



REPORT ON
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
AT
IDPs CAMP NOMAL, GILGIT
5th June, 2010

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



Jointly celebrated by: WWF-Pakistan, Pakistan Wetlands Programme, GB-Environmental Protection Agency & Mass Awareness for Water Conservation and Development programme (UNDP)



List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

MAWCD	Mass Awareness for Water Conservation and Development
NGO	Non Government Organization
PWP	Pakistan Wetlands Programme
WED	World Environment Day
WWF-P	World Wide Fund for Nature -Pakistan

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1. Introduction

World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated all over the world on 5th June every year with an aim to promote eco-friendly environment by minimizing threats that adversely affect the natural world. Deforestation, emission of green house gases, solid waste, and excessive use of fuel wood, water scarcity and climate change are the key issues which make this scenario alarming. Among these issues climate change is the most critical environmental issue resulting from human activities. According to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report the global surface temperature increased by 0.74 C during the 20th century and is set to further rise by 1.1 to 6.4 during the 21st century. If this situation prevails then the biodiversity of our planet as well as human settlements will be gravely threatened. Therefore the United Nations recognized the importance of the issue and made it the theme for this year's celebrations ***Many Species. One Planet, One Future.*** This year WED highlighted the fact that all creatures have a right to exist, that they are crucial for ecosystems as well as human welfare, and that human beings, having the greatest control over earth's resources, have the responsibility to ensure their survival.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of this event were as follows;

- To familiarize the community about the significance of WED
- To motivate the participants to keep the camps and their surroundings clean
- To enhance community awareness on current Environmental issues

3. Strategy

WWF-Pakistan, Pakistan Wetlands Programme (PWP), UNDP's Mass Awareness for Water Conservation and Development (MAWCD) and Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency (GB-EPA) jointly celebrated the day at the Attabad Lake IDP camps in Nomal, Gilgit. The spotlight was on immediate environmental issues pertaining to the camps, the lake and its aftermath. The idea was that since people had been displaced from their homes due to the impending flood concerns from the lake and were living in camps, it would be beneficial and timely to raise their awareness about environmental issues most relevant to them.

Due to cultural restrictions all the females are accommodated in local Madarasas while the male IDPs are in camps so the programme activities were arranged on that basis. Some of the team representatives conducted session with the women while others were involved in clean up campaign in camps. The programme comprised of discussions among the team and the participants. The activity was conducted in two madrassas one after another.

4. Programme Details

4.1 Orientation Session

This session was held in "*Markazi Imam Bargah*". After recitation of the Holy Quran the programme was formally started with a brief introductory session. The team elaborated on the objectives of the event and the significance of the World Environment Day.



4.2 Informal Discussion with the community

For brainstorming some general question were asked about the environmental issues and the problems which the women faced in camps. The women were asked to define the word "environment" and what they thought were the negative

impacts on their environment in present times and the sources of these impacts. One of the community member briefly explained the problems related to health, accommodation, nutrition and education. Many other women talked about water pollution problems and the role of women in preventing it.

4.3 Presentation on Health and Hygiene

A detailed presentation was given on health and hygiene by using the awareness material which was distributed among the participants. Emphasis was given to diseases caused by drinking contaminated water. The resource person explained the precautions to be taken and various ways to controlling these diseases



4.4 Distribution of Informative Material

After the discussion session, informative material related to sustainable natural resource use practices, fruits preservation, vegetative propagation and livestock management was distributed among the women.



4.5 Clean Up Campaign

All the partners of this event had already installed 20 dustbins in the two biggest camps to implement solid waste management system there. The partners, jointly with “Sabeel Organization Scouts,” conducted a clean up campaign of the whole camp. After collection of the waste, they properly disposed off the material in those dust bins. The students of “Al-Asar Public School” also participated in this campaign with full zeal and enthusiasm.



5 Outcomes

- Various group of people at the IDP camps became involved in the campaign
- Information disseminated on health and hygiene
- Sense developed regarding local environmental issues including water pollution, and other problems
- Awareness raised on health and hygiene
- Collaboration enhanced among various NGOs and the local community