well within our reach. What is needed, as we celebrate World Wetlands Day, is a firm recommitment from our people to conserve the water resources that we have been blessed with.



Naveed Ullah Jan Afridi

Federal Minister for Environment
Government of Pakistan

The past three-and-a-half years of intensive fieldwork by the Ministry of Environment's Pakistan Wetlands Programme have shed considerably light on

the contribution that our wetlands make to the maintenance of essential ecological life-support systems in the country. Wetlands perform these functions in various ways: some maintain and improve water quality while others regulate flows to reduce flooding and control the discharge of water from rain-fed catchment areas to augment low summer stream flows. Some also recharge vital groundwater supplies that irrigate our crops and even provide water for some of our major cities. Both freshwater and marine wetlands function as spawning and nursery grounds for commercially important fish and invertebrates such as shrimps, prawns and lobsters that feed our nation and earn us foreign exchange through export. Wetlands also play an essential role in maintaining wildlife populations by providing key habitat for reproduction and staging areas for migratory birds. This, in turn, yields attractive recreational opportunities for city dwellers and substantial prospects for domestic and international ecotourism. As we enter the second month of Pakistan's Year of the Environment 2009, I urge the people of Pakistan to look upon our precious natural environment sympathetically and make environmental conservation a national priority.



Khushnood Akhtar Lashari

Secretary Environment
Government of Pakistan

The conservation of wetlands is an important responsibility of Pakistan's federal, provincial and local governments. But this does not mean that wetland conservation is a governmental monopoly.

Wetland preservation is essentially a crosscutting issue that requires close collaboration of a broad range of government agencies and full involvement of the private sector and communities. An essential tool for effectively orchestrating such inter-sectoral cooperation is a National Wetlands Policy that facilitates increased cooperation and synergy between stakeholders for the implementation of sustainable wetlands conservation initiatives. To be broadly effective, such a National Wetlands Policy must have a wide scope and should not be perceived to be focusing on the protection of wildlife alone. Defining, developing and implementing such a policy is a time-consuming and complex process that needs thorough consultation to overcome barriers of limited financial resources and lack of institutional capacity in the implementation process. Pakistan's National Wetlands Policy, which is a key component of the Federal Government's Pakistan Wetlands Programme, will be launched toward the end of this National Year of the Environment 2009.



What are Wetlands?

Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.

Where do wetlands exist in Pakistan?

Pakistan is blessed with more than 225 significant man-made and natural wetlands spread over approximately 10% of the country. Lakes, canals, dams and reservoirs formed as part of Pakistan's extensive Indus Basin Irrigation System are classified as man-made wetlands. Natural wetlands, whether permanent or seasonal, exist as peatlands, rivers, streams, lakes, marshes, estuaries, mudflats and inter-tidal areas. Pakistan's natural wetlands occur in the coastal, arid, semi-arid and alpine areas.

What are values and benefits of Wetlands?

- Provision of irrigation water for agriculture and for fisheries;
- Creation of vital habitat for wildlife, especially migratory waterfowl;
- Maintenance of water quality and abatement of pollution;
- Control of flood and soil erosion;
- Regulation and maintenance of both surface and underground water supplies;
- Provision of tourism, outdoor education, sport and recreation; and
- Contribution to global climate control and stability.

Threats to Wetlands of Pakistan

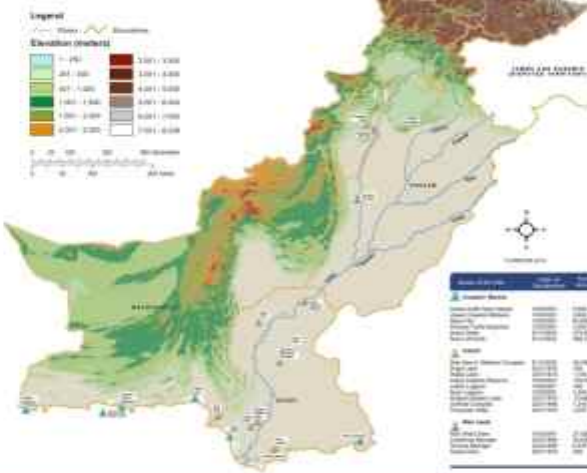
- Our wetlands are generally degrading due to a whole range of human-induced threats including the following: Conversion of wetlands and their immediate surroundings for agriculture and other purposes;
- Damming of rivers and changes in water flow regimes;
- Over-harvesting of many forms of wetlands resources;
- Felling of timber and deforestation of catchment areas;
- Organic and inorganic pollution of wetlands; and
- Policy deficiencies and inadequate management.

The Ministry of Environment's Pakistan Wetlands Programme being implemented by WWF Pakistan is a pioneering partnership among the Government of Pakistan, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme, WWF International and local communities. Inaugurated in December 2006, the PWP Team aims to create an enabling environment at national level and develop replicable model management plans for selected wetlands representative of four wetland eco-regions of the country.

Wetlands Fiesta 2009

YOU and Pakistan Wetlands Programme, A Fiesta of Connections! Please participate in Wetlands Fiesta Events 2009 from February 2nd to 15th and win prizes. Take a bit of time out from your busy schedules and listen to the radio and TV broadcasts about wetlands conservation through-out two weeks. You could even spend an afternoon at your local wetlands and lake side areas enjoying the wonders of nature and doing what you can to help prevent water pollution.

Ramsar Sites of Pakistan



You can prevent water pollution
You can promote wetlands conservation
When YOU protect wetlands then you preserve
Up Stream—Down Stream integrity

FREE POSTER

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Postcode: _____
Phone: _____

Freshwater Turtles of Pakistan



For more detail about Wetlands Fiesta competitions and events 2009 contact:

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Shahpur (Dacca)-Karnal, Jubb,
Dajli,
Pakistan
Phone: 0321-55888

UPSTREAM DOWNSTREAM

2 February
World Wetlands Day

Wetlands CONNECT us all

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was people participation, and particularly on the part of children, which was the true thrust of the Fiesta.

A colourful Fiesta of Events Succeeded in Conveying Information and Providing Fun

Careful planning on the part of the Pakistan Wetlands Programme, in consultation with the best authorities available to it in the fields of education, event planning, child psychology, wetlands science and public relations succeeded in the devising of events which would stimulate a child's imagination, encourage participation and promote public outreach and conscious raising among peers and parents alike.

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme succeeded in fulfilling 13 goals it set for itself, arising from 13 informal "Points" described in italics, which the PWP has devised as a means of conveying the message of wetlands conservation to reach as many people as creatively as possible.

Colour the Connections for Wetlands Conservation: Art Competition

Art stimulates the mind and visually

connects the child with the mental activity which in this case is how people, cultures and wetlands are connected. The Pakistan Wetlands

3,000 students participating. In Islamabad thousands of children from Government and Private Schools immersed themselves in putting their



Students busy colouring the connection for wetlands conservation.

Programme believes that through art a child can have a better cognitive understanding of the subject matter.

imagination on paper through various creative mediums.

This hands-on fun activity helped children learn about, and become aware of, not only wetlands in Pakistan but also the Importance of wetlands to human environments and cultures across Pakistan, and the world.



Art competition at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

The PWP hosted Wetlands Connect Us All Arts Competition from February 2nd – 15th 2009 in Islamabad, Lahore, Gilgit, Naushera, Peshawar, Mardan, Rahim Yar Khan, Pasni, Jiwani, and Gwadar with more than

March for Wetlands Conservation: Awareness-raising and Advocacy Walk

The mass outpouring of sentiments is often the best means of conveying the message especially when it is done by children for a worth while cause which



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Honorable Federal Minister and MoE representative marching for wetlands conservation at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

effects their future. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that groups of people including children, teachers, parents and others will show at a glance, solidarity with wetlands conservation and will get the children into the fresh air.



Advocacy walk at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

A public walk was organised on 2nd February 2009, for raising awareness of the threats to the conservation of wetland resources in general, and Rawal Lake in particular.

The walk involved the Guests of Honour from the Government of Pakistan, UNDP, and NGOs, as well as social activists, local

communities representatives, The Press and school and University Students. The participants were given placards, banners and posters bearing slogans urging the conservation of the environment



PWP team and MoE representatives at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

and sustainable and wise use of wetlands resources in the country. The activity succeeded in providing



More than 4,000 students march for wetlands.

an effective platform for motivating the combined and united sense of responsibility shared by the Government of Pakistan, international donor organisations, and the general public for conservation of the environment and wetlands in particular.



Advocacy walk at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

Poems to Connect Wetlands, People, and Cultures: Poetry Competition

Pakistan has a rich and unique tradition of poetry and the Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that this is a medium which cannot only serve to create a better understanding of wetlands but improves the memorisation process and provides an 'information package' which can be quickly absorbed by a child and recited in numerous environments and situations spreading

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knowledge of wetlands.

The PWP received more than one thousand poems from different parts of the country. The Wetlands Connect Us All! Poetry Competition was aimed at instigating the thoughts and imaginations of students, teachers and of the public at large about the inter-connectedness of wetlands, people, cultures and the environment.

Immerse Yourself in Words to Conserve Wetlands:

Essay Competition

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that essay competitions permit a student to not only exercise their own creativity but draw from the scientific and social writings of experts in this field to create cogent pieces of work.

On-the-Spot Wetlands Connect Us All! Essay Competition was held in Islamabad, Lahore, Naushera, Gwadar, Rahim Yar Khan, Karachi playing host to more than 2,000 students.

The competition encouraged students to take a closer look at the



Student writing essay at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

wetland environment, and to express their views on how wetlands connect people to their environment and people to people, along with serving to unite the country's diverse cultures through writing. The competition also served as training for students' logical thinking and to sharpen their writing skills.

"Snap Shot" of Wetlands

Often photographs can be more revealing and definitive than any other means of transmitting

information. However, a photograph can also be a creative and artistic expression of the world surrounding the photographer. The PWP believes that encouragement in this means of expression can be of environmental service to both the individual and the community.

To encourage visitors to enjoy observing habitat, animals and plants of wetlands, the PWP held "Snap Shot" activities in Islamabad and Lahore. More than 100 pictures were received by the PWP and outstanding images were showcased in our exhibition held at the Islamabad Club.



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A Story writing competition at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

authors' thoughts could provide can be as effective as a well researched essay. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that sometimes the most realistic understandings of issues can come from the most fanciful of imaginings.

On spot Story writing Competition, If Wetland Plants and Animals Could Speak was held at Rawal Park on February 2nd with more than 600 students

Tales from the Wet Side: Story writing Competition

"If Wetland Plants and Animals could speak"

Encouraging young writers to use their vivid imagination and create stories that might be considered 'flights of fancy' incorporating such things as talking animals, whispering trees, beckoning



Story writing competition at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.



Story writing competition at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

participating. The competition aimed at encouraging students to express their knowledge on wetlands conservation in an innovative way. The competition also encouraged students to read more and to enhance their understanding of wetland conservation.





Wetlands Gala casting its net...

World Wetlands Day celebrations at NAWC



Conference to inaugurate the World Wetlands Day 2009 at NAWC.

To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2009, Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP), Saving Wetlands Sky High (SWSH) programme of WWF-P and Northern Areas Environmental Protection Agency (NAEPA) jointly organised a one day conference on "Research on the Wetlands of Northern Areas, Pakistan. The event was held on 26th February, 2009.

After the presentations, Deputy Director NAEPA, Yasir Hussain, explained some of the current activities of his department in publicising ecotourism and presented the calendar of events for 2009 for the entire Northern

Areas which had been oriented towards celebrating the National Year of Environment.

Present at the conference were government officials, civil society, community representatives, schools, Karakoram International University students and faculty members, local notables and media persons. More than 60 participants from all over Northern Areas and down country attended the event.

Advisor Tourism and Environment, Northern Areas, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, was present as Chief Guest.

Week Long Celebrations

NAWC team of the Pakistan Wetlands Programme celebrated the WWD 2009 entitled, "Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all" by organising week long activities in districts Chitral, Naushehra and Peshawar of the NWFP.

Taking full advantage of the unique geographical setting of the NAWC, it started its week long events in "upstream" communities situated in the

high alpine mountains above Chitral where the world famous Karumbar and Shandur lakes are located. Celebrations were then moved progressively to downstream communities ending at Kund Park near Naushehra at the bank of Kabul River.

NWFP Wildlife Department being an active partner of the PWP assisted in arranging and contributing to the celebrations of the Wetlands

Fiesta Week in Chitral, Peshawar and Naushehra districts.

NAWC carried out extensive activities on Feb 2nd, 2009 involving school students, teachers, media representatives, local CBOs and key government departments.

The prime objective was to reach out to a large segment of the population to enhance their awareness level about the wise-use of wetlands.

Radio talk shows

Radio programmes highlighting the objectives of World Wetlands Day continued for a week in District Chitral. Listeners participated in these programme through SMS, live calls and letters. On average 50 SMS, 18 letters and 10 live calls



appreciating the programmes were received at Radio Pakistan Chitral.

Students from all over the Chitral district participated in the radio quiz competition broadcasted on Feb 2nd, 2009.

The participating schools were Iqra Model School, Chitral, Northern Citizen Community Board, Chitral Laspur valley and Terichmir Model School, Chitral.

In addition to the competing schools, students from other schools also participated in the programme. More than 35 students and guests were present at the recording. Muhammad Ali, Project Manager, Protected Areas Management Project-Chitral Gol National Park was the Chief Guest.

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Aaj Ka Sawal Quiz Competition

A live five minute quiz competition entitled "Aaj Ka Sawal" designed for the general public was broadcasted in Urdu and Khowar twice daily during the Wetlands Week in Chitral. The programme continued from Feb 2nd to 8th, 2009 and attracted diverse set of audiences across the district.

At the end of the Wetlands Week on Feb 8th, 316 SMS, 113 letters and 55 phone calls were received against the questions asked through radio. A lucky draw among ten respondents with the highest number of correct answers was carried at Chitral Broadcasting House. Abdul Ghafar of Chitral Printing Press was the winner of the competition.

The NAWC team also organised short radio adlibs and announcements and were aired by Radio Pakistan Chitral in both local and national dialects to highlight the importance of wetlands and water for the sustenance of life on earth. The adlibs and announcements were designed to inculcate a sense of stewardship towards natural resources especially towards water bodies and issues associated with them. The adlibs encompassed concerning water facts and other basic information regarding wetlands.

March for Wetlands Conservation

NAWC team organised events in Peshawar and Noshera districts. More than 200 students, teachers and representatives from different departments participated in an



awareness raising walk.

Dr. Mumtaz Malik, Chief Conservator Wildlife, NWFP, other officials of the NWFP Wildlife Department, team members of NAWC, students and teachers of Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar, college and school students of Municipal Inter College Wazir Bagh, Government High School City No. 1, Government High School NO. 2 and interested



members of the public participated in the walk.

Team of NAWC and NWFP Wildlife Department jointly organised an exposure visit to the Kund Park located at the

junction of the Indus and Kabul rivers in Naushehra district. A particularly special activity associated with this visit included a Clean up Campaign by school students heightening their awareness about solid waste management and succeeded in collecting a considerable amount of trash. The Chief Executive Officer, Nasir Hayat Babar appreciated the activity jointly organised by the team of NAWC.



Other Activities

Other awareness-raising activities included a bird watching opportunity during which selected students observed and recorded different behaviours of the birds in relation to their ecosystem within the park.

The group also visited the only Bear Centre in Pakistan and learnt about the behaviours of the Asiatic black bear and the Himalayan brown bears.

The Salt Range Wetlands Complex Does its Bit for World Wetlands Day



Wetlands Fiesta 2009 inauguration at SRWC.

Tucked away in the mountains between the Potohar Plateau's thriving twin-city metropolises and the vast Punjab Plains culminating



Speech competition 2009 at SRWC.

in pulsating Lahore, small communities of the Salt Range Wetlands Complex nevertheless supported an enthusiastic turnout for World Wetlands Fiesta which saw at least 4,000 students along with the public taking part.

The Salt Range is renowned for its importance to natural history



Arts Competition 2009 at SRWC.

especially regarding its wetlands and associations with avian



Wetlands Fiesta ceremony 2009 at SRWC.

with regards to ancient places of study and learning.

Events here were held between February 2nd to February 11th, with the two week's activities being organised by the Pakistan Wetlands Programme's Salt Range Wetlands Complex (SRWC) office. In cooperation with the programme's Project Management Unit in Islamabad along with input from local and national

government officials, schools, educators and environmentalists.

Arts, Essay and Speech Competitions:

The Art, Essay and Speech competitions were organised by the SRWC in conjunction with the Project Management Unit and followed this year's Wetlands Day theme of



Arts Competition 2009 at SRWC.

Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands Connect Us All. They drew a participatory turnout of more than 140 students with all the schools in the Salt

Range's Soonvalley taking part. In this event, the PWP was assisted by the EDO Education, Khushab.



Arts competition 2009 at SRWC.

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Essay competition 2009 at SRWC.

Advocacy walk and Bird watching at Uccchali Lake:

The next day at least 400 students from the Government High School in Uccchali and the Fazaia School, Sakesar, took part in a Walk and Bird Watching Activity at Uccchali



Birds watching at SRWC.

Lake during which they learned about bird migrations and the local Flyways, the dynamics of flight, avian adaptation to their environments and methods of conserving wetlands and their dependent bird species, and how waterfowl could be utilised as a



Volley ball match at Uccchali lake.

renewable resource. The Principal of the Fazia School, Sakesar and the Head Master of the Government High School, Uccchali, provided valuable assistance in this activity.



Students marching for conservation of wetlands in and around SRWC.

Advocacy walk and Bird watching at Kallar Kahar Lake:

In a sequel held on February 4th, the Walk and Bird Watching activity was repeated at Kallar Kahar Lake during which time about 200 students from the Government Higher Secondary School, Kallar Kahar and the Kallar Kahar Science College



Ahmed Khan and Rana Shahbaz enjoying the match.

took part. This event was helped to be organised, in part, by the Principal, Government Higher Secondary School, Kallar Kahar and the Principal of the Science College in Kallar Kahar.

Wetlands Connect Us All, Volley Ball Match:

Finally, on the last day of the World Wetlands Day week-long celebration more than 4,000 students and the community of Soon valley along with their neighbouring communities turned out at the Awan Volley Ball Club in

Uccchali village for an event which included volleyball matches. SRWC organised wetlands conscious raising activities, impromptu discussions about the environment and conservation, and provided an informal venue for a better overall understanding by students, their parents and others of the community about wetlands, their usefulness to the community, and their need to be conserved

Central Indus Wetlands Complex Celebrates World Wetland Day 2009



Advocacy walk 2009 at CIWC.

More than 600 members of the Rahim Yar Khan community turned out for a World Wetlands Day Awareness Walk organised by staffers of the Central Indus Wetlands Complex of the Pakistan Wetlands Programme, celebrating this year's theme: "Upstream, Downstream, Wetlands connects us all"



Play performance 2009 at CIWC.

The Central Indus Wetlands Complex office invited and arranged for the participation of 10 area educational institutions with representation from others in attendance. Also in attendance were local representatives from the Government of Pakistan, Punjab Government, NGOs, the private sector, the media and environmentally concerned individuals.

The February 2nd, 2009 Awareness Walk saw participants carrying placards, banners, and signs displaying different slogans

emphasising the need for wetlands conservation and wise water usage.

This was followed by more than 300 students from six educational institutions of the Rahim Yar Khan district, along with a choir of 22 voices literally singing out the need to conserve wetlands and protect the environment, enthusiastically participating in speech, quiz, art and role playing events highlighting aspects of World Wetlands Day. Later Ch. Hasun Dad Gujar, Member of the



Sajid Qudoos, Site Manager addressing the audience.

Provincial Assembly, distributed prizes among winning competitors.

Sajid Qudoos Awan, Site Manager CIWC, highlighted the objectives of Pakistan Wetlands Programme and Miss Rubina Mumtaz described the



Poster display at CIWC.

roles communities can play to conserve the wetlands.

More than 15 print and electronic media representatives were on hand to record the celebration.



Seminar at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

Pakistan Wetlands Programme Makran Coastal Wetlands Complex World Wetlands Week 2009



Rahim, Site Manager MCWC addressing at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

Pakistan Wetlands Programme, Makran Coastal Wetlands Complex (MCWC) site office celebrated the World Wetlands Week in early February to renew the pledge to conserve this unique and threatened ecosystem of coastal wetlands of the Makran Coast.

Wetlands are key environmental components that sustain life on



Speech competition at MCWC.

earth. In this context the week-long festive celebration was held at (MCWC) to highlight the World Wetlands Day 2009 and raise awareness about the theme for this year "Upstream, downstream - Wetlands connect us all."

Through different activities and with the collaboration of district government officials from Gwadar, the Education Department, religious leaders of Gwader's

Ullema Council, the media and members of the general public, especially those involved in fishing and coastal activities, the Pakistan Wetlands Programme successfully engaged the community in raising



Wetlands Fiesta at MCWC.

environmental awareness.

In accordance with the National Agenda for events devised by the PWP's Wetlands Day Planning Staff in the Programme Management Unit in Islamabad, the MCWC liaised with local government officials and others to conduct Art, Essay Writing, Quiz,

Tableaus, and Speech competitions.

The MCWC and District Education Department, Gwadar jointly organised a two day event with school children from Jiwani Tehsil giving World Wetlands Day message. The aim of these diversified activities was to highlight the importance of wetlands for school children and give information about Jiwani wetlands. It



Speech competition at MCWC.

proved to be a most successful delivery platform judging by the numbers of children taking part and their display of enthusiasm.

The MCWC also organised a two day Educational Festival in the Government High School, Jiwani, in collaboration with the Wetland Village Conservation Committee (WVCC), Jiwani. Four other schools of Tehsil Jiwani for boys and girls also participated in the "Upstream, Downstream - Wetlands

Connect us all" Educational Festival.

On the first day of the two day event about 1,100 students from these schools participated. Mr. Akram Ramzan Tehsil Nazim was the chief guest while Mr. Khuda Bakhsh, District Education Officer, Mr. Muneer Ahmed Nodazai Deputy District Education

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Media discussion at Wetlands Fiesta.

Officer Jiwani, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed UC Nazim Jiwani and Mr. Abdul Rahim Site Manager MCWC, as well as other

Muneer Ahmed DDOE, Abdul Rahim Site Manager, MCWC, and Mr. Ashiq Hussain Vice Principal GMHS Gwadar, were also in attendance.



Media discussion at Wetlands Fiesta.

representatives from the education department, NGOs, CBOs, local government and others participated in large numbers in the festival, appreciating the performance of the students and efforts of the PWP to conserve wetlands and related biodiversity.

All the students participated in the Quiz, Essay and Art competitions with the first positions of all the three competitions were won by students of the Government Girls Middle School, Jiwani.

On the Second Day of the event Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Hoth, District Naib Nazim Gwader, was the chief guest and Mr. Khan Muhammad EDO Education, Akram Ramzan Tehsil Nazim, Manzoor Ahmed UC Nazim, Khuda Bakhsh DOE,

Also of particular note was attendance by G.R Mulla, the famous Baloch poet & intellectual.

Hundreds of the teachers, representatives of the NGOs, CBOs, and media personnel enjoyed the live concert performed by the students. A delegation of 25 students from the



Exposure visit to mangrove plantation site.

Government Model School also took part in the programme. Total participation was estimated to be more than 2,000 people in all.



Students at Wetlands fiesta 2009.

The Speech and Tableau competitions took place in which such issues including over fishing and socioeconomic aspects associated with wetlands featured prominently. More than 2,000 people attended these events.



Arts competition at MCWC.

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Tableau competition at MCWC.

Tableau Competition

The plays highlighted thought provoking issues related to wetlands conservation and intended to raise awareness and general understanding on the relationship of water resources/wetlands with people, cultures, and environment. Female students from the High School got first position for a play about solid waste pollution and its effects on coastal wetlands. More than 2000 participants attended this event.

The Tableau Competition was won by the students of the Government Girls Middle School, Jiwani, while the winner of Speech Competition was a student from the Government Boys Middle School, Ganz. Shields, certificates and prizes were presented.

Exposure visit and Mangrove plantation

In trying to make World Wetlands Day more site-specific, the PWP organised exclusive exposure visits for female teachers and male students to the Mangrove Plantation Site of the Jiwani Wetlands. The visit took place under the auspices of the Jiwani Conservation and Information Centre of the WWF-P.

Twelve teachers participated in the visit. The delegation also included three councillors and social

activists. It was headed by the Head Mistress of Government Girls Middle School Jiwani and the PWP team. The delegation visited the mangrove nursery which was developed by the IUCN in District Gwadar, its office and natural forests at Gwadar Bay.

Gwadar, which included a presentation on the conservation of coastal wetlands and general information about the activities of the Jiwani Conservation & Information Center of WWF-P.

The group of students was headed by Mr. Ashiq Hussain, Vice Principal, Girls Model High School and Mr. Asghar, one of the school teachers. The



Mangrove plantation at MCWC.

Wetland team was headed by Site Manager Mr. Abdul Rahim. This delegation also visited the Mangrove Nursery and natural forest at Gwadar Bay, Jiwani.

The crucial role of coastal wetlands such as mangroves in local livelihoods



Students at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

They were oriented about the significance and benefits of mangroves and given demonstrations on the planting methods and sustainability of mangroves. Later they participated in mangrove seedling planting.

Meanwhile, the MCWC site office organised another exposure visit for 25 students from the Government Model High School,

was stressed, because they are nursery ground for shrimps and fishes, reduce the effects of natural disasters and support migratory animals. The students also took turns planting mangrove seedlings and learning about the dynamics of mangrove plantation cultivation.

Media events were another highlight of the activities organized by the MCWC

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Media seminar at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

with a reporting competition and radio coverage.

Throughout the week-long Wetlands Day event the MCWC site office organised a Green Journalism Award Event for green journalism along the Makran Coast which culminated in an Awards Ceremony.

This entire event was organised to promote green journalism in the region. Journalists from the print and electronic media were invited to submit their entries in the form of

investigate and report on these issues specifically in this region.

Mr. Majid Sorabi, Tehsil Nazim, was present at the Award Ceremony and distributed prizes and certificates to the winning and placing journalist. He emphasised in his speech that it was most important to cover environmental issues as a means to educate people about the problems they faced, and that the media was one of the best ways to do this because it could continuously update people as to what is happening. He said that the media was playing this role positively in the Makran region.

Rahim highlighted issue and areas for media attention and appreciated them for already giving attention to such environmental issues as green turtle nesting at PC-Gwader site Kohe Bathel, illegal fish trawling and the plight of the marsh

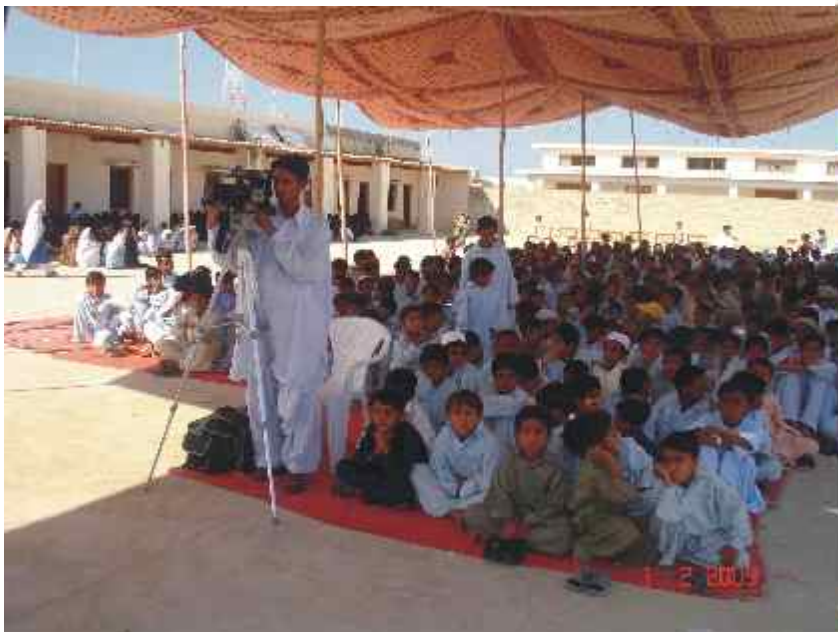


Quiz competition at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

Press Club said: "We appreciate the PWP's efforts in organising, implementing and encouraging participation in the Green Journalist Award which is being done for the first time here. This will help the journalists to highlight environmental issues of coastal wetlands."

Award winners were Mr. Nasir Rahim, Mr. Hafeez Baloch and the focal person from the Ullema Council Maulana Riaz Ahmed.

The MCWC site office also liaised with Gwader based FM radio stations to air



Students at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

news clips, captioned photographs, articles, and other printed material specifically dealing with the Green Sector or Wetlands and the Environment.

The aim of this event was not only to encourage reporting on the conservation of natural resource and highlighting the ground issues of wetlands along the Makran coast, but also to encourage journalists to

crocodile at Dasht.

Mr. Noor Mohsin Chairman of Adhoc Committee of Gwader



Media award prize distribution.



Seminar attendee at MCWC.

and discuss wetlands related issues in the region. Many gave as full a coverage as possible to issues relating to wetlands and conservation activities on the regional level. FM Radio Station Gwader highlighted issues at the grassroots level, the Educational Programme at Jiwani Tehsil and gave full coverage to all the activities of World Wetlands Day 2009 at the district level.

In addition, MCWC site office organised a radio talk show on FM Radio Station Gwader with religious leaders to convey the messages from the Holy Quran. Focal persons of Ullema Council Gwader, Maulana Riaz Ahmed and Mulla Hafeez Baloch also took part in talk show to highlighting the importance of water conservation In light of the Holly Quran.





Raunaq in Lahore Wetland Fiesta 2009

Based on the theme Wetlands Connect Us All, World Wetlands Day in Lahore was celebrated by arranging colourful events among numerous city and area schools. Students took part in Art, Essay, Story and poetry competitions. All activities highlighted wetlands dynamics and conservation.

The event was organised by the Technical Resource and Equipment Centre (TREC) of the Pakistan Wetlands Programme, base in Lahore. The TREC team encourage and motivate the schools to participate in Wetlands Fiesta 2009. Posters and Banners were designed, customised, organised and arranged to display the maximum Wetlands Day messages.

A total of 9 government and private schools with more than 350 students participated in the competition of Wetlands Fiesta 2009. The Director General of WWF Pakistan, Ali Hasan Habib gave prizes to the winner students of Wetlands Fiesta 2009.



World Wetlands Day 2009 in Karachi



Wetlands Fiesta 2009 at Wetlands Centre, Karachi

On February 10th, children from the Pakistan Navy's Rangoonwala Special Children School gathered at the Wetland Centre, Sandspit,



Presentation to participants at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

to participate in events of World Wetlands Day 2009 celebrations in Karachi organised by the Pakistan Wetlands Programme and the World Wide Fund for Nature, Pakistan.



Presentation to participants at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

About 60 children were given presentations on the activities of PWP and WWF role in



Art display at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

conservation issues and the significance of World Wetlands

Day. The children were also told about the importance of coastal wetlands and the marine turtles. They were shown a film entitled "Struggle for Life" based on the biological hazards facing marine



Presentation to participants at Wetlands Fiesta 2009

turtles. Later they participated in a quiz programme specifically designed for special children in which they enthusiastically took part and were awarded prizes.

To heighten the children's

awareness of the need to conserve wetlands and of the important role that they can play in ensuring the future sustainability of this vital Pakistani resource, students participated in the Art and Poster competitions based on the theme "Wetlands ... Connecting Us All!"

Finally, a group of special children presented a tableau on the environmental theme. The day was concluded with a vote of thanks by WWF-P representatives.



Honourable Federal Minister listening to live presentation

SAY CLAY DISPLAY **it**



3D Model Display

Competition

Using the tactile sense allows a child to transmit from mind to eye to hand and to the community at large. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that often a child can express himself or herself most creatively through using clay or plasticine to create depictions of wetlands as they see it in their surrounding world.

Among several interactive and informative activities the 3-D models display competition was held at the Islamabad Club on February 14th and 15th, 2009 under the main theme 'Wetlands... Connecting Us All! More than 50 participating students and teachers gave live presentations featuring the importance of Pakistan's

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Students giving live presentation to Federal Minister.

wetlands and their connection of humans at all levels with this unique and threatened ecosystem to the judges and special guests visiting their displays .

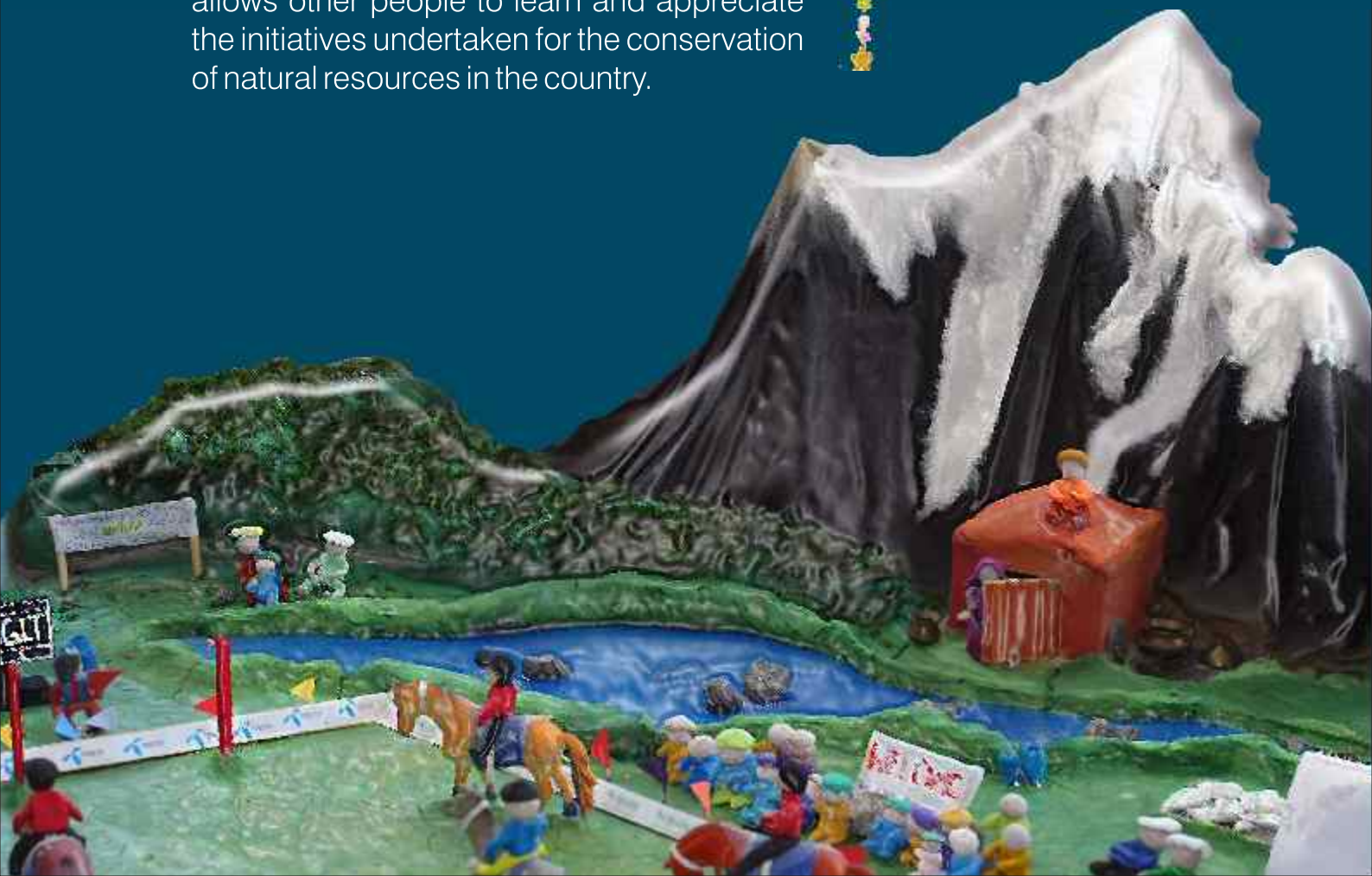
The PWP over the years has experienced that this innovative activity not only involves schools in wetlands conservation but also allows other people to learn and appreciate the initiatives undertaken for the conservation of natural resources in the country.



Umeed Khalid at Wetlands Fiesta.



Dr. Ejaz judging the Model Display.





Students depicting wetlands connection at Wetlands Fiesta 2009.

Get Your **Act Together** for Wetlands Conservation

Play Performance

Competition



Play performance at Islamabad Club.

Working as a team can not only reinforce an understanding of wetlands science but is the beginning of an ideal delivery platform to educate others. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that bringing children together in a theatrical atmosphere would be fun for them and informative for others. Role playing gives a child an opportunity to assimilate, internalise and project.

More than 150 students from schools, colleges and universities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi passionately and eagerly participated in a play performance based on the theme of the day, and encouraged students to express the knowledge of wetlands conservation receiving an overwhelming response.

The plays entitled, Soul of Shandur, by Sheikh Zyed International School presented

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the environmental hazards caused by mankind including deforestation, waste disposal, tourism, water pollution and other environmental hazards which aggravate the environmental and living conditions of local communities in and around these watershed and wetlands resources.

The Roots School System staged a play entitled 'Diversity Unified' depicting the diversity of cultures along River Indus and the commonalities of issues and the interconnectedness of people with water and wetlands resources across the globe.

Save the Wet Community by Angelique School highlighted thought provoking issues related to wetlands and intended to raise awareness and increase general understanding of the relationship between water resources and wetlands among local communities, cultures, and environmental concerns at all levels.



Students joining hands for wetlands conservation.





Make A Splash with Your Fact for Wetlands Conservation

Quiz Competition

Competition



Displaying knowledge in a competitive atmosphere encouraged a mental stimulation and activity participation. The Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that quiz competitions are the best vehicle for student participation where groups of students can take part in a confined space.

A 'Wetlands Quiz Competition' was held on February 13th and 14th, 2009, at the Islamabad Club with more than 300 students participating.

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Puppet show at Islamabad Club.

With Strings Attached for Wetlands Conservation

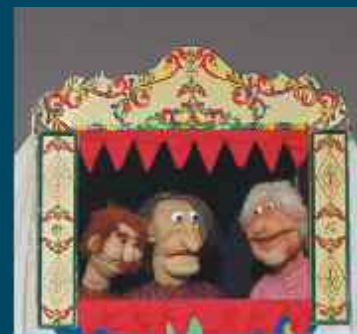
Wetlands Connect Us All!

Puppet Show

Puppetry is an ancient art and one which is only competently performed by masters with long experience. The PWP believes that through this fun activity indelible messages about wetlands conservation can be interpreted in the minds of everyone in the audience. And subscribes to the directness of this medium of expression which has the ability to captivate audiences young and old alike.

The Pakistan Wetlands Programme has been proud to be able to present some of the greatest puppet companies in Pakistan to give shows depicting different aspects of wetlands conservation for the past three years.

Again this year, the internationally renowned team of professionals from Rafi Pir Theatre Workshop came to Islamabad to perform a whole new repertoire of wetland related performances at the Islamabad Club on 14th and 15th of February 2009.





Students displaying fashion through wetlands biodiversity.



Young talent at display.



'If You've
Got it,
Flaunt it'
for Wetlands

Wetlands Connect Us All

Fashion Show

Fashion with Fish? Decked out in Dolphins? Turbans with Turtles? Woven with wet weeds? When the models take to the catwalk they can present to the audience the fashion possibilities provided by simply mixing imagination with a little wetlands. The PWP believes that fashion has an overwhelming influence on the entire community including children. Letting children express themselves through their interpretation of how wetlands species could be utilised in an imaginative but nevertheless real world situation will encourage a greater understanding of the strengths but fragility of wetlands connections.

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A fashion show on the theme Wetlands Connecting Us All, and also on Wonders of Wetlands were designed to raise awareness on how wetlands connect people, cultures and the environment within Pakistan, and across the borders. Props made of newspapers, packaging bags, plastic bottles, CDs and leaves were also displayed.

The Roots School System, Sheikh Zayed International School and Angelique School staged a colourful, informative and entertaining fashion shows at final ceremony day at the Islamabad Club on the February 14th and 15th 2009.



Fashion show at Islamabad club.





Students watching climate change documentary at Islamabad club.

Screening of Al Gore's

'An Inconvenient Truth'



The Pakistan Wetlands Programme believes that Al Gore, whose involvement with environmental issues going back to his seminal work entitled 'Earth in the Balance,' has one of the most authoritative voices and clearest thinking minds when it comes to the challenges facing adults and children alike and how to approach solutions to global environmental problems.

This screening of the Nobel Laureate's award winning documentary by the PWP at the Islamabad Club on February 13th played host to more than 500 students and teachers from government schools in the Islamabad area and provided an opportunity for them to view what is, arguably, the most important environmental message of our time.

The screening of the documentary was well-received and raised awareness about global warming internationally, prompting calls for more government action in regard to the climate change locally. Several colleges and high schools requested the PWP to screen the documentary in their respective schools.



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Growing with Wetlands

Just as wetlands and their marsh plants grow so too will children who participate in these schools events grow tall and put down roots in their understanding in wetlands conservation, related sciences and the connectivity of people and wetlands environment. The PWP believes that in recognition of this accomplishment prizes and certificates should be given to the most deserving schools and children.

Over the past three years the number of participants from the general public, and students, has increased tremendously showing a continuous rise in involvement with, and participation in, PWP events and a growing sense of public "ownership" in the Pakistan Wetlands Programme. This has been particularly evident where school-related environmental activities have been concerned. In recognition of this the best three students were selected from each category and all the winners from all the competitions for the two weeks of the Fiesta were invited to the 'World Wetlands Day 2009 Fiesta' celebration ceremony at the Islamabad Club on February 14th and 15th 2009. The winning schools were presented beautiful glass shields and trophies and the participating students were sent winning and participating certificates.









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